

The Quotations of Benjamin Franklin



1. “If you would not be forgotten as soon as you are dead and rotten, either write things worth reading or do things worth reading or do things worth writing.”
2. “There was never a good war, or bad peace.”
3. “Reading makes a full man, meditation a profound man, discourse a clear man.”
4. “Necessity never made a good bargain.”
5. “Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.”
6. “An undutiful daughter will prove an unmanageable wife.”
7. “Beer is living proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy.”
8. “Having been poor is no shame, but being ashamed of it is.”
9. “They who would give up an essential liberty for temporary security, deserve neither liberty or security.”

10. “The Constitution only gives people the right to pursue happiness. You have to catch it yourself.”
11. “A cheerful face is nearly as good for an invalid as healthy weather.”
12. “Genius without education is like silver in the mine.”
13. “When you’re finished changing, you’re finished.”
14. “The doors of wisdom are never shut.”
15. “A good example is the best sermon.”
16. “Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning.”
17. “Beware of little expenses; a small leak will sink a great ship.”
18. “There are three great friends: an old wife, an old dog, and ready money.”
19. “Content makes poor men rich; discontent makes rich men poor.”

20. “For want of a nail the shoe was lost; for want of a shoe the horse was lost; and for want of a horse the rider was lost; being overtaken and slain by the enemy, all for the want of care about a horseshoe nail.”
21. “A learned blockhead is greater blockhead than an ignorant one.”
22. “Plough deep while sluggards sleep.”
23. “There are two way of being happy: We must either diminish our wants or augment our means - either may do - the result is the same and it is for each man to decide for himself and to do that which happens to be easier.”
24. “We are all born ignorant, but one must work hard to remain stupid.”
25. “You will find the key to success under the alarm clock.”
26. “He was so learned that he could name a horse in nine languages; so ignorant that he bought a cow to ride on.”
27. “The heart of a fool is in his mouth, but the mouth of a wise man is in his heart.”

28. "Life's tragedy is that we get old too soon and wise too late."
29. "Would you live with ease, do what you should, and not what you please. Success has ruined many a man."
30. "Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man."
31. "Good sense is a thing all need, few have, and non think they want."
32. "Keep your eyes wide open before marriage, and half-shut afterwards."
33. "Those who love deeply never grow old; they may die of old age, but they die young."
34. "Well done is better than well said."
35. "Remember not only to say the right thing in the right place, but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment."
36. "Man's tongue is soft, and bone doth lack; yet a stroke therewith may break a man's back."

37. “Historians relate, not so much what is done, as what they would have believed.”
38. “He that would live in peace and at ease must not speak all he knows or all he sees.”
39. “Glass, china, and reputation are easily cracked, and never mended well.”
40. “If you can’t pay for a thing, don’t buy it. If you can’t get paid for it, don’t sell it. Do this, and you will have calm and drowsy nights, with all of the good business you have now and none of the bad.”
41. “Teach your child to hold his tongue; he’ll learn fast enough to speak.”
42. “At 20 years of age the will reigns; at 30 the wit; at 40 the judgement.”
43. “Lend money to an enemy, and thou will gain him, to a friend and thou will lose him.”
44. “Take time for all things; great haste makes great waste.”
45. “Work as if you were to live a hundred years. Pray as if you were to die tomorrow.”

46. “In short, the way to wealth, if you desire it, is as plain as the way to market. It depends chiefly on two words, industry and frugality; that is, waste neither time nor money, but make the best use of both.”
47. “Any fool can criticize, condemn and complain - and most fools do.”
48. “Eat to live, and not live to eat.”
49. “He that lives upon hope will die fasting.”
50. “Were it offered to my choice, I should have no objection to a reputation of the same life from its beginning, only asking the advantages authors have in a second edition to correct some faults in the first.”
51. “Do good to your friends to keep them, to your enemies to win them.”
52. “Even peace may be purchased at too high a price.”
53. “Creditors have better memories than debtors.”

54. “If a man empties his purse into his head, no man can take it away from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.”
55. “Be civil to all; sociable to many; familiar with few.”
56. “God heals, and the doctor takes the fees.”
57. “If time be of all things the most precious, wasting time must be the greatest prodigality.”
58. “Energy and persistence conquer all things.”
59. “He that blows the coals in quarrels that he has nothing to do with, has no right to complain if the sparks fly in his face.”
60. “To lengthen thy life, lessen thy meals.”
61. “You may delay, but time will not, and lost time is never found again.”
62. “Without justice, courage is weak.”
63. “The way to see by Faith is to shut the Eye of Reason.”

64. "Let the child's first lesson be obedience, and the second may be what thou wilt."
65. "If you desire many things, many things will seem few."
66. "Buy what thou hast no need of, and ere long thou shalt sell thy necessities."
67. "Don't throw stones at your neighbors, if your own windows are glass."
68. "God grant that not only the love of liberty but a thorough knowledge of the rights of man may pervade all the nations of the earth, so that a philosopher may set his foot anywhere on its surface and say: 'This is my country.'"
69. "He that cannot obey, cannot command."
70. "If you would persuade, you must appeal to interest rather than intellect."
71. "Keep thy shop, and thy shop will keep thee."
72. "He that falls in love with himself will have no rivals."
73. "Nothing is more fatal to health than an over care of it."

74. “The nearest way to come at glory, is to do that for conscience which we do for glory.”
75. “Wink at small faults; remember thou hast great ones.”
76. “Fear to do ill, and you need fear nought else.”
77. “How much more than is necessary do we spend in sleep, forgetting that the sleeping fox catches no poultry, and that there will be sleeping enough in the grave.”
78. “Diligence is the mother of good luck.”
79. “God helps them that help themselves.”
80. “Happiness consists more in the small conveniences of pleasures that occur every day, than in great pieces of good fortune that happen but seldom to a man in the course of his life.”
81. “Industry, perseverance, and frugality make fortune yield.”
82. “Learn of the skillful; he that teaches himself, has a fool for his master.”

83. “He that lies down with dogs, shall rise up with fleas.”
84. “Sell not virtue to purchase wealth, nor liberty to purchase power.”
85. “Those disputing, contradicting, and confuting people are generally unfortunate in their affairs. They get victory, sometimes, but they never get good will, which would be of more use to them.”
86. “Wise men don’t need advice. Fools won’t take it.”
87. “Many complain of their memory, few of their judgement.”
88. “Where sense is wanting, everything is wanting.”
89. “They that won’t be counseled, can’t be helped.”
90. “Pay what you owe, and you’ll know what’s your own.”
91. “If you would be loved, love and be lovable.”
92. “He does not possess wealth that allows it to possess him.”
93. “Half a truth is often a great lie.”

94. “Whatever is begun in anger ends in shame.”
95. “No man ever was glorious, who was not laborious.”
96. “Those things that hurt, instruct.”
97. “Being ignorant is not so much a shame as being unwilling to learn.”
98. “To be humble to superiors is duty, to equals courtesy, to inferiors nobleness.”
99. “We must indeed all hang together or, most assuredly we shall all hang separately.”

