

# Summary of Good Advice

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## **In General**

- Store related values together
- Make relationships explicit
- Say what you mean
- Use sensible variable names
- Don't be supersitious
- Minimize structure
- Try it both ways
- It's easier to see than to think
- You can't do good work with bad tools
- Don't be penny wise and pound foolish
- Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof
- Avoid special cases
- Don't confuse internal and external representations of data
- Use the computer to automate programming tasks
- Cluster functionality
- This advice is not a substitute for independent thought

## In Particular

- Avoid families of variable names
- Use interpolation instead of operators
- Avoid excess punctuation
- Distinguish between booleans and numbers
- Error messages should describe the cause of the problem
- The shorter the name, the smaller the scope
- Let `undef` be your "special" value
- Use expressions as boolean values
- Keep normal control flow close to the left-hand margin
- If you must choose arbitrarily, choose the first item
- This advice is not a substitute for independent thought