

TAB A

# Tech Predictions Proven Wrong

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## Anonymous

give me three historical quotes from people who predicted that technological or mechanical advancements would never succeed, only to be later proven very wrong. the examples should be well known enough that they have been referenced at least 10 times in recognized publications



## ChatGPT

1. "I think there is a world market for maybe five computers." - Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943.  
This quote is often cited to highlight the underestimation of the potential of computers and their widespread adoption.
2. "Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible." - Lord Kelvin, president of the Royal Society, 1895.  
Lord Kelvin's skepticism about the possibility of powered flight was famously disproven by the Wright brothers just eight years later.
3. "Television won't be able to hold on to any market it captures after the first six months. People will soon get tired of staring at a plywood box every night." - Darryl Zanuck, co-founder of 20th Century Fox, 1946. Zanuck's statement reflects the skepticism many had about the long-term appeal and success of television, which obviously turned out to be one of the most influential technologies of the 20th century.



**Anonymous**

give me some further examples that reference typewriters, automobiles vs. horses, and cellphones



**ChatGPT**

Certainly, here are additional examples related to typewriters, automobiles vs. horses, and cellphones:

1. **Typewriters:**

"The typewriter is interesting, but it has several limitations. For instance, it does not have the 'manifold' feature which makes the use of carbon paper necessary..." - Office Equipment Magazine, 1876. This quote showcases skepticism about the potential of typewriters due to perceived limitations, which were later overcome as typewriters evolved and became indispensable office tools.

2. **Automobiles vs. Horses:**

"The horse is here to stay, but the automobile is only a novelty—a fad." - The president of the Michigan Savings Bank, 1903. This quote reflects the prevalent belief at the time that automobiles were just a passing trend and would never replace horses as the primary mode of transportation.

3. **Cellphones:**

"Cellular phones will absolutely not replace local wire systems." - Marty Cooper, inventor of the first handheld mobile phone, 1981. Marty Cooper's statement highlights the skepticism surrounding the potential of cellular phones to replace traditional landline systems, a notion that was proven profoundly wrong as cellphones revolutionized communication worldwide.