

Tom Swift Statements

A Tom Swifty is a sentence ending in an adverb that tells how or when Tom said something and applies to the meaning of his statement. Tom Swifties take their name from Tom Swift, a boy's adventure hero created by the prolific American writer Edward L. Stratemeyer. Under the pseudonym Victor Appleton, he published a series of books featuring the young Tom Swift. Tom Swift rarely passed a remark without a qualifying adverb.

In a true Tom Swifty, it is an adverb (word specifying the mode of action of the verb) that provides the pun. Sometimes the pun occurs in the verb, and there may not be an adverb at all. Strictly speaking such puns are not Tom Swifties, but they are generally included in the term.

"My investments are worth more every day," said Tom appreciatively.

"I presented my case to the judge," Tom said briefly.

"I've joined the navy," Tom said fleetingly.

"My pencil is dull," said Tom pointlessly.

"I don't like hot dogs," Tom said frankly.

"I'll try and dig it up for you," Tom said gravely.

"I'm back from my lobotomy," said Tom absentmindedly.

"I'm an ordained minister," said Tom reverently.

"I've struck oil," Tom said, crudely.

"You must be my host," Tom guessed.

"Give me some more macaroni and cheese," said Tom craftily.

"I forgot what to buy," Tom said listlessly.

"That's the third time my teacher changed my grade," Tom remarked.

"Parsley, sage, rosemary," said Tom timelessly.

"I need a home run hitter," Tom said ruthlessly.

"I need a pencil sharpener," said Tom bluntly.

"I only get Newsweek," said Tom timelessly.

"I think I'll use a different font," said Tom boldly.

"I want to date around," said Tom unsteadily.

"I won the daily double," Tom cried hoarsely.

"Elvis is dead," said Tom expressly.

"It's the maid's night off," said Tom helplessly.

"Let's get married," said Tom engagingly.

"Look at those newborn kittens," said Tom literally.

"My garden needs another layer of mulch," Tom repeated.

"My stereo's half-fixed," said Tom monotonously.

"I've had my left and right ventricles removed," Tom said half-heartedly.

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A Tom Swifty is a sentence ending in a verb or adverb that tells how or when Tom said something and applies to the meaning of his statement.

Examples:

"The average class age is seventeen." said Tom meanly.

"It is a 3-4-5-triangle." Tom replied rightly.

"That angle is greater than 90 degrees." answered Tom obtusely.

"My golf score was 92, not 93." Tom recounted.

Try to complete the following MATHEMATICAL Tom Swifties. The first letter of each word has been given to you. The last two letters indicate whether it is an adverb (-ly) or a verb (-ed).

1. "6 is a special number," Tom said p_____ly.
2. "Remove the braces," remarked Tom p_____ly.
3. "Square root of 2 is not equal to a/b ," noted Tom i_____ly.
4. " $1/2$ is a fraction," said Tom p_____ly.
5. "It just touches," noted Tom t_____ly.
6. "1, 3, 5, 7," Tom said o_____ly.
7. "It's a plane figure," Tom said f_____ly.
8. "Add this list of n numbers and divide the sum by n ," said Tom m_____ly.
9. "3.1415926" Tom enumerated p_____ly.
10. " $F=MA$," Tom said f_____ly.
11. "They are mirror images," r_____ed Tom.
12. "This is a function," r_____ed Tom.
13. " $b^2-4ac = 0$," Tom said d_____ly.
14. "It must be a triangle or a quadrilateral," f_____ed Tom.
15. "Proofs are necessary," r_____ed Tom.

Answers

1. "6 is a special number," Tom said perfectly.
6 is a perfect number because it equals the sum of its proper divisors. 28 and 496 are the next two perfect numbers.
2. "Remove the braces," remarked Tom parenthetically.
Braces perform the same task as parentheses.
3. "Square root of 2 is not equal to a/b ," noted Tom irrationally.
Square root of 2 is an irrational number.
4. " $1/2$ is a fraction," said Tom properly.
 $1/2$ is a proper fraction.
5. "It just touches," noted Tom tangentially.
Tangent lines touch in just one point.
6. "1, 3, 5, 7," Tom said oddly.
1, 3, 5, 7, are odd numbers.
7. "It's a plane figure," Tom said flatly.
Plane figures are flat.
8. "Add this list of n numbers and divide the sum by n ," said Tom meanly.
The mean of a set of numbers is their sum divided by the number of items.
9. "3.1415926" Tom enumerated piously.
Pi is approximately 3.14159...
10. " $F=MA$," Tom said forcefully.
Force equals mass times acceleration.
11. "They are mirror images," Tom reflected.
The reflection property is a mirror image.
12. "This is a function," Tom related.
A function is a special type of relation.
13. " $b^2-4ac = 0$," Tom said discriminately.
 $b^2-4ac = 0$ is the value of the discriminant.
14. "It must be a triangle or a quadrilateral," Tom figured.
Triangles and Quadrilaterals are figures.
15. "Proofs are necessary," Tom reasoned

Additional MATHEMATICAL Tom Swifties.

"I ate one hundred and forty-four cookies." boasted Tom grossly.

"The average class age is seventeen." said Tom meanly.

"The correct answer is 'two'." Tom deduced.

"It is a 3-4-5-triangle." Tom replied rightly.

"It's the quotient of two integers," said Tom rationally.

"That angle is greater than 90 degrees." answered Tom obtusely.

"My golf score was 92, not 93." Tom recounted.

"A straight line is the shortest distance between two points." said Tom directly.

"1.111111...", said Tom repeatedly.

"Everyone stand in line by age!" Tom ordered.

2.718281828459045," Tom said, naturally.

$-\log[H^+] > 7$ " Tom said bitterly.

"1,1,2,3,5,8,..." said Tom, seriously.

"A straight line is the shortest distance between two points." said Tom directly.

Tom Swift is the central character in five series of books of American juvenile science fiction and adventure novels that emphasize science, invention and technology. First appearing in 1910 the series total more than 100 volumes. The character was created by Edward Stratemeyer. Tom's adventures have been written by different writers over the years. Most of the books are published under the name Victor Appleton. New titles have been published as recently as 2007.

Most of the various series focus on Tom's inventions, a number of which anticipated actual inventions. The books portray science and technology as wholly beneficial in their effects, and the role of the inventor in society is treated as admirable and heroic. Translated into many languages, the books have sold over 30 million copies worldwide. Several prominent figures, including Steve Jobs and Isaac Asimov, have cited "Tom Swift" as an inspiration. Several inventions, including the taser have been directly inspired by the fictional inventions. "TASER" is an acronym for "Thomas A. Swift's Electric Rifle."



