

## It Goes Without Saying

The average number of words following the expression “It goes without saying,” tabulated by academic discipline (correct to two decimal places)<sup>1</sup>.

- Sociology: 3,968.51<sup>2</sup>
- Philosophy: 2,054.72
- Literature: 1,526.93
- Economics: 486.02
- Biology: 26.33
- Chemistry: 18.47
- Physics: 4.22
- Mathematics: 0.00<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>The source of these figures is unimpeachable: they represent my own impressions over the course of many years of reading.

<sup>2</sup>In the interest of full disclosure, I stopped reading when I hit 4,000 words.

<sup>3</sup>The one instance in which I heard a word uttered by a mathematician occurred when a non-English-speaking visitor remarked in some surprise: “It goes without saying goodbye.” His “it” was referring to a person (a male in this instance), and the use of the word “goes” was incorrect. What the speaker had been trying to say was, “He left without saying goodbye.” I feel that I must include this, although it still doesn’t affect the average rounded to two decimal places.