

# 201 of the Greatest Sayings, Quotes and Proverbs Ever

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The true price of anything is the amount of life you exchange for it.  
- Henry David Thoreau

Peace. It does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise,  
trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things  
and still be calm in your heart.  
- Unknown

You cannot prevent the birds of [sorrow](#) from flying over your head,  
but you can prevent them from building nests in your hair.  
- Chinese proverb

Bad things are not the worst things that can happen to us. Nothing is the worst thing that can happen to us.

– Richard Bach

The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing.

- Albert Einstein

It is not because things are difficult that we do not dare, it is because we do not dare that they are difficult.

- Seneca

Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.

- Howard Thurman

It is never too late to be what you might have been.

- George Eliot

Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all.

- Dale Carnegie

*No one can make you feel inferior  
without your consent.*

*- Eleanor Roosevelt*

When in doubt, make a fool of yourself. There is a microscopically thin line between being brilliantly creative and acting like the most gigantic idiot on earth. So, what the hell, leap.

- Cynthia Heimel

Whether you think you can or think you can't, you're right.

– Henry Ford

With the stones we cast at them, geniuses build new roads for us.

- Paul Eldridge

When a true genius appears in this world, you may know him by this sign: that the dunces are all in confederacy against him.

- Jonathan Swift

***Great spirits have always encountered  
violent opposition from mediocre minds.***

***- Albert Einstein***

To dare is to lose one's footing momentarily. To not dare is to lose oneself.

- Soren Kierkegaard

If we listened to our intellect, we'd never have a love affair. We'd never have a friendship. We'd never go into business, because we'd be too cynical. Well, that's nonsense. You've got to jump off cliffs all the time and build your wings on the way down.

- Annie Dillard

Every great story on the planet happened when someone decided not to give up, but kept going no matter what.

- Spryte Lorian

What may be done at any time will be done at no time.

- Scottish Proverb

I am not young enough to know everything.

- James M. Barrie

We are all of us failures ... at least, the best of us are.

- James M. Barrie

Laughing at our mistakes can lengthen our own life. Laughing at someone else's can shorten it.

- Cullen Hightower

There are no mistakes, save one: the failure to learn from a mistake.

- Robert Fripp

Our lives improve only when we take chances - and the first and most difficult risk we can take is to be [honest with ourselves](#).

- Walter Anderson

Vision without action is a daydream. Action without vision is a nightmare.

- Japanese Proverb

Here is the test to find whether your mission on Earth is finished: if you're alive, it isn't.

- Richard Bach

The first step to knowledge is to know we are ignorant.  
- Lord David Cecil

Do not fear mistakes, there are none.  
- Miles Davis

Some drink deeply from the river of knowledge. Others only gargle.  
- Woody Allen

Freethinkers are those who are willing to use their minds without prejudice and without fearing to understand things that clash with their own customs, privileges, or beliefs. This state of mind is not common, but it is essential for right thinking; where it is absent, discussion is apt to become worse than useless.  
- Leo Tolstoy

Mere precedent is a dangerous source of authority.  
- Andrew Jackson

It is only at the tree loaded with fruit that people throw stones.  
- French proverb

***The dreamers are the  
saviors of the world.  
- James Allen***

A human being should be able to change a diaper, plan an invasion, butcher a hog, conn a ship, design a building, write a sonnet, balance accounts, build a wall, set a bone, comfort the dying, take orders, give orders, cooperate, act alone, solve equations, analyze a new problem, pitch manure, program a computer, cook a tasty meal, fight efficiently, die gallantly. **Specialization is for insects.**

-- Robert Heinlein

The greatest thing by far is to be a master of metaphor; it is the one thing that cannot be learned from others; and it is also a sign of genius, since a good metaphor implies an intuitive perception of the similarity of the dissimilar.

- Aristotle

Genius is an African who dreams up snow.

- Vladimir Nabokov

Neither a lofty degree of intelligence, nor imagination, nor both together go to the making of genius. Love, love, love: that is the soul of genius.

- Mozart

Nothing has been more difficult than to be curious about an object or a person, without being obstructed by preconceived ideas.

Occasionally the veil is lifted, and the one who lifts it is called a genius.

- Theodore Zeldin

The question should be, is it worth trying to do, not can it be done.

- Allard Lowenstein

You were born an original. Don't die a copy.

- John Mason

Never tell a young person that anything cannot be done. God may have been waiting centuries for someone ignorant enough of the impossible to do that very thing.

- John Andrew Holmes

The power of imagination makes us infinite.

- John Muir

As a mother of teenagers, do you know how many times I picked up the phone to apologize to my own mother?

- Christy Borgeld

The only people with whom you should try to get even are those who have helped you.

- John E. Southard

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overwhelmed, sad, confused?

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*Those who bring sunshine into the  
lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.*  
- James M. Barrie

The true measure of an individual is how he treats a person who can do him absolutely no good.  
- Ann Landers

Always to try to be a little [kinder](#) than is necessary.  
- James M. Barrie

***The greatest love you can give  
is to those who don't deserve it.***  
**- Brian Vaszily**

The best way to cheer yourself is to try to cheer somebody else up.  
- Mark Twain

To give pleasure to a single heart by a single kind act is better than a thousand head-bowings in prayer.  
- Sadi

Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.  
- Plato

It takes two to quarrel, but only one to end it.  
- Spanish Proverb



It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.

- Harry Truman

The only gift is a portion of thyself.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

To get the full value of a joy you must have somebody to divide it with.

- Mark Twain

Love takes off masks that we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within.

- James Baldwin

***If the world seems cold to you, kindle fires to warm it.***

***- Lucy Larcom***

Love is not blind - it sees more, not less. But because it sees more, it is willing to see less.

- Rabbi Julius Gordon

Self-pity is easily the most destructive of the nonpharmaceutical narcotics; it is addictive, gives momentary pleasure, and separates the victim from the reality.

- John William Gardener

Judge others. Forgive nothing. Seek revenge. Envy others. Be the victim. Act from anger. Use others. Speak but don't listen. Let fear win. And keep lying to yourself. If you are seeking successful misery, these are the strongest and surest routes.

- Brian Vaszily

If you are patient in a moment of anger, you will escape a hundred days of sorrow.

- Chinese proverb

The first duty of love is to listen.

- Paul Tillich

Only the brave know how to forgive. A coward never forgives; it is not in his nature.

- Laurence Stern

When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace.

- Jimi Hendrix



A man is about as big as the things that make him angry.  
- Winston Churchill

What you dislike in another take care to correct in yourself.  
- Thomas Sprat

All the joy the world contains  
Has come through wishing happiness for others.  
All the misery the world contains  
Has come through wanting pleasure for oneself.  
- *Shantideva*

***Many of the things you can count, don't count.  
Many of the things you can't count, really count.  
- Albert Einstein***

The measure of a man's real character is what he would do if he  
knew he would never be found out.  
-- Thomas Babbington Macaulay

In each human heart are a tiger, a pig, an ass, and a nightingale.  
Diversity of character is due to their unequal activity.  
- Ambrose Bierce

We read the world wrong and say that it deceives us.  
- Rabindranth Tagore

Everything that irritates us about others can lead us to an  
understanding of ourselves.  
- Carl Jung

Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

How people treat you is their Karma. How you respond is yours.

- Wayne Dyer

It is not what we take up, but what we give up, that makes us rich.

- Henry Ward Beecher

Always do what you are afraid to do.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

What is to give light must endure burning.

- Victor Frankl

Success doesn't come to you...you go to it.

- Marva Collins

Success is **getting up** one more time than you **fall down**.

- Julie Bowden

To love and win is the best thing. To love and lose, the next best.

- William M. Thackeray

Tolerance implies no lack of commitment to one's own beliefs. Rather it condemns the oppression or persecution of others.

- John F. Kennedy\_

Let no one who loves be called unhappy. Even love unreturned has its rainbow.

- James M. Barrie

He who cannot forgive others destroys a bridge over which he himself must pass.

- George Herbert

**If you want to go fast, go alone.  
If you want to go far, go together.  
- African proverb**

No matter how much cats fight, there always seem to be plenty of kittens.

- Abraham Lincoln

The way to love anything is to realize that it might be lost.

- G.K. Chesterton

No seed ever sees the flower.

- Zen saying

The clearest way into the universe is through a forest wilderness.

- John Muir

The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

The wonder is that we can see these trees and not wonder more.  
- Ralph Waldo Emerson



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Except during the nine months before he draws his first breath, no man manages his affairs as well as a tree does.  
- George Bernard Shaw

Trees are poems that earth writes upon the sky,  
We fell them down and turn them into paper,  
That we may record our emptiness.  
- Kahlil Gibran

Gardening is an active participation in the deepest mysteries of the universe.  
- Thomas Berry

If you want to make an apple pie from scratch, you must first create the universe.

- Carl Sagan

Make no mistake, the weeds will win, nature bats last.

- Robert Michael Pyle

To me a lush carpet of pine needles or spongy grass is more welcome than the most luxurious Persian rug.

- Helen Keller

Think of all the beauty still left around you and be happy.

- Anne Frank

When you have only two pennies left in the world, buy a loaf of bread with one, and a lily with the other.

- Chinese proverb

How does one become a butterfly? You must want to fly so much that you are willing to give up being a caterpillar.

- Trina Paulus

In order to be effective [truth](#) must penetrate like an arrow -- and that is likely to hurt.

- Wei Wu Wei

Are you being the best you can be, or the worst that has happened to you?

- Brian Vaszily

The willingness to accept responsibility for one's own life is the source from which self-respect springs.

- Joan Didion

It's not about time, it's about choices. How are you spending your choices?

- Beverly Adamo

Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms – to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way.

- Viktor E. Frankl

You're going to make mistakes in life. It's what you do after the mistakes that counts.

- Brandi Chastain

***Stumbling is not falling.  
- Portugese proverb***

Never confuse a single defeat with a final defeat.

- F. Scott Fitzgerald

It is not the answer that enlightens, but the question.

- Eugene Ionesco

The young man knows the rules, but the old man knows the exceptions.

- Oliver Wendell Holmes



I am an old man and have known a great many troubles, but most of them never happened.

- Mark Twain

When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years.

- Mark Twain

He liked to like people; therefore, people liked him.

- Mark Twain

My life is my message.

- Mahatma Gandhi

The highest wisdom is loving kindness.

- The Talmud

Remember that everyone you meet is afraid of something, loves something, and has lost something.

- H. Jackson Brown Jr.

I've been terrified every day of my life but that's never stopped me from doing everything I wanted to do.

- Georgia O'Keefe

He who lives in harmony with himself, lives in harmony with the Universe.

- Marcus Aurelius

Where am I? Who am I? How did I come to be here? What is this thing called the world? How did I come into the world? Why was I not consulted? And if I am compelled to take part in it, where is the director? I want to see him.

- Soren Kierkegaard

A man has so many skins in himself, covering the depths of his heart. Man knows so many things; he does not know himself. Why, thirty or forty skins or hides, just like an ox's or a bear's, so thick and hard, cover the soul. Go into your own ground and learn to know yourself there.

- Meister Eckhart

No one longs for what he or she already has, and yet the accumulated insight of those wise about the spiritual life suggests that the reason so many of us cannot see **the red X** that marks the spot is because we are standing on it.

- Barbara Brown Taylor

When the solution is simple, God is answering.

- Albert Einstein

I read about an Eskimo hunter who asked the local missionary priest, "If I did not know about God and sin, would I go to hell?" "No," said the priest, "not if you did not know." "Then why," asked the Eskimo, "did you tell me?"

- Annie Dillard

The only possible proof of the existence of water, the most convincing and the most intimately true proof, is thirst.

- Gaston Bachelard, quoting E. Susini

I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am in.  
- The Bible, Phillipians 4:11

Whoever you are, you are human. Wherever you are, you live in the world, which is just waiting for you to notice the holiness in it.  
- Barbara Brown Taylor

If God lived on earth, people would break his windows.  
- Jewish proverb

The soul is the mirror of an indestructible universe.  
- Gottfried Leibniz

Like a bee gathering honey from different flowers, the wise man accepts the essence of different scriptures and sees only the good in all religions.  
- The Srimad Bhagavatan

We are here and it is now. Further than that all human knowledge is moonshine.  
- H. L. Mencken

People usually consider walking on water or in thin air a miracle. But I think the real miracle is not to walk either on water or in thin air, but to walk on earth. Every day we are engaged in a miracle which we don't even recognize: a blue sky, white clouds, green leaves, the black, curious eyes of a child -- our own two eyes. All is a miracle.  
- Thich Nhat Hanh

I know God will not give me anything I can't handle. I just wish He didn't trust me so much.  
- Mother Teresa

Pain is inevitable, but misery is optional. We cannot avoid pain, but we can avoid joy.

- Tim Hansel

In times like these it helps to recall there have always been times like these.

- Paul Harvey

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When you get to the end of all the light you know, and it's time to step into the darkness of the unknown, faith is knowing that one of two things shall happen: Either you will be given something solid to stand on or you will be taught how to fly.

– Edward Teller

If you are going through hell, keep going.

- Winston Churchill

The wise man in the storm prays God not for safety from danger, but for deliverance from fear.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Nothing can bring you peace but yourself.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Five great enemies to peace inhabit us: avarice, ambition, envy, anger and pride. If those enemies were to be banished, we should infallibly enjoy perpetual peace.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

[Happiness](#) is not a station you arrive at, but a manner of traveling.

- Margaret B. Runbeck

*That it will never come again is what makes life so sweet.*  
*- Emily Dickinson*

You don't get to choose how you're going to die. Or when. You can only decide how you're going to live. Now.

- Joan Baez

Begin at once to live, and count each day as a separate life.

- Seneca

When one door of happiness closes, another opens: but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us.

– Helen Keller

You can have anything you want if you are willing to give up the belief that you can't have it.

- Robert Anthony

You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face...do the thing you think you cannot do.

– Eleanor Roosevelt

Too many people overvalue what they are not and undervalue what they are.

- Malcolm Forbes

Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go.

- Oscar Wilde

Happiness? It is an illusion to think that more comfort means more happiness. [Happiness](#) comes of the capacity to feel deeply, to enjoy simply, to think freely, to risk life, to be needed.

- Storm Jameson

Be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars. In the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul.

– Max Ehrmann

The world is all gates, all opportunities, strings of tension waiting to be struck.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

A day is a miniature eternity.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Without ambition one starts nothing. Without work one finishes nothing. The prize will not be sent to you. As to methods there may be a million and then some, but the principles are few. The man who grasps principles can successfully select his own methods. The man who tries methods, ignoring principles, is sure to have trouble.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

**Courage is resistance to fear,  
mastery of fear,  
not absence of fear.  
- Mark Twain**

The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read them.

- Mark Twain

There are those who would mistake us that to stick in a rut is consistency, and a virtue, and that to climb out of the rut is inconsistency, and a vice.

- Mark Twain

Misery is almost always the result of thinking.

- Joseph Joubert

The mind is its own place, and in itself can make a heaven of Hell, a hell of Heaven.

- John Milton

We are disturbed not by what happens to us, but by our thoughts about what happens to us.

– Epictetus

Everyone is entitled to his or her own incorrect opinion.  
- Brian Vaszily

A great many people think they are thinking, when they are merely rearranging their prejudices.  
- David Bohn

There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so.  
- William Shakespeare

If you observe a really happy man, you will find him building a boat, writing a symphony, educating his son, growing double dahlias in his garden, or looking for dinosaur eggs in the Gobi desert. He will not be searching for happiness as if it were a collar button that has rolled under the radiator.  
- W. Beran Wolfe

***We cannot heal the wounds  
we do not feel.***  
- S.R. Smalley

Seize the moment. Remember all those women on the Titanic who waved off the dessert cart.  
- Erma Bombeck

Most of us spend so much time thinking about where we have been or where we are supposed to be going that we have a hard time recognizing where we actually are.  
- Barbara Brown Taylor



The only people for me are the mad ones, the ones who are mad to live, mad to talk, mad to be saved, desirous of everything at the same time, the ones who never yawn or say a commonplace thing, but burn, burn, burn, like fabulous yellow Roman candles exploding like spiders across the stars.

- Jack Kerouac

It's not the length of life, it's the depth of life.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson



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Do not be too timid and squeamish about your actions. All life is an experience.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Our most important thoughts are those which contradict our emotions.

- Paul Valery

Worry gives a small thing a big shadow.  
- Swedish proverb

In the affairs of life, all questions can be summed up in two questions:  
“Do I hold on, and how tightly? Do I let go, and how much?”  
- Brian Vaszily

An absolute condition of all successful living, whether for an individual  
or a nation, is the acceptance of death.  
- Freya Stark

Death helps us to see what is worth trusting and loving and what is a  
waste of time.  
- J. Neville Ward

***Death is the vast perhaps.  
- Rabelais***

Life is a great surprise. I do not see why death should not be an even  
greater one.  
- Vladimir Nabokov

If you don't design your own life plan, chances are you'll fall into  
someone else's plan. And guess what they have planned for you?  
Not much.  
- Jim Rohn

Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of  
enthusiasm.  
- Winston Churchill

The secret of success is constancy of purpose.  
- Benjamin Disraeli

Success is how high you bounce when you hit bottom.  
- General George S. Patton

Some days you're the dog some day you're the hydrant.  
- Unknown

***You can do anything – but not everything.  
- David Allen***

It is not how much you do, but how much Love you put into the doing that matters.  
- Mother Teresa

Watching television is like taking black spray paint to your third eye.  
- Bill Hicks

Be the change you wish to see in the world.  
- Gandhi

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit.  
- Aristotle

People may doubt what you say, but they will believe what you do.  
- Lewis Cass

Be yourself. No one can ever tell you you're doing it wrong.  
- James Leo Herlihy

Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself.  
- George Bernard Shaw

The longer you stay in one place, the greater your chance of  
disillusionment.  
- Art Spander

When you're through learning, you're through.  
- Vernon Law

Fall seven times, stand up eight.  
- Japanese proverb

It takes courage to grow up and turn out to be who you really are.  
- e.e. cummings

I hear and I forget, I see and I remember, I do and I understand.  
- Chinese Proverb

The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes,  
but in having new eyes.  
- Marcel Proust

The real joy of life is in its play. Play is anything we do for the joy and  
love of doing it, apart from any profit, compulsion, or sense of duty. It  
is the real joy of living.  
- Walter Rauschbusch

*A light heart lives long.*  
- William Shakespeare

The longer I live the more beautiful life becomes.  
- Frank Lloyd

I don't believe people are looking for the meaning of life as much as looking for the experience of being alive.  
- Joseph Campbell

I always win. Because I come out of every situation still whole, still new, and still capable of moving forward. Every experience of my life moves me on to my next experience. All my experiences teach me wisdom, give me courage, and set me free to go on living.  
- Kenny Shultz

The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience.  
- Eleanor Roosevelt

I have learned that if one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours.  
- Henry David Thoreau

To live is to be slowly born.  
- Antoine de Saint-Exupery



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A person is not old unless regrets start taking the place of dreams.  
- Unknown

You can complain because roses have thorns, or you can rejoice  
because thorns have roses.  
– Ziggy parable

Eat the present moment, and break the dish.  
- Egyptian proverb

Dance as though no one is watching you. Love as though you have never been hurt before. Sing as though no one can hear you. Live as though heaven is on earth.

– Souza



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**May you live  
all the days of your life.**

- Jonathan Swift