

## Class 41: Programming Epigrams

**Held:** Wednesday, May 9, 2007

**Summary:** Today we consider Perlis's *Epigrams on Programming* and consider how a language designer might react to those epigrams.

### Related Pages:

- EBoard.
- Reading: Alan J. Perlis: Epigrams on Programming.

### Notes:

- I plan to distribute the final in class on Friday.
- I plan to give you your presentation grades after class on Friday.
- Attendance friday is MANDATORY.
- Those of you who have not responded about the senior breakfast should do so IMMEDIATELY.

### Overview:

- Epigrams and Languages.
- Confusing Epigrams.
- Grouping Epigrams.

## Approaching Perlis

- What is an epigram?
- Perlis's article was published in a programming languages journal and this is a course in programming languages, so our first questions have to do with that.
  - *Why is this a programming languages paper?*
  - *Which epigrams are most like languages?*
- A number of Perlis's epigrams require a decent amount of contextual understanding.
  - *Which epigrams were most confusing?*
- Perlis ends with meta-epigrams.
  - *Do the meta-epigrams meet their goals?*