

BEST QUOTES ON COMMUNICATION & CONVERSATION

When dealing with people, remember you are not dealing with creatures of logic, but with creatures of emotion.

--Dale Carnegie

The human face is powered, depending on how you count them, by between 23 and 43 muscles, many of which attach to the skin, serving no obvious function for survival. An alien examining a human specimen in isolation wouldn't know what to make of them. Tugging on the forehead, eyebrows, lips and cheeks, the muscles broadcast a wealth of information about our emotional state, level of interest and alertness. It is a remarkably efficient means of communication—almost instantaneous, usually accurate, transcending most language and cultural barriers.

—Jerry Adler

No one appreciates the very special genius of your conversation as a dog does.

--Christopher Morley

The great gift of conversation lies less in displaying it ourselves than in drawing it out of others. He who leaves your company pleased with himself and his own cleverness is perfectly well pleased with you.

--Jean De La Bruyère

I will not let anyone walk through my mind with their dirty feet.

—Mahatma Gandhi

Solitary reading will enable a man to stuff himself with information, but without conversation his mind will become like a pond without an outlet—a mass of unhealthy stagnature. It is not enough to harvest knowledge by study; the wind of talk must winnow it and blow away the chaff. Then will the clear, bright grains of wisdom be garnered, for our own use or that of others.

--William Matthews

If you wouldn't write it and sign it, don't say it.

--Earl Wilson

To send a letter is a good way to go somewhere without moving anything but your heart.

—Phyllis Theroux

Spoken words account for 30-to-35 percent of meaning. The rest is transmitted through nonverbal communication.

—*International Listening Association*

There are two types of people - those who come into a room and say, 'Well, here I am!' and those who come in and say, 'Ah, there you are'

—Frederick L. Collins

Don't tell me what they said about me. Tell me why they were so comfortable to say it around you.

—Jay Z

Gossip is always a personal confession of malice or imbecility; it is a low, frivolous, and too often a dirty business. There are neighborhoods where it rages like a pest; churches are split in pieces by it, and neighbors made enemies for life. Let the young avoid or cure it while they may.

—Jack Holland

Great minds discuss ideas, average minds discuss events, small minds discuss people.

--Hyman Rickover

The two cardinal sins of conversation are talkativeness and silence.

-- Edward Bennett

I hate to spread rumors, but what else can one do with them?

--Amanda Lear

People fighting their aloneness will do almost anything to avoid silence.

--Myrtle Barker

Beware of the conversationalist who adds 'in other words.' He is merely starting afresh.

--Christopher Morley

Show me someone who never gossips, and I'll show you someone who isn't interested in people.

--Barbara Walters

The opposite of talking is not listening. The opposite of talking is waiting.

--Fran Lebowitz

There is no such thing as conversation. It is an illusion. There are intersecting monologues. That is all.

--Rebecca West

I know a lady that loves talking so incessantly, she won't give an echo fair play; she has that everlasting rotation of tongue that an echo must wait till she dies before it can catch her last words!

—William Congreve

There is one topic peremptorily forbidden to all rational mortals, namely, their distempers. If you have not slept, or if you have slept, or if you have headache, or sciatica, or leprosy, or thunder-stroke, I beseech you, by all angels, to hold your peace, and not pollute the morning by corruption and groans.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Don't tell your friends about your indigestion.
'How are you' is a greeting, not a question.

--Arthur Guiterman

Never speak of yourself to others; make them talk about themselves instead: therein lies the whole art of pleasing. Everyone knows it and everyone forgets it.

--Edmond de Goncourt

Whoever gossips to you will gossip about you.

--Spanish Proverb

In truth we talk only to ourselves, but sometimes we talk loud enough that others may hear us.

--Kahlil Gibran

A gossip is one who talks to you about others; a bore is one who talks to you about himself, and a brilliant conversationalist is one who talks to you about yourself.

--Lisa Kirk

In spite of language, in spite of intelligence and intuition and sympathy, one can never really communicate anything to anybody. The essential substance for every thought and feeling remains incommunicable, locked up in the impenetrable strong-room of the individual soul and body. Our life is a sentence of perpetual solitary confinement.

--Aldous Huxley

Take a lesson from the whale: The only time he gets harpooned is when he comes up to spout.

--Unknown

The most immutable barrier in nature is between one man's thoughts and another's.

--William James

You'll never really know what I mean and I'll never know exactly what you mean.

--Mike Nichols

Discussion is an exchange of knowledge; argument an exchange of ignorance.

--Robert Quillen

Another good thing about gossip is that it is within everybody's reach, and it is much more interesting than any other form of speech.

--Ogden Nash

Silence propagates itself, and the longer talk has been suspended, the more difficult it is to find anything to say.

--Samuel Johnson

In all men of real intelligence we find the tendency to express themselves briefly, to say speedily what is to be said.

--Georg C. Lichtenberg

A good general conversation is a lovely concept, but there is less and less of it going around....Indeed, it is virtually a spectator sport now. Just dial your favorite panel show and see.

--Peg Bracken

Conversation is possible, of course, between two people, but it can't be much of an art unless there are at least three.

--John Erskine

I do not like talking casually to people—it does not interest me—and most of them are unwilling to talk at all seriously.

--Anne Morrow
Lindbergh

Men will never talk to women with that rough frankness which they use between themselves. Conversation between the sexes will always be partially insincere.

--Philip G. Hamerton

The moment that one can talk about things, that moment they become bearable, and one sees them in the right light.

--A. C. Benson

Talk with almost any man for half an hour, and you will find that his conversation, like an old-fashioned song, has a regularly recurrent chorus.

--David Grayson

Somehow I find talk very unsatisfactory. I never say the things I meant to say and am overwhelmed afterwards with the things I should have said and could not.

--Gamaliel Bradford

What a strange scene if the surge of conversation could suddenly ebb like the tide, and show us the real state of people's minds.

--Sir Walter Scott

The time to stop talking is when the other person nods his head affirmatively but says nothing.

--Henry S. Haskins

I say all men are best at their ease when they are talking shop. It is because they then have most material to hand, and because they are dealing with the thing which, if they will confess it, most occupies their mind.

--Hilaire Belloc

I feel that instead of any inability to communicate there is a deliberate evasion of communication. Communication itself between people is so frightening that rather than do that there is a continual crosstalk, a continual talking about other things, rather than what is at the root of their relationship.

--Harold Pinter

The best way I know of to win an argument is to start by being in the right.
--Lord Hailsham

The aim of argument, or of discussion, should not be victory, but progress.
--Joseph Joubert

A matter that becomes clear ceases to concern us.
--Nietzsche

You cannot speak of ocean to a well-frog,—the creature of a narrower sphere. You cannot speak of ice to a summer insect,—the creature of a season.
--Chuang Tzu

Much unhappiness has come into the world because of bewilderment and things left unsaid.
--Dostoevsky

When the eyes say one thing, and the tongue another, a practised man relies on the language of the first.
--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Use what language you will, you can never say anything but what you are.
--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Precision of communication is important, more important than ever, in our era of hair-trigger balances, when a false, or misunderstood word may create as much disaster as a sudden thoughtless act.
--James Thurber

Talk to every woman as if you loved her, and to every man as if he bored you, and at the end of your first season you will have the reputation of possessing the most perfect social tact.
--Oscar Wilde

If you say a bad thing, you may soon hear a worse thing said about you.
--Hesiod

Conversation is an art in which a man has all mankind for his competitors, for it is that which all are practising every day while they live.
--Ralph Waldo Emerson

The art of conversation is the art of hearing as well as of being heard.

--William Hazlitt

Whoever interrupts the conversation of others to make a display of his fund of knowledge, makes notorious his own stock of ignorance.

--Sa'di

To meet at all, one must open one's eyes to another; and there is no true conversation, no matter how many words are spoken, unless the eye, unveiled and listening, opens itself to the other.

--Jessamyn West

Trumpet in a herd of elephants; crow in the company of cocks; bleat in a flock of goats.

--Malayan Proverb

Set your face against cliches, against fad phrases—and vow to express a thought in your own words instead....Don't dress a simple idea in complicated language....Good conversation is what makes us interesting. After all, we spend a great deal of our time talking and a great deal of our time listening. Why be bored, why be boring—when you don't have to be either.

--Edwin Newman

The secret of success in conversation is to be able to disagree without being disagreeable.

--Amish Proverb

Many can argue, not many converse.

--Amos Bronson Alcott

Wise, cultivated, genial conversation is the last flower of civilization....Conversation is our account of ourselves.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Conversation is the laboratory and workshop of the student.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

A closed mouth gathers no feet.

--American Proverb

It's easy to keep from being a bore. Just praise the person to whom you're talking.
--Unknown

Don't knock the weather. Nine-tenths of the people couldn't start a conversation if the weather didn't change occasionally.
—Kin Hubbard

The true spirit of conversation consists in building on another man's observation, not overturning it.
--Edward G.
Bulwer-Lytton

No one would talk much in society, if he knew how often he misunderstands others.
--Johann Wolfgang von
Goethe

Conversation...is the art of never appearing a bore, of knowing how to say everything interestingly, to entertain with no matter what, to be charming with nothing at all.
--Guy de Maupassant

Speech is civilization itself. The word, even the most contradictory word, preserves contact—it is silence which isolates.
--Thomas Mann

Education begins a gentleman, conversation completes him.
--Thomas Fuller

Silence is one great art of conversation.
--Hazlitt

The reason why so few people are agreeable in conversation, is, that each is thinking more of what he is intending to say, than of what others are saying; and we never listen when we are planning to speak.
--Rochefoucauld

There cannot be a greater rudeness than to interrupt another in the current of his discourse.
—John Locke

The less men think, the more they talk.

--Charles de Montesquieu

All bitter feelings are avoided, or at least greatly reduced by prompt, face-to-face discussion.

--Walter B. Pitkin

Be sincere. Be simple in words, manners and gestures. Amuse as well as instruct. If you can make a man laugh, you can make him think and make him like and believe you.

--Alfred E. Smith

My observation is that, generally speaking, poverty of speech is the outward evidence of poverty of mind.

--Bruce Barton

For good or ill, your conversation is your advertisement. For every time you open your mouth you let men look into your mind.

--Bruce Barton

They think too little who talk too much.

—John Dryden

Speaking much is a sign of vanity; for he that is lavish in words, is a niggard in deed.

--Sir Walter Raleigh

A wise man reflects before he speaks; a fool speaks, and then reflects on what he has uttered.

--Alire Raffeneau Delile

The talkative listen to no one, for they are ever speaking. and the first evil that attends those who know not how to be silent, is, that they hear nothing.

--Plutarch

The common fluency of speech in many men, and most women, is owing to a scarcity of matter and a scarcity of words, for whoever is a master of language and has a mind full of ideas, will be apt, in speaking, to hesitate upon the choice of his words.

--Jonathan Swift

The more ideas a man has the fewer words he takes to express them. Wise men never talk to make time; they talk to save it.

--Uncle Esek

At least talk to each other. To communicate is the beginning of understanding.

--*American Telephone
and Telegraph*

Whatever the calling students may later pursue, their effectiveness will depend mightily on an ability to express views clearly.

--Kingman Brewster, Jr.

The most fruitful and natural exercise of our mind, in my opinion, is discussion. I find it sweeter than any other action of our life; and that is the reason why, if I were now forced to choose, I believe I would rather consent to lose my sight than my hearing or speech.

--Michel de Montaigne

There isn't much to be seen in a little town, but what you hear makes up for it.

--Kin Hubbard

A cruel story runs on wheels, and every hand oils the wheels as they run.

--Ouida

Conversation would be vastly improved by the constant use of four simple words: I do not know.

--André Maurois

I attribute the little I know to my not having been ashamed to ask for information, and to my rule of conversing with all descriptions of men on those topics that form their own peculiar professions and pursuits.

--John Locke

A world community can exist only with world communication, which means something more than extensive shortwave facilities scattered about the globe. It means common understanding, a common tradition, common ideas, and common ideals.

--Robert M. Hutchins

What you are thunders so that I cannot hear what you say to the contrary.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

With three or more people there is something bold in the air: direct things get said which would frighten two people alone and conscious of each inch of their nearness to one another. To be three is to be in public—you feel safe.

--Elizabeth Bowen

The strongest human instinct is to impart information, the second strongest is to resist it.

--Kenneth Grahame

No one gossips about other people's secret virtues.

--Bertrand Russell

Another good thing about gossip is that it is within everybody's reach, and it is much more interesting than any other form of speech.

--Ogden Nash

Hating anything in the way of ill-natured gossip ourselves, we are always grateful to those who do it for us and do it well.

--Saki

Gossip is vice enjoyed vicariously—the sweet, subtle satisfaction without the risk.

--Kin Hubbard

The best-loved man or maid in the town would perish with anguish could they hear all that their friends say in the course of a day.

--John Hay

If you can't say something good about someone, sit right here by me.

--Alice Roosevelt
Longworth

What people say behind your back is your standing in the community.

--Edgar Watson Howe

Wit is the salt of conversation, not the food.

--William Hazlitt

That is the happiest conversation where there is no competition, no vanity, but a calm quiet interchange of sentiments.

--Samuel Johnson

Too much agreement kills a chat.

--Eldridge Cleaver

The old repeat themselves and the young have nothing to say. The boredom is mutual.

--Jacques Bainville

Not to transmit an experience is to betray it.

--Elie Wiesel

Mastery of communication is inseparable from effective leadership.

--Bennis and Nanus

We live in an over-communicated society. There is too much noise and information coming at us. Clear, simple messages get in, complex messages do not.

--Jamie Vollmer

A civil guest

Will no more talk all, than eat all the feast.

--George Herbert

Much talk, much foolishness.

--*The Talmud*

You may hurt others by talking about them, but you may do more damage to yourself.

--Claude Williams

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing in the right place but to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

--Lady Dorothy Nevill

Information voids will be filled by rumors and speculation unless they are preempted by open, credible and trustworthy communication.

--Jean B. Keffeler

There is one thing worse than not communicating. It is thinking you have communicated when you have not.

--Edgar Dale

Speaking without thinking is shooting without taking aim.

--Spanish Proverb

Little said is soon amended. There is always time to add a word, never to withdraw one.

--Baltasar Gracián

What is told in the ear of a man is often heard 100 miles away.

--Chinese Saying

Power in America today is control of the means of communication.

--Theodore White

He who says what he likes shall hear what he does not like.

--English Proverb

Too much talk will include errors.

--Burmese Proverb

The essential charm of good talking rests upon sincerity, spontaneity, and the willing revelation of character.

--John Hobbes

Don't talk unless you can improve the silence.

--Vermont Proverb

When I talked no one listened to me. But as soon as I acted I became persuasive, and I no longer find anyone incredulous.

--Giosue Borsi

Stop talking so much. You never see a heavy thinker with his mouth open.

--George Washington
Carver

A committee is an animal with four back legs.

--John LeCarrê

Half of the world is composed of people who have something to say and can't say it, and the other half who have nothing to say and keep on saying it.

--Robert Frost

I wish people who have trouble communicating would just shut up.

--Tom Lehrer

A sieve will hold water better than a woman's mouth a secret.

--Proverb

Gossip is the opiate of the oppressed.

--Erica Jong

He had occasional flashes of silence that made his conversation perfectly delightful.

--Sydney Smith

Blessed is the man who, having nothing to say, abstains from giving wordy evidence of the fact.

--George Eliot

If you keep your mouth shut you will never put your foot in it.

--Austin O'Malley

The first ingredient in conversation is truth; the next, good sense; the third, good humor; and the fourth, wit.

--William Temple

One of the best rules in conversation is, never to say a thing which any of the company can reasonably wish had been left unsaid.

--Jonathan Swift

Among well-bred people, a mutual deference is affected; contempt for others disguised; authority concealed; attention given to each in his turn; and an easy stream of conversation is maintained, without vehemence, without interruption, without eagerness or the victory, and without any airs of superiority.

--David Hume

A single conversation across the table with a wise man is worth a month's study of books.

--Chinese Proverb

Never hold anyone by the button or the hand, in order to be heard out; for if people are unwilling to hear, you had better hold your tongue than them.

--Lord Chesterfield

Be sincere. Be simple in words, manners and gestures. Amuse as well as instruct. If you can make a man laugh, you can make him think and make him lie and believe you.

--Alfred E. Smith

Take as many half minutes as you can get, but never talk more than half a minute without pausing and giving the other an opportunity to strike.

--Jonathan Swift

I hope that good conversation will never become a lost art; it is already precious enough without that. But there are times when it too seems in danger of extinction.

--Dorothy Sarnoff

In private conversation between intimate friends, the wisest men very often talk like the weakest; for, indeed, the talking with a friend is nothing else but thinking aloud.

--Joseph Addison

The main purpose of social conversation is to provide for order, cohesion, understanding and security in social organizations such as the family, school and political units. When there is lying, distortion, and missing information, the social organizations surely suffer.

--William Syub

Nature has given speech to man, not that he should speak to himself, which is to no purpose, but to the end that it helps others. and you see that the tongue serves us to teach, to command, to discuss, sell, counsel, correct, dispute, to judge and to express the affection of our hearts; means whereby men come to love one another and link themselves together...man is created for the use of man.

--Stephen Guazzo

Women talk when they have nothing to say. They chatter about a lot of nonsense that interests no one but themselves. They should keep quiet and not open their mouths just because they like the sound of their voices.

--Marlene Dietrich

Two may talk and one may hear, but three cannot take part in a conversation of the most sincere and searching sort.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Every man becomes, to a certain degree, what the people he generally converses with are.

--Lord Philip Chesterfield

Women prefer to talk in twos, while men prefer to talk in threes.

--Gilbert Keith
Chesterton

Look wise, say nothing, and grunt. Speech was given to conceal thought.

--Sir William Osler

The body says what words cannot.

--Martha Graham

To listen closely and reply well is the highest perfection we are able to attain in the art of conversation.

--La Rochefoucauld

The only fool bigger than the person who knows it all is the person who argues with him.

--Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

The most important thing in communication is to hear what isn't being said.

--Peter Drucker

Express everything you like. No word can hurt you. None. No idea can hurt you. Not being able to express an idea or a word will hurt you much more. As much as a bullet.

--Jamaica Kincaid

I hate everything that does not relate to literature; conversations bore me (even when they relate to literature), to visit people bores me, the joys and sorrows of my relatives bore me to my soul. Conversation takes the importance, the seriousness, the truth out of everything I think.

--Franz Kafka

An inability to stay quiet...is one of the most conspicuous failures of mankind.

--Walter Bagehot

One never repents of having spoken too little but often of having spoken too much.

--Philippe de Comynes

Talking and eloquence are not the same: to speak, and to speak well, are two things. A fool may talk, but a wise man speaks.

--Ben Jonson

Tell it like it is!...That doesn't happen even twice a day in any big city. And is the listener any the less to blame than the speaker? No. Hence, not more than twice on any single day in any city is anyone fully understood.

--Denis Diderot

Speaking much is a sign of vanity; for he that is lavish in words is a niggard in deed.

--Sir Walter Raleigh

Remember, every time you open your mouth to talk, your mind walks out and parades up and down the words.

--Edwin H. Stuart

It is with narrow-souled people as with narrow-necked bottles; the less they have in it, the more noise they make in pouring it out.

--Alexander Pope

Talk is by far the most accessible of pleasures. It costs nothing in money, it is all profit, it completes our education, founds and fosters our friendships, and can be enjoyed at any age and in almost any state of health.

--Robert Louis Stevenson

Cultivate quietness in your speech, in your thoughts, in your emotions. Speak habitually low. Wait for attention and then your low words will be charged with dynamite.

--Elbert Hubbard

Those who have few affairs to attend to are great speakers. The less men think the more they talk.

--Montesquieu

Why fools are endowed by Nature with voices so much louder than sensible people possess is a mystery. It is a fact emphasized throughout history.

—Arthur E. Hertzler

When a person leaves your party pleased with his cleverness and himself, he is also pleased with you.

--Jean De La Bruyère

For a juicy conversation, three women are needed: two to do the talking, and one to be the subject.

--Unknown

Conversation is a contest in which the first person to draw a breath is declared the listener.

—Nathan Miller

All natural talk is a festival of ostentation; and by the laws of the game each accepts and fans the vanity of the other.

--Robert Louis Stevenson

Mischief all comes from much opening of the mouth.

--Chinese Proverb

Who speaks ill of others to you will speak ill of you to others.

--German Proverb

Outside noisy, inside empty.

--Chinese Proverb

Young children...are often uninterested in conversation. It is not that they don't have ideas and feelings, or need to express them to others. It is simply that as one eight-year-old boy once told me, 'Talking is okay, but I don't like to do it all the time the way grown-ups do;' I guess you have to develop the habit.

--Robert Coles

It's an odd thing that though we all disagree with each other, we are all of us in the right.

--Logan P. Smith

What frightens us most in a madman is his sane conversation.

--Anatole France

I have never been hurt by anything I didn't say.

--Calvin Coolidge

Before she marries, every girl should take a course in domestic silence.

--Unknown

It is impolite for a man to fall asleep while his wife is talking, but a man has to sleep some time.

--Unknown

Most of the time in married life is taken up by talk.

--Friedrich Nietzsche

War talk by men who have been in a war is always interesting; whereas moon talk by a poet who has not been in the moon is likely to be dull.

--Mark Twain

Great talkers are so constituted that they do not know their own thoughts until they hear them issuing from their mouths.

--Thornton Wilder

When we love, we always have something to say.

--Mary Wortley Montagu

To babble is to make a feminine noise somewhat resembling the sound of a brook, but with less meaning.

--Oliver Herford

When a woman is talking to you, listen to what she says with her eyes.

--Victor Hugo

A yawn is nature's method of giving the person listening to a bore an opportunity to open his mouth.

--Unknown

The word, even the most contradictory word, preserves contact—it is silence which isolates.

--Thomas Mann

A 'good' discussion is one which lends itself to arguments rather than answers.

--Nicholas Pileggi

The secret of being a bore is to tell everything.

--Voltaire

I have long since come to believe that people never mean half of what they say, and that it is best to disregard their talk and judge only their actions.

--Dorothy Day

Talking is like playing on the harp; there is much in laying the hand on the strings to stop their vibration as in twanging them to bring out their music.

--Oliver Wendell Holmes

The words you speak today should be soft and tender...for tomorrow you may have to eat them.

--Unknown

Nine times out of ten, talking is a way of avoiding doing things.

--Patricia C. Wrede

Animals have long tongues but can't speak; men have short tongues and shouldn't speak.

--Yiddish Proverb

One of the basic causes for all the trouble in the world today is that people talk too much and think too little.

--Margaret Chase Smith

Communication is a measurable asset.

--Susan Sampsell

It doesn't matter what you intend to communicate, but how it's heard that counts.

--Steve Horowitz

The most powerful force in the universe is gossip.

--Dave Barry

There's one good thing about ignorance—it gives rise to 90 percent of the world's conversation.

--Unknown

If I had to name a single, all-purpose instrument of leadership, it would be communication.

--John Gardner

Discussion in America means dissent.

--James Thurber

Great people talk about ideas, average people talk about things, and small people talk about wine.

--Fran Lebowitz

A committee is a group that keeps minutes and loses hours.

--Milton Berle

When the debate is lost, slander becomes the tool of the loser.

-- Socrates

Before you speak, ask yourself, it is kind, is it necessary, is it true, does it improve on the silence?

--Sai Baba

In conversation, discretion is more important than eloquence.

--Baltasar Gracian

Half the world is composed of people who have something to say and can't say it and the other half who have nothing to say and keep on saying it.

--Robert Frost

Conversation is not a search after knowledge, but an endeavor at effect.

--John Keats

Information voids will be filled by rumors and speculation unless they are preempted by open, credible, and trustworthy communication.

--Jean B. Keffeler

Don't keep jingling in the course of your conversation any intellectual money you may have.

--Joseph Farrell

If we are going to use the word (community) meaningfully, we must restrict it to a group of individuals who have learned how to communicate honestly with each other, whose relationships go deeper than their masks of composure, and who have developed some significant commitment to rejoice together, mourn together, and to delight in each other, making others' conditions our own.

--M. Scott Peck

In the game known as Broken Telephone (or Chinese Whispers) a child whispers a phrase into the ear of a second child, who whispers it into the ear of a third child, and so on. Distortions accumulate, and when the last child announces the phrase, it is comically different from the original. The game works because each child does not merely degrade the phrase, which would culminate in a mumble, but reanalyzes it, making a best guess about the words the preceding child had in mind.

--Steven Pinker

You don't get harmony when everyone sings the same note.

--Doug Floyd

I know that you believe that you understood what you think I said, but I am not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I meant.

--Robert McCloskey

Nobody believes the official spokesman... but everybody trusts an unidentified source.

--Ron Nesen

A very wise public-relations counsel cautions letter writers to delete the pronoun 'I' as much as possible. 'A weekend thank-you note that opens 'I had a wonderful time,' he points out, 'is not half so captivating as one beginning, 'You are a wonderful hostess.' Both say 'thank you,' but, ah, my friends, the second is the one that will get you asked back!

—Bennett Cerf

Meetings are indispensable when you don't want to do anything.

--John Kenneth
Galbraith

Against logic there is no armor like ignorance.

--Laurence J. Peter

You can talk about anything if you go about it the right way, which is never malicious.

--Rodney Carrington

No one means all he says, and yet very few say all they mean, for words are slippery and thought is viscous.

--Henry Adams

Wise men talk because they have something to say; fools, because they have to say something.

--Plato

A study in the *Washington Post* says that women have better verbal skills than men. I just want to say to the authors of that study: 'Duh.'

--Conan O'Brien

The best of life is conversation, and the greatest success is confidence, or perfect understanding between sincere people.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

You may hurt others by talking about them, but you may do more damage to yourself.

--Claude Williams

According to a new study, happy people talk a lot more than unhappy people. You know what would make unhappy people happy? If happy people would just shut up.

--Jay Leno

Three may keep a secret. If two of them are dead!

--Benjamin Franklin

It is a common delusion that you make things better by talking about them

--Dame Rose Macaulay

Everybody's Willy Loman on Facebook. Everybody's a salesman. We're a nation of Willys.

--Mike Nichols

Within this world of instant and absolute communication, unbounded by limits of time or space, we suffer from unprecedented alienation. We have never been more detached from one another, or lonelier. In a world consumed by ever more novel modes of socializing, we have less and less actual society. We live in an accelerating contradiction: the more connected we become, the lonelier we are. We were promised a global village: instead we inhabit the drab cul-de-sacs and endless freeways of a vast suburb of information.

--Stephen Marche

The enduring differences in how men and women communicate still have ramifications that range from hurt feelings to missed promotions and fewer pay raises. No news here: Men are supposedly blunter and more aggressive and appear self-confident even when they don't know what they're talking about. Women are more tentative in voicing their opinions and appear unsure of themselves even when they know very well what they're talking about. As bosses, men tend to be more authoritarian and women more collaborative. Men don't give much feedback; women want too much feedback. Men are thought not to ask enough questions; women are thought to ask too many questions. And so forth.

--Alina Tugend

Nothing travels faster than the speed of light with the possible exception of bad news, which obeys its own special laws.

--Douglas Adams

A conference is a gathering of important people who singly can do nothing, but together can decide that nothing can be done.

--Fred Allen

Facebook makes me feel bad. No matter how satisfied I am with my life, career, family, social life, house, etc., as soon as I log on to Facebook and peek into other's lives, I immediately feel that unease caused by comparison....A little kernel of doubt settles into my gut, and it feels really bad.

--Glennon Doyle Melton

Well before Facebook, digital technology was enabling our tendency for isolation, to an unprecedented degree. Back in the 1990s, scholars started calling the contradiction between an increased opportunity to connect and a lack of human contact the 'Internet paradox.'

--Stephen Marche

My unhappy reactions to Facebook may be more universal than I had realized. When I scroll through page after page of my friends' descriptions of how accidentally eloquent their kids are, and how their husbands are endearingly bumbling, and how they're all about to eat a home-cooked meal prepared with fresh local organic produce bought at the farmers' market and then go for a jog and maybe check in at the office because they're so busy getting ready to hop on a plane for a week of luxury dogsledding in Lapland, I do grow slightly more miserable. A lot of other people doing the same thing feel a little bit worse, too.

--Stephen Marche

Facebook's isolation is a grind. What's truly staggering about Facebook usage is not its volume...but the constancy of the performance it demands. More than half its users...log on every day. Among 18-to-34-year-olds, nearly half check Facebook minutes after waking up, and 28 percent do so before getting out of bed. The relentlessness is what is so new, so potentially transformative. Facebook never takes a break. We never take a break. Human beings have always created elaborate acts of self-presentation. But not all the time, not every morning, before we even pour a cup of coffee.

--Stephen Marche

What Facebook has revealed about human nature—and this is not a minor revelation—is that a connection is not the same thing as a bond, and that instant and total connection is no salvation, no ticket to a happier, better world or a more liberated version of humanity. Solitude used to be good for self-reflection and self-reinvention. But now we are left thinking about who we are all the time, without ever really thinking about who we are. Facebook denies us a pleasure whose profundity we had underestimated: the chance to forget about ourselves for a while, the chance to disconnect.

--Stephen Marche

I wish I were a technoptimist. It must be heart-warming to believe that Facebook is ushering in a happy-clappy world where everybody 'friends' everybody else and we all surf the net in peace (insert smiley face). But I'm afraid history makes me a depressimist. And no, there's not an app—or a gene—that can cure that.

--Niall Ferguson

Social networks like Facebook haven't changed the way people respond to bragging; they've changed how much people brag. The ability to publicize so much has blurred the line between sharing and boasting. When you brag in a group, you notice when they wander away. When you brag on Facebook, it's harder to tell who you're alienating.

--Dr. Pamela Rutledge

It's a beautiful day, and we walk past boutiques, restaurants, and packed sidewalk cafés....The pair of high-school-age girls walking down Boylston Street, silent, typing. The table of brunchers ignoring their mimosas (and one another) in favor of their screens. The kid in the stroller playing with an iPad. The sea of humans who...on this sparkling Saturday...seem to be, indeed, alone together.

--Megan Garber

Letters are expectation packaged in an envelope.

--Shana Alexander

If you don't like what is being said, then change the conversation.

--Don Draper from
Mad Men

We're not talking to each other. We're talking all the time, in person as well as in texts, in e-mails, over the phone, on Facebook and Twitter. The world is more talkative now, in many ways, than it's ever been. The problem...is that all of this talk can come at the expense of conversation. We're talking at each other rather than with each other.

--Megan Garber

Conversations, as they tend to play out in person, are messy—full of pauses and interruptions and topic changes and assorted awkwardness. But the messiness is what allows for true exchange. It gives participants the time—and, just as important, the permission—to think and react and glean insights.

--Megan Garber

You can't always tell in a conversation, when the interesting bit is going to come. It's like dancing: slow, slow, quick-quick, slow. You know? It seems boring, but all of a sudden there's something, and whoa.

--Sherry Turkle

There are 3 trillion pieces of technology—smartphones, iPads, tablets etc....and on the other end of each one is a person. We will never lose the connection to each other. We are simply finding new ways to get together.

--Gary Kovacs

Telling your story out loud is the way human beings communicate. We don't normally think up words, translate how to spell them and then move our fingers up and down over this randomly arranged set of keys to make the same letters appear on a screen.

--Kevin J. Anderson

So often corporate America, business America, are the worst communicators, because all they understand are facts, and they cannot tell a story. They know how to explain their quarterly results, but they don't know how to explain what they mean.

--Frank Luntz

There's all these ways to instantly communicate—cars, computers, telephone and transportation—and even with all that, it's so hard to find people and have an honest communication with them.

--Jason Schwartzman

Many younger people have never sent a letter. When my son, Rob, was in college, he had to send a letter for some reason that I don't remember. What I do remember is that he called me to ask some technical questions such as (I am not making any of these questions up):

Where could he get a stamp?

Were there different kinds of stamps?

Well then, which one should he buy?

How much would it cost?

What should he physically do with the letter when it was finally ready to go?

--Dave Barry

No collection of people who are all waiting for the same thing are capable of holding a natural conversation. Even if the thing they are waiting for is only a taxi.

--Ben Elton

Gossip needs no carriage.

--Assyrian Proverb

Sometimes I'm silent, and nobody notices it. They just talk nonstop, and at the end they say: 'I had such a lovely conversation with you.' It's sad that society is so ego-centered and so wrapped up in ourselves.

--Natalie Goldberg

Doing leads more surely to talking than talking to doing.

--Vance Havner

If you wish to know the mind of a man, listen to his words.

--Johann Wolfgang von
Goethe

While you do occasionally have differences, you ought to have a process where you can sit down and talk about things. How else do you solve problems?

--Dan L. Miller

Good communication is as stimulating as black coffee, and just as hard.

--Anne Spencer

Gossip is when you hear something you like about someone you don't.

--Earl Wilson

The character of a man is known from his conversations.

—Menander

Gossip is nature's telephone.

—Sholom Aleichem

There is only one thing in the world worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about.

—Oscar Wilde

It's hard to win an argument with a smart person, but it's damn near impossible to win an argument with a stupid person.

—Bill Murray

For all of you who gossip about me: Thanks for making me the center of your world!

—Unknown

I learned early on that if you don't want your memos to get you in trouble some day, just don't write any.

—Vice President Dick
Cheney

Few friendships would survive if each one knew what his friend says of him behind his back.

—Blaise Pascal

The dog that fetches will also carry. (Translation: If someone reveals another's secrets to you, the same person will reveal your secrets to the world.)

—Latin Proverb

We cannot control the evil tongues of others but a good life enables us to disregard them.

—Cato the Elder

If people would dare to speak to one another unreservedly, there would be a good deal less sorrow in the world a hundred years hence.

—Samuel Butler

Asking someone 'where are you' is a recent thing. Before we had mobile phones, the only way we could talk to people is if we knew where they were.

—Stephen Lockyer

There is a world of communication which is not dependent on words.

—Mary Martin

Many a treasure besides Ali Baba's is unlocked with a verbal key.

—Henry Van Dyke

Riot is the language of the unheard.

—Martin Luther
King, Jr.

Women tend to be more expressive than men. This tendency plays out in a number of contexts. Studies have found that women do more diary-style blogging, while men's blogs tend to feature more informational content; and that women are inclined to write with more personal pronouns, more emotive words, more abbreviations like *lol*, more emoticons, and more expressions such as *ahhh*, *ugh*, and *grrr*.

—Jessica Bennett

Women are less compelled to be traditional and conservative in their modes of expression. They can often be at the forefront of linguistic shifts.

—Alexandra King

The best talk is artless. Now and then...someone says something so unexpected it is magnificent.

—Joe Mitchell

The most profound statements are often said in silence.

—Lynn Johnston

Dorothy: How do you talk if you don't have a brain?

Scarecrow: Well, some people without brains do an awful lot of talking, don't they?

—*Wizard of Oz*

Telephone, n. An invention of the devil which abrogates some of the advantages of making a disagreeable person keep his distance.

—Ambrose Bierce

The greatest gift you can give another is the purity of your attention.

--Richard Moss

The trouble with her is that she lacks the power of conversation but not the power of speech.

—George Bernard Shaw

It ain't a bad plan to keep still occasionally even when you know what you're talking about.

—Kin Hubbard

How to conduct a curiosity conversation: Think of every meeting as the best date the person you're talking to will ever have. Do your research. Add empathy. Think, 'What is this person going through in his or her life at this moment? What matters to him or her?' Never ask for anything. It poisons the purity of the conversation. If you can't resist having an agenda, then say, 'I have an agenda.' Otherwise, you undermine the process. Pay attention. Always have smart, thoughtful, interested eyes.

—Brian Grazer

Debate is masculine, conversation is feminine.

—Amos Bronson Alcott

Clear writing leads to clear thinking; clear thinking is the basis of clear writing. Perhaps more than any other form of communication, writing holds us responsible for our words and ultimately makes us more thoughtful human beings.

—Ernest Boyer

On sensitive issues, talk isn't cheap - it takes real courage to pry open topics nailed shut.

—Marvin Olasky

How ridiculous, this need of yours to communicate! Why should it mean so much to you that at least one person has seen the inside of your life?

—Dag Hammarskjöld

Too often the strong silent man is silent because he does not know what to say, and is reputed strong only because he has remained silent.

—Winston Churchill

Every improvement in communication makes the bore more terrible.

—Frank Moore Colby

It's no use of talking unless people understand what you say.

—Zora Neale Hurston

Successful people build each other up. They motivate, inspire, and push each other. Unsuccessful people just hate, blame, and complain.

—Unknown

According to the *Oxford Dictionaries*, you only need to know 10 words to understand 25% of what native [English] speakers say and write. You need to know 100 words to understand 50% of what native speakers say & write, and 1000 words to understand 75% of all the words used in common, every day English.

—Beth Buczynski

Women have simple tastes. They get pleasure out of the conversation of children in arms and men in love.

—H. L. Mencken

The biggest communication problem is we do not listen to understand. We listen to reply.

—Stephen R. Covey

Be careful who you vent to. A listening ear can also be a running mouth.

—Dr. Laura

Avoid inquisitive persons, for they are sure to be gossips, their ears are open to hear, but they will not keep what is entrusted to them.

—Horace

Think twice before burdening a friend with a secret.

—Marlene Dietrich

Cell phones bring you closer to the person far away from you, but take you away from the ones sitting next to you.

—*ThinkingHumanity.com*

The things you say about others says a lot about you.

—Ged Backland

As perfume is to the flower, so is kindness to speech.

—Katherine Francke

Where the speech is corrupted, the mind is also.

—Seneca

The tongue is a small thing, but what enormous damage it can do.

—*James 3:5*

We need people in our lives with whom we can be as open as possible. To have real conversations with people may seem like such a simple, obvious suggestion, but it involves courage and risk.

—Thomas Moore

Be still when you have nothing to say; when genuine passion moves you, say what you've got to say, and say it hot.

—D. H. Lawrence

Unless you go out and say what you stand for, other people will do it for you.

—David Ellis

Handwritten notes are a lost art. I'm sorry, but no one ever swooned over an email.

—Mary-Louis Parker

Conversation has a kind of charm about it, an insinuating and insidious something that elicits secrets from us just like love or liquor.

—Lucius Annaeus Seneca

When Sherry Turkle, the MIT clinical psychologist and author, interviewed college students, they said texting was causing friction in their face-to-face interactions. While hanging out with friends they'd be texting surreptitiously at the same time, pretending to maintain eye contact but mentally somewhere else. The new form of communication was fun, sure, but it was colliding with—and eroding—the old one.

—Clive Thompson

Conversation is an exercise of the mind; gossip is merely an exercise of the tongue.

—Unknown

Jenna Birch, a young journalist, recently argued that texting is inferior to talking face to face because it's too easy to misinterpret—over-overinterpret—tone. Worse, texting makes it more likely for her generation to dodge difficult emotional conversations, the 'hard stuff.' If we don't shape up, she warned, 'we'll all end up on interconnected islands, together in our aloneness.'

—Clive Thompson

Modern surveys by the Pew Research Center have found that teenagers who text the most are also those who spend the most time face to face with friends. Communication, it seems, begets more communication, and—as Peters [John Durham] argues—just because talk happens in text doesn't mean it's not meaningful. 'Media scholars,' he notes, 'have this long romance with 'conversation' as the cure to the disease of media.'

—Clive Thompson

The phone improved our social behavior because it forced a listener to pay closer attention to a speaker.

—Clive Thompson

Don't be afraid to contribute. It's your responsibility to contribute. Always make sure you're adding something to the discussion. Your initiations are worthwhile.

—Tina Fey

93.6% of my life is spent telling people something I have already told them at least once.

—Ged Backland

We use to put our phones on hold to deal with people; now we put people on hold to deal with our phones.

—Pat Sajak

Never argue with stupid people. They will drag you down to their level and then beat you with experience.

—Mark Twain

Arguing with fools puts you in the fool's position. Learn to step over the BS. Not in it.

—Ged Backland

For millions of years, mankind lived just like the animals. Then something happened which unleashed the power of our imaginations, we learned to talk.

—Stephen Hawking

If you didn't hear it with your own ears, or see it with your own eyes...Don't invent it with your small mind, and share it with your big mouth!

—Ged Backland

Don't you wish some people would start using glue instead of lipstick?

—Ged Backland

The way we communicate with others and with ourselves ultimately determines the quality of our lives.

—Tony Robbins

You don't truly know a woman until you understand every word she isn't saying to you.

—Ged Backland

You ask me why I do not write something....I think one's feelings waste themselves in words, they ought all to be distilled into actions and into actions which bring results.

—Florence Nightingale

Women appear to pay the greatest price for bragging. When job candidates in one study self-confidently high-lighted their accomplishments, they were seen as more competent than when they spoke modestly. Yet the women who self-promoted were seen as less likable than the self-effacing women.

—Matthew Hutson

As for humble bragging (disguising a boast as a complaint, like 'People keep telling me how cute I am—awkward!'), be careful. The strategy can backfire: Across several studies, humble braggers were seen as less sincere and likable than plain braggarts.

—Matthew Hutson

Humor is the affectionate communication of insight.

—Leo Rosten

Communication is health; communication is truth; communication is happiness. To share is our duty; to go down boldly and bring to light those hidden thoughts which are most diseased; to conceal nothing; to pretend nothing; if we are ignorant to say so; if we love our friends to let them know it.

—Virginia Woolf

Nay all speech, even the commonest speech, has something of song in it; not a parish in the world but has its parish-accent;—the rhythm or tune to which the people there sing what they have to say! Accent is a kind of chanting; all men have accent of their own—though they notice only that of others.

—Thomas Carlyle

The conversation of authors is not so good as might be imagined: but, such as it is (and with rare exceptions) it is better than any other. The proof of which is, that when you are used to it, you cannot put up with any other.

—William Hazlitt

The happiest conversation is that of which nothing is distinctly remembered, but a general effect of pleasing impression.

—Samuel Johnson

When you surround yourself with people who look just like you, think just like you, dress just like you, act just like you, then every conversation and everything you engage in will be circular.

—Bill Courtney

Never argue with someone who has made up their mind to stay ignorant.

—Unknown

Before you speak, let your words pass through three gates: Is it true? Is it necessary? Is it kind?

—Sufi Saying

The tongue has no bones, but it is strong enough to break a heart. So be careful with your words.

—Unknown

Some things are better left unsaid. Which I generally realize right after I have said them.

—Unknown

Be careful who you vent to. A listening ear can also be a running mouth!

—African American
Proverb

American education will never realize its potential as an engine of opportunity and economic growth until a writing revolution puts the power of language and communication in their proper place in the classroom. Writing is how students connect the dots in their knowledge.

--Bob Kerrey

Rumors are created by haters, spread by fools, and accepted by idiots.

—Ged Backland

I've always believed that a lot of the trouble in the world would disappear if we were talking to each other instead of about each other.

—Ronald Reagan

You need to understand the difference between someone who speaks to you on their free time and someone who frees their time to speak to you.

—Unknown

Be careful with your words. Once they are said they can only be forgiven, not forgotten.

—Unknown

The Sufis advise us to speak only after our words have managed to pass through three gates. At the first gate, we ask ourselves, 'Are these words true?' If so, we let them pass on; if not, back they go. At the second gate we ask, 'Are they necessary?' At the last gate, we ask, 'Are they kind?'

—Eknath Easwaran

Many women remain interested in marriage because they are under the impression that it guarantees them a patient, sensitive, and emotionally available conversation partner for life.

--Jeffrey Goldberg

If thou thinkest twice before thou speakest once, thou wilt speak twice the better for it.

—William Penn

Complexity serves nothing but our ego. Be able to say what you do in a way that people can understand.

—Chris Brogan

It is as easy to recall a stone thrown violently from the hand as a word which has left your tongue.

—Menander

We shall never understand each other until we reduce the language to seven words.

--Kahlil Gibran

Words are treated so often as trifles when in reality they can be more devastating than rifles.

--O. A. Battista

Say what you will about the American language. It is, next to kissing, the most exciting form of communication that man has evolved.

--Oren Arnold

As pines

keep the shape of the wind

even when the wind has fled and is no longer there,

so words

guard the shape of man

even when man has fled and is no longer there.

--George Seferis

Profanity is the crutch of a conversational cripple.

—Jay Alexander

Slogans are both exciting and comforting but some of mankind's most terrible misdeeds have been committed under the spell of certain magic words and phrases.

--James Bryant Conant

Adolescents sometimes say... 'My friends listen to me, but my parents only hear me talk.' Often they are right. Familiarity breeds inattention.

--Laurence Steinberg

Silence is a statement that is open to gross misinterpretation.

—Craig Bruce

Freedom of inquiry, freedom of discussion, and freedom of teaching—without these a university cannot exist.

--Robert Maynard
Hutchins

The most influential of all educational factors is the conversation in a child's home.

—William Temple Sr.

...seventh grade level...is generally the level of effective mass communication—newscasts, advertising, speeches.

—James Fallows

Security guard, truck driver, sales person—year after year, these jobs appear on lists of the unhappiest careers. Although many factors can make a job dismal—unusual hours, low pay, no chance of advancement—these three gigs stand out for another reason: They're characterized either by a lack of conversation or by obligatory but meaningless small talk.

—Stephanie Hayes

The real focus in the preschool years should be not just on vocabulary and reading, but on talking and listening. We forget how vital spontaneous, unstructured conversation is to young children's understanding. By talking with adults, and one another, they pick up information. They learn how things work. They solve puzzles that trouble them. Sometimes, to be fair, what children take away from a conversation is wrong. They might conclude, as my young son did, that pigs produce ham, just as chickens produce eggs and cows produce milk. But these understandings are worked over, refined, and adapted—as when a brutal older sibling explains a ham sandwich's grisly origins.

—Erika Christakis

My idea of an educated person is one who can converse on one subject for more than two minutes.

--Robert Millikan

Every educated person ought to know when a thing is proved and when it is not proved, should know how to investigate and analyze the proposition which confronts him, and how to search for solutions, how to talk about it effectively before others, and how to contribute to a discussion on problems of joint interest.

—William Norwood
Brigance

Free human dialogue...lies at the heart of education.

--Neil Postman

Too many problem-solving sessions become battlegrounds where decisions are made based on power rather than intelligence.

—Margaret J. Wheatley

I know of no country in which there is so little independence of mind and real freedom of discussion as in America.

--Alexis de Tocqueville

Think twice what you type.

—Slogan

We often refuse to accept an idea merely because the tone of voice in which it has been expressed is unsympathetic to us.

—Friedrich Nietzsche

Hugging is the most beautiful form of communication that allows the other person to know beyond a doubt that they matter.

—Rebecca Fox

I had not known my father very well. We had got on badly, partly because we shared, in our different fashions, the vice of stubborn pride. When he was dead I realized that I had hardly ever spoken to him. When he had been dead a long time I began to wish I had. It seems to be typical of life in America, where opportunities, real and fancied, are thicker than anywhere else on the globe, that the second generation has no time to talk to the first.

--James Baldwin

I can't, in restaurants, not watch families not talking to each other. In parks, I can't not watch mothers not talking to their children. In streets, I can't not watch mothers texting while they're pushing their children.

--Sherry Turkle

If men do not keep on speaking terms with children, they cease to be men, and become merely machines for eating and for earning money.

—John Updike

Don't flatter yourself that friendship authorizes you to say disagreeable things to your intimates. The nearer you come into relation with a person, the more necessary do tact and courtesy become. Except in cases of necessity, which are rare, leave your friend to learn unpleasant things from his enemies; they are ready enough to tell them.

--Oliver Wendell Holmes

Americans no longer talk to each other, they entertain each other. They do not exchange ideas, they exchange images. They do not argue with propositions; they argue with good looks, celebrities and commercials....When a population becomes distracted by trivia, when cultural life is redefined as a perpetual round of entertainments, when serious public conversation becomes a form of baby-talk, when, in short, a people become an audience, and their public business a vaudeville act, then a nation finds itself at risk; culture-death is a clear possibility.

—Neil Postman

You can't unwrite what you submit, so when in doubt just quit.
—Slogan

Some people's idea of free speech is that they are free to say what they like, but if anyone says anything back, that is an outrage.
—Sir Winston Churchill

I claim the right to contradict myself. I don't want to deprive myself of the right to talk nonsense, and I ask humbly to be allowed to be wrong sometimes.
—Federico Fellni

The poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard.
--*Ecclesiastes 9:16*

Everyone is wise until he speaks.
—Irish Proverb

The foolish sayings of the rich pass for wise saws in society.
—Cervantes

Honest differences are often a healthy sign of progress.
—Mahatma Gandhi

Because we are generous with our freedom, we share our rights with those who disagree with us.
—Wendell Willkie

When you are trying to impress people with words, the more you say, the more common you appear, and the less in control. Even if you are saying something banal, it will seem original if you make it vague, open-ended, and sphinxlike. Powerful people impress and intimidate by saying less. The more you say, the more likely you are to say something foolish.
—Robert Greene

We will be able to achieve a just and prosperous society only when our schools ensure that everyone commands enough shared knowledge to be able to communicate effectively with everyone else.
--E. D. Hirsch

After three days without reading, talk becomes flavorless.
--Chinese Proverb

Whenever two human beings spend time together, sooner or later they will probably irritate one another. This is true of best friends, married couples, parents and children, or teachers and students. The question is: How do they respond when friction occurs? There are four basic ways they can react:

- They can internalize the anger and send it downward into a memory bank that never forgets. This creates great pressure within and can even result in disease and other problems.
- They can pout and be rude without discussing the issues. This further irritates the other person and leaves him or her to draw his or her own conclusions about what the problem may be.
- They can blow up and try to hurt the other person. This causes the death of friendships, marriages, homes, and businesses.
- Or they can talk to one another about their feelings, being very careful not to attack the dignity and worth of the other person. This approach often leads to permanent and healthy relationships.

—James C. Dobson

The reading of all good books is like conversation with the finest men of past centuries.

—Descartes

Every rustic who delivers in the village alehouse his slow, infrequent sentences, may help to kill or keep alive the fatal superstitions which clog his race.

—William Kingdon
Clifford

The question actors most often get asked is how they can bear saying the same things over and over again night after night, but God knows the answer to *that* is, don't we all *anyway*; might as well get paid for it.

--Elaine Dundy

Reading is that fruitful miracle of a communication in the midst of solitude.

—Marcel Proust

Solitary reading will enable a man to stuff himself with information, but without conversation his mind will become like a pond without an outlet—a mass of unhealthy stagnature. It is not enough to harvest knowledge by study; the wind of talk must winnow it and blow away the chaff. Then will the clear, bright grains of wisdom be garnered, for our own use or that of others.

--William Matthew

Your daily speech is imperfect iambic pentameter, or five-foot lines. While some of your friends may assume poetry is too esoteric for them, were you to record their conversations and scan them, you could demonstrate a ragged iambic pattern emerging. And there would be five iambs to the line that would regularly re-create itself. Such is the natural rhythmical pattern of the English language, and, as a result, more English and American poetry is written in this meter than in any other.

--Thomas E. Sanders

If you are not a charming conversationalist, you may still be a big hit as a charmed listener.

—Alan Zimmerman

How can we communicate love? I think three things are involved: We must reach out to a person, make contact. We must listen with the heart, be sensitive to the other's needs. We must respond in a language that the person can understand. Many of us do all the talking. We must learn to listen and to keep on listening.

--Princess Pale Moon

Man's inability to communicate is a result of his failure to listen effectively.

—Carl Rogers

I only wish I could find an institute that teaches people how to listen. Business people need to listen at least as much as they need to talk. Too many people fail to realize that real communication goes in both directions.

—Lee Iacocca

Without credible communication, and a lot of it, the hearts and minds of others are never captured.

—John P. Kotter

While listening may be the most undervalued of all the communication skills, good people managers are likely to listen more than they speak. Perhaps that's why God gave us two ears and only one mouth.

--Mary Kay Ash

Silences regulate the flow of listening and talking. They are to conversation what zeroes are to mathematics—crucial nothings without which communication can't work.

--Gerald Goodman

Listen with curiosity. Speak with honesty. Act with integrity. The greatest problem with communication is we don't listen to understand. We listen to reply. When we listen with curiosity, we don't listen with the intent to reply. We listen for what's behind the words.

—Roy T. Bennett

It is not enough to show people how to live better: there is a mandate for any group with enormous powers of communication to show people how to be better.

--Marya Mannes

Already we Viewers, when not viewing, have begun to whisper to one another that the more we elaborate our means of communication, the less we communicate.

--J. B. Priestley

Every new medium of communication has in its time aroused anxiety—the cinema, radio, and at one time (a chastening thought) even reading. Now it is the turn of television.

—H. Himmelweit, S. N.
Oppenheim, and
P. Price 1958

We live in a world where media are omnipresent: an increasing number of people spend a great deal of time watching television, reading newspapers and magazines, playing records and listening to the radio....The role of communication and media in the process of development should not be underestimated, nor the function of media as instruments for the citizen's active participation in society. Political and educational systems need to recognise their obligations to promote in their citizens a critical understanding of the phenomena of communication.

--*UNESCO Declaration of
Media Education*

Babies cannot and do not manipulate; they communicate. Listen.

—L. R. Knost

Computers will never replace office workers entirely until they learn how to spread gossip.

—Unknown

The Internet is the most important single development in the history of human communication since the invention of call waiting.

--Dave Barry

You don't laugh with me;
I don't laugh with you.
All the wit comes pouring out of the tube.
And we laugh at it together.
The more we avoid talking
the more passive the relationship becomes.
Television permits us to walk through life
with minor speaking parts.
And the more we fail to speak,
the more difficult speaking becomes.

--Lois Wyse

Of all of our inventions for mass communication, pictures still speak the most universally understood language.

--Walt Disney

Think as a wise man but communicate in the language of the people.

--William Butler Yeats

One of the great problems of the world today is undoubtedly this problem of not being able to talk to scientists, because we don't understand science; they can't talk to us because they don't understand anything else, poor dears.

--Michael Flanders

In all my years in business, I have found that people in meetings tend to agree on decisions that as individuals, they know are dumb.

--John M. Capozzi

The Internet: transforming society and shaping the future through chat.

--Dave Barry

If you had to identify, in one word, the reason why the human race has not achieved, and never will achieve, its full potential, that word would be: 'meetings.'

--Dave Barry

A committee takes hours to put into minutes what can be done in seconds.

--Judy Castrina

Half the time when men think they are talking business, they are wasting time.

--Ed Howe

Don't hold a meeting after lunch--full bellies hate thinking as well as acting.

--Benjamin Franklin

I'm sick of getting e-mails from women managers who take everything so personally. I think it's keeping women from moving forward. Sometimes a business report just sucks, and a guy can take it....Women stew about it, e-mail about it, tweet about it. They've got to get away from that.

--Eve Tahmincioglu

A company in which anyone is afraid to speak up, to differ, to be daring and original, is closing the coffin on itself.

—Leo Burnett

We women do talk too much, but even then we don't tell half we know.

--Lady Nancy Astor

Women speak because they wish to speak, whereas a man speaks only when driven to speech by something outside himself—like, for instance, he can't find any clean socks.

--Jean Kerr

After an acquaintance of ten minutes many women will exchange confidences that a man would not reveal to a lifelong friend.

--Page Smith

What people say, what people do, and what they say they do are entirely different things.

—Margaret Mead

Women are much more complicated than men. Men are very simple. And you know why? It's because their brains are so different. First, I want to start with men. Men's brains are very unique. Most women don't realize that whether we are having sex or watching sports, our brains are made up of little boxes. We've got a box for everything. We've got a box for the car. We've got a box for the money. We've got a box for the job. We've got a box for you. We've got a box for the kids. We've got a box for your mother somewhere in the basement.

We've got boxes everywhere. And the rule is the boxes don't touch. When a man discusses a particular subject, we go to that particular box, we pull that box out, we open the box, and we discuss only what is in THAT BOX. And then we close the box and put it away being very, very careful not to touch other boxes.

Now women's brains are very, very different from men's brains. Women's brains are made up of a big ball of wire. And everything is connected to everything. The money is connected to the car and the car is connected to your job and your kids are connected to your mother and everything is connected. It's like the internet superhighway, and it's all driven by energy that we call emotion. It's one of the reasons why women tend to remember...everything.

Because if you take an event and you connect it to an emotion and it burns in your memory and you can remember it forever. The same thing happens for men. It just doesn't happen very often, because quite frankly...we don't care. Women tend to care about everything. And she just loves it.

Now men, we have a box in our brain that most women are not aware of. This particular box has nothing in it. In fact, we call it the 'nothing box.' And of all the boxes a man has in his brain, the 'nothing box' is our favorite box. If a man has a chance, he'll go to his nothing box every time. That's why a man can do something seemingly completely brain dead for hours on end. You know, like fishing.

—Mark Gungor

Our expression and our words never coincide, which is why the animals don't understand us.

—Malcolm De Chazal

The way men talk among themselves about women has a tangible effect on how women are treated at work. Men bond by objectifying women, often referring to them as objects. As in: 'I'd like to get behind that.' It's hard to imagine calling someone that in any other context.: 'That is going to the store.'

—Sam Polk

Cities force growth, and make men talkative and entertaining, but they make them artificial.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Gossips are only sociologists upon a mean and petty scale.

—Woodrow Wilson

Next to ignorance of the grammar of one's native language, nothing betrays want of information so soon as ignorance in matters of geography, without which it is almost impossible to carry on conversation long on any general subject.

—William Playfair

‘They all know the truth, that there are only three subjects worth talking about. At least here in these parts,’ he says, ‘The weather, which, as they’re farmers, affects everything else. Dying and birthing, of both people and animals. And what we eat—this last item comprising what we ate the day before and what we’re planning to eat tomorrow. And all three of these major subjects encompass, in one way or another, philosophy, psychology, sociology, anthropology, the physical sciences, history, art, literature, and religion. We get around to sparring about all that counts in life but we usually do it while we’re talking about food, it being a subject inseparable from every other subject. It’s the table and the bed that count in life. And everything else we do, we do so we can get back to the table, back to the bed.

—Marlena de Blasi

Half the evil in the world is gossip started by good people.

--Ed Howe

Anyone who’s been through middle school might agree that ‘reputational aggression’—aka vicious gossip, or even verbal abuse—seems to play a role in the status struggles of teenagers. Using data from North Carolina high schools, Robert Faris uncovered a pattern showing that, contrary to the stereotype of high-status kids victimizing low-status ones, most aggression is local: kids tend to target kids close to them on the social ladder. And the higher one rises on that ladder, the more frequent the acts of aggression—until, near the very top, aggression ceases almost completely. Why? Kids with nowhere left to climb, Faris posits, have no more use for it. Indeed, the star athlete who demeaned the mild mathlete might come off as insecure. ‘In some ways,’ Faris muses, ‘these people have the luxury of being kind. Their social positions are not in jeopardy.

—Jerry Useem

The human tongue is a beast that few can master. It strains constantly to break out of its cage, and if it is not tamed, it will tun wild and cause you grief.

—Robert Greene

It is easy to hurt people when we do not filter our thoughts, when we do not choose our words, when we do not control the tone of voice and the body language.

—Saif Samir

Men always talk about the most important things to perfect strangers. In the perfect stranger we perceive man himself; the image of a God is not disguised by resemblances to an uncle or doubts of wisdom of a mustache.

—Gilbert K. Chesterton

When engaging in simple everyday banter and communications, this rule of thumb can really help suppress a lot of our negative word 'vomit' since we often mindlessly chat about the things we don't like. If we refrain from expressing our negative opinions about things unless they're directly asked for, we can train ourselves to respond rather than react the second we see or hear something and then feel we must verbalize our views about it.

Remember, even if we don't agree with someone or something, we can still speak about the subject at hand in a positive light to encourage growth rather than guilty motivation. I like to say I express more 'inspirations' than 'opinions' with each passing day.

—Alaric Hutchinson

Real communication occurs...when we listen with understanding. What does this mean? It means to see the expressed idea and attitude from the other person's point of view, to sense how it feels to him, to achieve his frame of reference in regard to the thing he is talking about.

—Carl Rogers

I'll defend to the death your right to say that, but I never said I'd listen to it!

—Tom Galloway

The right to be heard does not automatically include the right to be taken seriously.

—Hubert Humphrey

Argument is the worst sort of conversation.

--Jonathan Swift

People don't get along because they fear each other. People fear each other because they don't know each other. They don't know each other because they have not properly communicated with each other.

-- Martin Luther
King, Jr.

Whoever takes just plain ginger ale soon gets drowned out of the conversation.

—Kin Hubbard

It's getting harder and harder to differentiate between schizophrenics and people talking on a cell phone. It still brings me up short to walk by somebody who appears to be talking to themselves.

—Bob Newhart

Any child who can spend an hour or two a day, or more if he wants, with adults that he likes, who are interested in the world and like to talk about it, will on most days learn far more from their talk than he would learn in a week of school.

—John Holt

There is no worse lie than a truth misunderstood by those who hear it.

— William James

The moment a man talks to his fellows he begins to lie.

--Hilaire Belloc

What probably distorts everything in life is that one is convinced one is speaking the truth because one says what one thinks.

--Sacha Guitry

Our whole lives are lived in a tangle of telling, not telling, misleading, allowing to know, concealing, eavesdropping and collusion. When Washington said he could not tell a lie, his father must have answered, 'You had better learn.'

--Germaine Greer

You can have the smartest people in the world working for you, but if they can't communicate with and motivate other people, they are of no use to you.

--Thomas Bickett

Ninety percent of leadership is the ability to communicate something people want.

—Dianne Feinstein

THE TYPICAL TWELVE: ROADBLOCKS TO COMMUNICATION

1. Ordering, directing, commanding: Telling the student to do something, giving an order or command, e.g., 'Don't talk to me like that!'
2. Warning, admonishing, threatening: Telling students what consequences will occur if they do something, e.g., 'If you do that, you'll be sorry!'
3. Exhorting, moralizing, preaching: Telling students what they SHOULD or OUGHT to do, e.g., 'You shouldn't act like that.'
4. Advising, giving solutions or suggestions: Telling the student how to solve a problem, giving advice or suggestions, providing answers or solutions, e.g., 'Why don't you...?'
5. Lecturing, teaching, giving logical arguments: Trying to influence the student

with facts, counter-arguments, logic, information, or your own opinions, e.g., 'When I was your age, I had twice as much to do as you.'

6. Judging, criticizing, disagreeing, blaming: Making a negative judgment or evaluation of the student, e.g., 'That's an immature point of view.'
7. Praising, agreeing: Offering a positive evaluation or judgment, agreeing, e.g., 'Well, I think you're smart.'
8. Name-calling, ridiculing, shaming: Making the student feel foolish, putting the student into a category, shaming, e.g., 'You're a spoiled brat.'
9. Interpreting, analyzing, diagnosing: Telling students what their motives are or analyzing why they are doing or saying something, communicating that you have them figured out or diagnosed, e.g., 'You're saying that to bug me.'
10. Reassuring, sympathizing, consoling, supporting: Trying to make students feel better, talking them out of their feelings, trying to make their feelings go away, denying the strength of their feelings, e.g., 'All kids go through this sometime.'
11. Probing, questioning, interrogating: Trying to find reasons, motives, causes, searching for more information to help you solve the problem, e.g., 'Why do you suppose you hate school?'
12. Withdrawing, distracting, humoring, diverting: Trying to get students away from the problem, withdrawing from the problem yourself, distracting the students, kidding them out of it, pushing the problem aside, e.g., 'Come on; let's talk about something more pleasant.'

—Dr. Thomas Gordon

We know what we told him, but we don't know what he heard.

—W. Edwards Deming

Debate is the death of conversation.

—Kitty O'Neill Collins

Children who have been taught, or conditioned, to listen passively most of the day to the warm verbal communications coming from the TV screen, to the deep emotional appeal of the so-called TV personality, are often unable to respond to real persons because they arouse so much less feeling than the skilled actor.

--Bruno Bettelheim

Most of our failures in understanding one another have less to do with what is heard than with what is intended and what is inferred.

—George Armitage Miller

Co-rumination: the problem of talking too much about anything. Specifically,... when girls rehash their problems excessively, it leads to depression, anxiety, and a sense of hopelessness.

— Irene S. Levine

Is an intelligent human being likely to be much more than a large-scale manufacturer of misunderstanding?

—Philip Roth

Successful workers communicate effectively, orally and in writing, and have social and behavioral skills that make them responsible and good at teamwork. They are creative and techno-savvy, have a good command of fractions and basic statistics, and can apply relatively simple math to real-world problems such as those concerning financial or health literacy.

—R. I. Lerman and
A. Packer

We are more advanced technologically than ever before. However, technology, in many respects, is leading to the decline of conversation.

—Cindy Ann Peterson

A key to the art of conversation is learning how to be an effective and active listener.

—Cindy Ann Peterson

A man's character may be learned from the adjectives which he habitually uses in conversation.

—Mark Twain

Keep silence for the most part, and speak only when you must, and then briefly.

—Epictetus

Schools are language-saturated institutions. They are places where books are thumbed, summarized, and 'revised'; notes are dictated, made, kept, and learned; essays are prepared, written, marked; examination questions are composed, and the attendant judgments made. Teachers explain, lecture, question, exhort, reprimand. Pupils listen, reply, make observations, call out, mutter, whisper, and make jokes. Small knots gather over books, lathes, easels or do nothing in classrooms, laboratories, workshops, craftrooms, corridors, and toilets to chatter, discuss, argue, plan, plot, and teach one another.

—Douglas Barnes

I never make the mistake of arguing with people for whose opinions I have no respect.

—Edward Gibbon

Texting: It has, in one fell swoop, removed face-to-face conversations between humans and transformed them into letters, digits, and mindless emoticons.

—Wayne Johnson

If Columbus had an advisory committee he would probably still be at the dock.

—Arthur J. Goldberg

Women talk almost 3X as much as men do. An average woman speaks 20,000 words in a day, about 13,000 more than the average man. (This one won't come as a shock, but at least science put some numbers to what we all already knew).

—*theChive*

The nice thing about egotists is that they don't talk about other people.

--Lucille S. Harper

If you must speak ill of another, do not speak it, write it in the sand near the water's edge.

—Napoleon Hill

We shall never be able to remove suspicion and fear as potential causes of war until communication is permitted to flow, free and open, across international boundaries.

--Harry S. Truman

Propaganda is a soft weapon; hold it in your hands too long, and it will move about like a snake, and strike the other way.

--Jean Anouilh

And there is quite a different sort of conversation around a fire than there is in the shadow of a beech tree.... [F]our dry logs have in them all the circumstance necessary to a conversation of four or five hours, with chestnuts on the plate and a jug of wine between the legs. Yes, let us love winter, for it is the spring of genius.

—Pietro Aretino

(People) often hate each other because they fear each other; they fear each other because they do not know each other; they do not know each other because they cannot communicate; they cannot communicate because they are separated.

--Martin Luther King, Jr.

7 EFFECTIVE WAYS TO MAKE OTHERS FEEL IMPORTANT

1. Use their name.
2. Express sincere gratitude.
3. Do more listening than talking.
4. Talk more about them than about you.
5. Be authentically interested.
6. Be sincere in your praise.
7. Show you care.

—Roy T. Bennett

Since I've got on the Internet, it's opened a whole world of wasted time for me. My wife says she's an Internet widow.

—Mick Ralphs

There are two ways of ending a dispute—discussion and force; the latter manner is simply that of the rude beasts; the former is proper to beings gifted with reason.

--Cicero

I cannot love a friend whose love is words.

—Sophocles

He that communicates his secret to another makes himself that other's slave.

--Baltasar Gracian

Men talk, but rarely about anything personal. Recent research on friendship... has shown that male relationships are based on shared activities: men tend to do things together rather than simply be together....Female friendships, particularly close friendships, are usually based on self-disclosure, or on talking about intimate aspects of their lives.

--Bettina Arndt

Friends have ways of speaking without words.

--Alice Dalgliesh

The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail and not his tongue.

--Unknown

Life is short. Cut out the negativity, forget gossip, say goodbye to people who don't care. Spend time with the people who are always there.

—*lessonslearnedinlife.com*

Listening is a magnetic and strange thing, a creative force. The friends who listen to us are the ones we move toward, and we want to sit in their radius. When we are listened to, it creates us, makes us unfold and expand.

--Karl Menninger

My father and he had one of those English friendships which begin by avoiding intimacies and eventually eliminate speech altogether.

—Jorge Luis Borges

Often the difference between a successful marriage and a mediocre one consists of leaving about three or four things a day unsaid.

--Harlan Miller

Marriage is one long conversation checkered by disputes.

--Robert Louis Stevenson

Ultimately the bond of all companionship, whether in marriage or in friendship, is conversation.

--Oscar Wilde

When marrying, one should ask oneself this question: Do you believe that you will be able to converse well with this woman into your old age?

--Friedrich Wilhelm
Nietzsche

Women expect decisions to be discussed first and made by consensus. They appreciate the discussion itself as evidence of involvement and communication. But many men feel oppressed by lengthy discussions about what they see as minor decisions, and they feel hemmed in if they can't just act without talking first. When women try to initiate a free-wheeling discussion by asking, 'What do you think?' men often think they are being asked to decide.

--Deborah Tannen

Before marriage, her power over a man is in her lips; after marriage, it's in her tongue.

--Unknown

It takes years of married life before a man learns to understand every word his wife is not saying.

—Evan Esar

I haven't spoken to my wife in years. I didn't want to interrupt her.

--Rodney Dangerfield

Before marriage, a man declares that he would lay down his life to serve you; after marriage, he won't even lay down his newspaper to talk to you.

--Helen Rowland

Sometimes a kiss is just a trick to get a woman to shut up.

—Internet Meme

Poetry too readily understood is commonly dispensed with altogether, like conversation after marriage.

--Frank Moore Colby

If a man is talking in the forest and no woman is there to hear him, is he still wrong?

—Robert Glover

Talking is the disease of age.

—Ben Jonson

The art of getting along with a woman is understanding what she doesn't say.

—Evan Esar

As soon as you cannot keep anything from a woman, you love her.

--Paul G raldy

If you want to know how she will talk to you after marriage, listen while she talks to her younger brothers.

--Unknown

I've seen a dramatic increase in cases where something on the computer triggered the breakup. People are more likely to leave relationships, because they're emboldened by the knowledge that it's no longer as hard as it was to meet new people. But whether it's dating sites, social media, e-mail—it's all related to the fact that the Internet has made it possible for people to communicate and connect, anywhere in the world, in ways that have never before been seen.

--Gilbert Feibleman,
Divorce Attorney

I once dated a weather girl; we talked up a storm.

--Jay London

The best kind of friend is the kind you can sit on a porch swing with, never say a word, and then walk away feeling like it was the best conversation you've ever had.

—*boardofwisdom.com*

Outward beauty is not enough; to be attractive a woman must...(use) words, wit, playfulness, sweet-talk, and laughter to transcend the gifts of Nature.

--Petronius

The most important thing in the face is the eyes, and if you can make the eyes talk, you're halfway there.

--Ian Holm

Women undermine one another because they have always had to compete for mates and for resources for their offspring. Helping another woman might give that woman an edge in the hot-Neanderthal dating market, or might give her children an advantage over your own, so you frostily snub her. Women can gather around smiling and laughing, exchanging polite, intimate, and even warm conversation, while simultaneously destroying one another's careers. The contrast is jarring.

—Joyce Benenson,
Psychologist

Soft words win hard hearts.

--W. G. Benham

She told me she'd spent most of the summer hanging out alone in her room with her phone. That's just the way her generation is, she said. 'We didn't have a choice to know any life without iPads or iPhones. I think we like our phones more than we like actual people.'

—Jean M. Twenge

The arrival of the smartphone has radically changed every aspect of teenagers' lives, from the nature of their social interactions to their mental health. These changes have affected young people in every corner of the nation and in every type of household. The trends appear among teens poor and rich; of every ethnic background; in cities, suburbs, and small towns. Where there are our cell towers, there are teens living their lives on their smartphone.

—Jean M. Twenge

Today's teens are...less likely to date. The initial stage of courtship, which Gen Xers called 'liking' (as in 'Ooh, he likes you!'), kids and now call 'talking'—an ironic choice for a generation that prefers texting to actual conversation. After two teens have talked for a while, they might start dating. But only about 56% of high school seniors in 2015 went out on dates; for boomers and Gen Xers, the number was about 85%.

—Jean M. Twenge

One of the ironies of the iGen life is that despite spending far more time under the same roof as their parents, today's teens can hardly be said to be closer to their mothers and fathers than their predecessors were. 'I've seen my friends with their families— they don't talk to them,' Athena told me. 'They just say 'Okay, okay whatever' while they're on their phones. They don't pay attention to their family.' Like her peers, Athena is an expert at tuning out her parents so she can focus on her phone. She spent much of her summer keeping up with friends, but nearly all of that was over text or Snapchat. 'I've been on my phone more than I've been with actual people,' she said. 'My bed has, like, an imprint of my body.'

—Jean M. Twenge

Athena told me that when she does spend time with her friends in person, they are often looking at their device instead of at her. 'I'm trying to talk to them about something, and they don't actually look at my face,' she said. 'They're looking at their phone, or they're looking at their Apple Watch.' 'What does it feel like, when you're trying to talk to somebody face-to-face and they're not looking at you?' I asked. 'It kind of hurts,' she said. 'It hurts. I know my parents' generation didn't do that. I could be talking about something super important to me, and they wouldn't even be listening.'

Once, she told me, she was hanging out with a friend who was texting her boyfriend. 'I was trying to talk to her about my family, and what was going on, and she was like, 'Uh-huh, yeah, whatever.' So I took her phone out of her hands and threw it at my wall.'

—Jean M. Twenge

When marrying, ask yourself this question: Do you believe that you will be able to converse well with this person into your old age? Everything else in marriage is transitory.

—Friedrich Nietzsche

I know what I have given you. I do not know what you have received.

—Antonio Porchia

The first letter, reportedly from Queen Atossa around 500 B.C., established the genre and made letters the most normal, effective form of long-distance communication for millennia. It also created whole industries of makers of writing materials, secretaries, and postal workers still flourishing today.

—Brid McGrath

The inaugural letter posted with the 'Penny Black,' the world's first cheap, adhesive, prepaid stamp, enabled average folks to correspond with unprecedented abandon. Named for its price and its sober depiction of a 15-year-old Queen Victoria, the Penny Black was issued by Great Britain in May 1840. Other nations soon followed suit, including the United States in 1847.

—Winifred Gallagher

Those who decide to use leisure as a means of mental development, who love good music, good books, good pictures, good plays, good company, good conversation—what are they? They are the happiest people in the world.

--William Lyon Phelps

True happiness is of a retired nature, and an enemy to pomp and noise; it arises, in the first place, from the enjoyment of one's self; and, in the next, from the friendship and conversation of a few select companions.

--Joseph Addison

Sometimes it is a great joy just to listen to someone we love talking.

--Vincent McNabb

Wood supplies a soothing warmth that no other fuel can provide, encouraging family and friends to gather around a roaring fire for pleasant conversation. Many romances have blossomed in front of a flickering fireplace—just one more wonderful way that wood warms you.

—Tim Clark

All those who offer an opinion on any doubtful point should first clear their minds of every sentiment of dislike, friendship, anger or pity.

—Sallust

A mother understands what a child does not say.

—Unknown

The most destructive force in the universe is gossip.

—Dave Barry

Talking is the disease of age.

—Ben Jonson

When marrying, one should ask oneself this question: Do you believe that you will be able to converse well with this woman into your old age?

—Friedrich Wilhelm
Nietzsche

What we are communicates far more eloquently than anything we say or do.

—Stephen Covey

There is no conversation more boring than the one where everybody agrees.

—Michel de Montaigne

If one is only to talk from first-hand experience, conversation would be a very poor business.

C. S. Lewis

My words in her mind: cold polished stones sinking through a quagmire.

—James Joyce

What is gossip anyway? Just fragments of sad accounts, maneuvered and mutilated year after year for our sinful pleasure.

--Kanza Javed

I wish you would read a little poetry sometimes. Your ignorance cramps my conversation.

—Anthony Hope

If you sit and have a conversation about something you're worried about, your body literally calms down—your blood pressure might come down, your stress hormone levels might go down. There's some evidence that it's not so much stress but how you manage stress that may play a big role in who ages and who doesn't.

—Robert Waldinger,
M.D.

What students lack in school is an intellectual relationship or conversation with the teacher.

—William Glasser

A careless word may kindle strife. A cruel word may wreck a life. A timely word may level stress. But a loving word may heal and bless.

—*boardofwisdom.com*

In addition to providing students with opportunities to experience cultural diversity, theatre education enables them to develop self-confidence and to improve their communication skills—two invaluable qualities for the twenty-first century.

—Timothy Dyer

Alas! they had been friends in youth; but whispering tongues can poison truth.

—Samuel Taylor
Coleridge

If you sit and have a conversation about something you're worried about, your body literally calms down—your blood pressure might come down, your stress hormone levels might go down. There's some evidence that it's not so much stress but how you manage stress that may play a big role in who ages and who doesn't.

—Robert Waldinger,
M.D.

An English magazine recently listed six rules for a good talker that are worth remembering:

- Never tell funny stories about your own children unless you are certain you would be amused if Mrs. Whoop-te-do told them to you about hers.
- Never try to start a long conversation with someone who obviously is busy, with his mind on something else.
- Never talk to yourself in the middle of talking to others. (Let's see: was it really the last week in August? Maybe it was the first week in September. I know it was after Aunt Minnie left. Yes—it was August.)
- Never describe the plot of a film your victims haven't seen, or a book they have not yet read.
- Never apologize for something you're all really proud of (I don't know any thing about art, music, or poetry—but...).
- Above all, never forget that other people also prefer talking to listening. Allow others to get in the last word— or the last laugh—occasionally. You'll be better liked for it—and may learn something besides. Incessant talkers learn nothing!

—Bennett Cerf

Beware of platitudinous ponderosity. Let your communication possess coalescent consistency and concatenated cogency. Eschew all flatulent garrulity and asinine affectations. Use intelligibility and veracious vivacity without rodomontade or thra-sonical bombasity. Sedulously avoid all prolixity and psittaceous vacuity. In other words, 'Be intelligible, think for yourself, and be brief.'

—Bennett Cerf

The information age is so psychotic—without the cell phone and Internet, I would be drama free right now.

--Lauren Barnholdt

E-mail has some magical ability to turn off the politeness gene in a human being.

--Jeff Bezos

A citizen at his home in Rockford, Illinois, or Boulder, Colorado, could read a newspaper, listen to a radio, or watch the round-the-clock coverage on television, but he had no way of connecting with those who shared his views. Nor was there a quick, readily available tool for an ordinary citizen to gather information on his own. In 1960, communication was a one-way street, and information was fundamentally inaccessible. The whole idea of summoning up data or reaching thousands of individuals with the touch of a finger was a science-fiction fantasy.

--Jeff Greenfield

The habit of common and continuous speech is a symptom of mental deficiency. It proceeds from not knowing what is going on in other people's minds.

—Walter Bagehot

Now we have so many methods of communication: Land phone, Fax, Pager, Mobile phone, Texting, E mail, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram...and the list keeps growing.....But Communication itself has not improved!

—Ankala V. Subbarao

Technology has bridged the gap of distant communication, bringing friends and family closely together but no matter the number of 'likes', tweets, chats, comments, posts and shares, none can compare to a sincere smile, a kind kiss and a warm hug.

--Bernard Kelvin Clive

Computers are getting smarter all the time. Scientists tell us that soon they will be able to talk to us. (And by 'they', I mean 'computers'. I doubt scientists will ever be able to talk to us.)

—Dave Barry

I have only touched one other computer at my friend Marissa's house, and found the experience disconcerting. There was something sinister about the green letters and numbers that flashed on the screen as the computer booted up, and I hated the way Marissa stopped answering questions or noticing me the second it was turned on.

--Lena Dunham

They say instant communication is not communication at all but merely a frantic, trivial, nerve-wracking bombardment of clichés, threats, fads, fashions, gibberish and advertising. However, who has not hung on a scripture, a quote, a statement, only to stumble upon the key phrase that brought all things to a turning point? The greatest sermons and speeches were pieced together by illuminating thoughts that powered men to surpass their own commonness. It is the sparkling magic of letters forming words, and those words colliding with passion, that makes statements into wisdom.

--Shannon L. Alder

The most valuable commodity of the 21st century will be undivided attention.

--Phil Cooke

It is very painful to argue with an incredibly ignorant person. Not because they are stupid, but because the stupid are unbelievably arrogant and insulting. Their constant intention to manipulate a conversation in order to nullify their responsibility transforms any conversation into a game of theirs to bring another person down rather than using logic, and much less allow an agreement.

--Robin Sacredfire

The fantastic advances in the field of electronic communication constitute a greater danger to the privacy of the individual.

--Earl Warren

Fighting is essentially a masculine idea; a woman's weapon is her tongue.

--Hermione Gingold

The Internet has brought communities across the globe closer together through instant communication.

—Mike Fitzpatrick

You don't realize how lonely you are until it's the end of the day and you have a bunch of things to talk about, but no one to tell them to.

—Internet Meme

The deepest sin against the human mind is to believe things without evidence.

--Thomas Henry Huxley

A world without radio is a deaf world. A world without television is a blind world. A world without telephone is a dumb world. A world without communication is indeed a crippled world.

—Ernest Agyemang
Yeboah

The most important thing in all human relationships is conversation, but people don't talk anymore, they don't sit down to talk and listen. They go to the theater, the cinema, watch television, listen to the radio, read books, but they almost never talk. If we want to change the world, we have to go back to a time when warriors would gather around a fire and tell stories.

—Paulo Coelho

Garbo had something behind the eyes that you couldn't see until you photographed it in close-up. You could see thought. If she had to look at one person with jealousy, and another with love, she didn't have to change her expression. You could see it in her eyes as she looked from one to the other. And nobody else has been able to do that on the screen. Garbo did it without the command of the English language.

--Clarence Brown

Communication is everyone's panacea for everything.

—Tom Peters

A smartphone—they've revolutionized the way we communicate, and made life easier in many ways. But because they have made communicating about news and pop culture easier, we've forgotten how to have civil discussions.

—Mitch Landrieu

The business we're in is more sociological than technological, more dependent on workers' abilities to communicate with each other than their abilities to communicate with machines.

--Tom DeMarco

The marvels—of film, radio, and television—are marvels of one-way communication, which is not communication at all.

—Milton Mayer

The level of vocabulary present in adult talk to children who are three and four years old, in the home setting and in preschools, is a strong predictor of the level of vocabulary that child will have attained by second grade. In other words, children who are exposed to more words in their conversations with adults, and more unusual words, tend to develop larger vocabularies....Why does the home environment play such an important role in the development of young children's oral-language skills? The simple explanation is because the home's language environment is relatively constant and provides important opportunities for language interactions between children and adults. While preschools and elementary schools contribute to children's language development, opportunities for home-like interactions are rare, due to the size of classes and the length of time spent in class....Only 20 percent or less of the time children talked with adults in preschool was spent in conversations that went beyond the here and now. The rest of the time teachers were giving directions or asking children for specific information, such as the names of colors or letters.

—Leon Lynn

The purpose of emails is to communicate with those who you don't want to talk to.

—George Carlin

Speech is free, all right, but it doesn't mean free from consequences.

—Kathleen Parker

We do not talk—we bludgeon one another with facts and theories gleaned from cursory readings of newspapers, magazines and digests.

--Henry Miller

I have often regretted my speech, never my silence.

—Xenocrates

A bore is a fellow who opens his mouth and puts his feats in it.

—Henry Ford

Nothing is more despicable than a professional talker who uses his words as a quack uses his remedies.

—Francois Fenelon

There are tones of voices that mean more than words.

—Robert Frost

Put a bridle on thy tongue; set a guard before thy lips, lest the words of thine own mouth destroy thy peace... on much speaking cometh repentance, but in silence is safety.

—William Drummond

An intellectual is a man who takes more words than necessary to tell more than he knows.

—Dwight Eisenhower

Silence makes the real conversation between friends. Not the saying, but the never needing to say is what counts.

—Margaret Lee Runbeck

Email, instant messaging, and cell phones give us fabulous communication ability, but because we live and work in our own little worlds, that communication is totally disorganized.

—Marilyn vos Savant

Picketing for or against something, and handing out literature—these are conspicuously formal actions. They have to be understood as indirect communication.

—Tony Conrad

Child-development experts have different names for the dyadic signaling system between adult and child, which builds the basic architecture of the brain. Jack P. Shonkoff, a pediatrician and the director of *Harvard's Center on the Developing Child*, calls it the 'serve and return' style of communication; the psychologists Kathy Hirsh-Pasek and Robert Michnick Golinkoff describe a 'conversational duet.' The vocal patterns parents everywhere tend to adopt during exchanges with infants and toddlers are marked by a higher-pitched tone, simplified grammar, and engaged, exaggerated enthusiasm. Though this talk is cloying to adult observers, babies can't get enough of it. Not only that: One study shows that infants exposed to this interactive, emotionally responsive speech style at 11 months and 14 months knew twice as many words at age 2 as ones who weren't exposed to it.

Child development is relational, which is why, in one experiment, nine-month-old babies who received a few hours of Mandarin instruction from a live human could isolate specific phonetic elements in the language while another group of babies who received the exact same instruction via video could not.

—Erika Christakis

Toddlers cannot learn when we break the flow of conversations by picking up our cellphones or looking at the text that whizzes by our screens.

—Kathy Hirsh-Pasek

Language is the single best predictor of school achievement, and the key to strong language skills are those back-and-forth fluent conversations between young children and adults.

—Kathy Hirsh-Pasek

Distracted adults grow irritable when their phone use is interrupted; they not only miss emotional cues but actually misread them. A tuned-out parent may be quicker to anger than an engaged one, assuming that a child is trying to be manipulative when, in reality, she just wants attention. Short, deliberate separations can of course be harmless, even healthy, for parent and child alike (especially as children get older and require more independence). But that sort of separation is different from the inattention that occurs when a parent is with a child but communicating through his or her nonengagement that the child is less valuable than a email....What's going on today, however, is the rise of unpredictable care, governed by the beeps and enticements of smartphones. We seem to have stumbled into the worst model of parenting imaginable—always present physically, thereby blocking children's autonomy, yet only fitfully present emotionally.

—Erika Christakis

More young children than ever (about two-thirds of 4-year-olds) are in some form of institutional care, and recent trends in early-childhood education have filled many of their classrooms with highly scripted lessons and dull, one-sided 'teacher talk.' In such environments, children have few opportunities for spontaneous conversation.

—Erika Christakis

Word on the street is that gossip is the worst. An Ann Landers advice column once characterized it as 'the faceless demon that breaks hearts and ruins careers.' The Talmud describes it as a 'three-pronged tongue' that kills three people: the teller, the listener, and the person being gossiped about. And Blaise Pascal observed, not unreasonably, that 'if people really knew what others said about them, there would not be four friends left in the world.'

—Ben Healy

Law of Inverse Accuracy: $C=(TI)^v -t$, in which the likelihood of gossip being circulated equals its timeliness (T) times its interest (I) to the power of its unverifiability (V) minus the reluctance someone might feel about repeating it out of taste (t).

—Blythe Holbrooke

If two people share negative feelings about a third person, they are likely to feel closer to each other than they would if they both felt positively about him or her.

—Ben Healy

I would rather read a mediocre book than waste time sitting around with people making small talk.

--James D. Sass

Somedays our daughters can be so quick with the lip it makes us wonder if we really created the person who has the nerve to speak that way. Then we see them use their sass on someone who deserves it and we are thankful they know how to speak the hell up.

—Katie Bingham Smith

We cannot control the way people interpret our ideas or thoughts, but we can control the words and tones we choose to convey them. Peace is built on understanding, and wars are built on misunderstandings. Never underestimate the power of a single word, and never recklessly throw around words. One wrong word, or misinterpreted word, can change the meaning of an entire sentence and start a war. And one right word, or one kind word, can grant you the heavens and open doors.

--Suzy Kassem