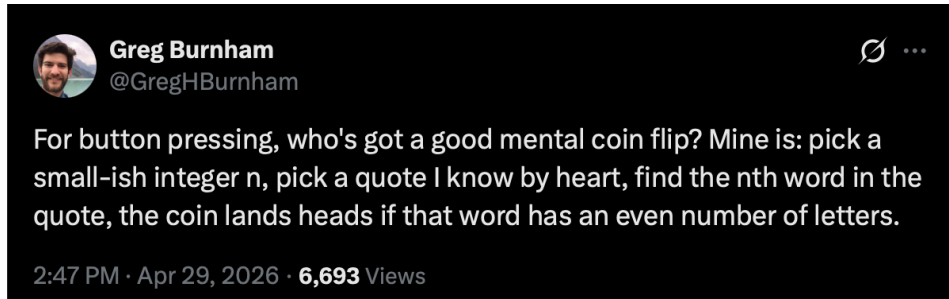


# Quote Flip

Empirical check of a mental coin-flip rule

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Data sources: [Textstelle quote corpus repository](#). German comparison uses the Textstelle *Sprichwörter* corpus.

A mental coin flip: choose a small integer, choose a quote you know by heart, take the  $n$ th word, and call heads if that word has an even number of letters. I checked this against 61,071 quotes, using  $n$  from 1 to 10 and counting alphabetic letters only.

With  $n$  chosen uniformly from 1 to 10, the quote rule lands heads about 52.02% of the time. With a human-like number choice that heavily favors 7, it lands heads about 52.76% of the time. Always bet heads, except if he is German.

Corpus	$n$ choice	P(heads)	Bias from fair coin
English quotes	Uniform 1 to 10	52.02%	+2.02 percentage points
English quotes	Human-like 1 to 10	52.76%	+2.76 percentage points
German proverbs	Uniform 1 to 10	44.30%	-5.70 percentage points
German proverbs	Human-like 1 to 10	44.66%	-5.34 percentage points