

The Eleven Commandments for Mathematicians

- 1 Thou shalt read thy problem carefully.
- 2 Whatsoever thou doest to one side of thy equation, do ye also to the other.
- 3 Thou must use thy "common sense", else thou wilt have flagpoles 9,000 feet high. Yea, even fathers younger than sons.
- 4 Thou shalt ignore the teachings of false prophets to do all thy work in thy head.
- 5 When thou knowest not, thou shalt look it up; and if thy search still elude thee, thou shalt ask thy All-Knowing Teacher.
- 6 Thou shalt master each step before putting thy heavy foot down on the next.
- 7 Thy correct answer does not prove that thou hast worked thy problem correctly. This argument convincest none, least of all thy Teacher.
- 8 Thou shalt first see that thou hast copied thy problem correctly, before bearing false witness that the answer book lieth.
- 9 Thou shalt look back even unto thy youth and remember thy arithmetic.
- 10 Thou shalt learn, read, write, speak, and listen correctly in the language of mathematics, and verily A's and B's shall follow thee even unto graduation.
- 11 Thou shalt not divide by zero.