

# BEST QUOTES ON COOPERATION

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

--Margaret Mead

I not only use all the brains that I have, but all that I can borrow.

--Woodrow Wilson

Despite our cherished belief in the virtues of competition, study after study shows that nothing succeeds like cooperation.

--Alfie Kohn

The sea rises, the light fails, lovers cling to each other, and children cling to us. The moment we cease to hold each other, the moment we break faith with one another, the sea engulfs us and the light goes out.

--James Baldwin

Light is the task when many share the toil.

--Homer

Diversity without unity makes about as much sense as dishing up flour, sugar, water, eggs, shortening, and baking powder on a plate and calling it a cake.

--C. William Pollard

Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look what they can do when they stick together.

--Vesta M. Kelly

Coming together is a beginning.

Keeping together is progress.

Working together is success.

--Henry Ford

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.

--Helen Keller

Cross the river in a crowd and the crocodile won't eat you.

--Mauritanian Proverb

In the world if you are asked to do something and get it wrong, your boss would probably ask, 'Have you checked this with the people around you? How could you reach such a ridiculous conclusion?' If you said, 'no,' you'd be considered incompetent. In school, checking it out with the people next to you is called cheating. Most everything we do in school is the opposite of what we do in the world.

--Al Shanker

Like the body that is made up of different limbs and organs, all moral creatures must depend on each other to exist.

—Hindu Proverb

A team always beats a group of individuals.

--Rick Fox

None of us is as smart as all of us.

--Kenneth H. Blanchard

No one can whistle a symphony. It takes an orchestra to play it.

—H. E. Luccock

Clapping with the right hand only will not produce a noise.

--Malay Proverb

People who play a part in life are much better off than those playing apart.

--Ken Shively

You can pitch a no-hit game,  
But it's just another loss  
If the errors of your teammates  
Put opponent's runs across.  
You might be a brilliant runner  
Pass and kick with easy grace,  
But you'll miss the winning touchdown,  
If a teammate's out of place.  
In the sporting world or business,  
In the office or a mill,  
Nothing can produce a winner,  
Like a little teamwork will.

--Unknown

Where I grew up, learning was a collective activity. But when I got to school and tried to share learning with other students that was called cheating. The curriculum sent the clear message to me that learning was a highly individualistic, almost secretive, endeavor. My working class experience...was disparaged.

—Henry Giroux

When spider webs are woven together, they can tie up a lion.

--Ethiopian Proverb

It is only in marriage with the world that our ideals can bear fruit; divorced from it, they remain barren.

--Bertrand Russell

We are going to have to find ways of organizing ourselves cooperatively, sanely, scientifically, harmonically and in regenerative spontaneity with the rest of humanity around earth...We are not going to be able to operate our spaceship earth successfully nor for much longer unless we see it as whole spaceship and our fate as common. It has to be everybody or nobody.

--Buckminster Fuller

Even weak men when united are powerful.

--Friedrich Schiller

No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main.

--John Donne

Three helping one another will do as much as six men singly.

--Spanish Proverb

Rain does not fall on one roof alone.

--Cameroonian Proverb

Mankind has become so much one family that we cannot insure our own prosperity except by insuring that of everyone else. If you wish to be happy yourself, you must resign yourself to seeing others also happy...Contempt for happiness is usually contempt for other people's happiness, and is an elegant disguise for hatred of the human race.

--Bertrand Russell

Your own safety is at stake when your neighbor's wall is ablaze.  
--Horace

Working together means winning together.  
--Slogan

One person can make a difference. A team can make a miracle.  
--Unknown

All power is feeble unless it is united.  
--Jean de La Fontaine

All for one, one for all!  
--Alexandre Dumas

Where there is unity, there lies victory.  
--Latin Proverb

The man who goes alone can start today; but he who travels with another must wait till that other is ready, and it may be a long time before they get off.  
—Henry David Thoreau

Joint undertakings stand a better chance  
When they benefit both sides.  
--Euripides

A single arrow is easily broken, but not ten in a bundle.  
--Japanese Proverb

One man may hit the mark, another blunder; but heed not these distinctions. Only from the alliance of the one, working with and through the other, are great things born.  
--Antoine de  
Saint-Exupéry

If you don't think cooperation is necessary, watch what happens to a wagon if one wheel comes off.  
—Will Rogers

Cooperation is doing what I tell you to do, and doing it quickly.  
--Unknown

Sticks in a bundle are unbreakable.

--Kenyan Proverb

There are no problems we cannot solve together, and very few we can solve by ourselves.

--Lyndon B. Johnson

By the hands of many a great work is made light.

--Unknown

One hand cannot applaud alone.

--Arabian Proverb

We must remember that one determined person can make a significance difference, and that a small group of determined people can change the course of history.

--Sonia Johnson

The highest form of efficiency is the spontaneous cooperation of free people.

--Woodrow Wilson

Co-operation is spelled with two letters—WE.

--George M. Verity

We are all held in place by the pressure of the crowd around us. We must all lean upon others. Let us see that we lean gracefully and freely and acknowledge their support.

--Margaret Collier  
Graham

The multitude which is not brought to act as a unity is confusion.

--Pascal

There is a point, of course, where a man must take the isolated peak and break with all his associates for clear principle; but until that time comes he must work, if he would be of use, with men as they are. As long as the good in them overbalances the evil, let him work with them for the best that can be obtained.

--Theodore Roosevelt

It takes two wings for a bird to fly.

--Jesse Jackson

Either do as your neighbors do or move away.

--Moroccan Proverb

Team—Together Everyone Achieves More.

--Slogan

The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime.

--Babe Ruth

I believe every decision is stronger when a group of people argue about it, debate it, try to figure out how to make it better.

--Lou Gerstner

The challenge for every organization is to build a feeling of oneness, of dependence on one another, because the question is usually not how well each person works, but how well they work together.

--Vince Lombardi

We are born for co-operation, as are the feet, the hands, the eyelids and the upper and lower jaws.

--Marcus Aurelius

No member of a crew is praised for the rugged individuality of his rowing.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

The great redwoods of California are one of the beautiful natural wonders of North America. These giant evergreens can grow to a towering 300 feet tall and live for hundreds of years. For all their magnificence, one would think the redwoods would require a deep root system to keep them upright. Instead, they have roots that spread out along the surface of the forest floor to capture all the moisture possible, intertwining with the roots of other redwoods in the grove. The interlocking roots securely support and sustain these giant sequoias when storms strike and fierce winds blow. The trees' survival depends on the combined support of one another...when we stand together...support one another...encourage one another...we become strong together, and like the giant redwoods, we keep growing taller.

--*The Master Teacher*

With one finger alone one cannot kill even a louse.

--Kenyan Proverb

True power comes through cooperation and silence.

--Ashanti Proverb

Each life is like a letter of the alphabet. Alone it can be meaningless. Or it can be part of a great meaning.

--Unknown

Each citizen should play his part in the community according to his individual gifts.

--Plato

Each citizen in a well-ordered community has his own task which it is his duty to carry out.

--Plato

Teamwork is the ability to work as a group toward a common vision, even if that vision becomes extremely blurry.

--Unknown

It is amazing how much you can accomplish when it doesn't matter who gets the credit.

--Harry S. Truman

Teams do better when they are composed of people with the widest possible range of personalities.

--Data from Stanford  
University

Now this is the Law of the Jungle—as old and true as the sky;  
And the Wolf that shall keep it may prosper, but the Wolf that shall break it must die.

As the creeper that girdles the tree-trunk, the Law runneth forward and back—  
For the strength of the Pack is the Wolf, and the strength of the Wolf is the Pack.

--Rudyard Kipling

If the spirit of many in body but one in mind prevails among the people, they will achieve all their goals, whereas if one in body but different in mind, they can achieve nothing remarkable.

--Nichiren Daishonin

All of life is interrelated. All persons are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be. This is the interrelated structure of reality.

--Dr. Martin Luther  
King, Jr.

It takes two hands to clap.

--Jiang Zemin

Great discoveries and improvements invariably involve the cooperation of many minds. I may be given credit for having blazed the trail, but when I look at the subsequent developments I feel the credit is due to others rather than to myself.

—Alexander Graham  
Bell

I never did anything alone. Whatever was accomplished in this country was accomplished collectively.

—Golda Meir

Competition has been shown to be useful up to a certain point and no further, but cooperation, which is the thing we must strive for today, begins where competition leaves off.

—Franklin D. Roosevelt

When women work together, it's a bond unlike any other.

—Victoria Principal

If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together.

—African Proverb

It's learning how to negotiate to keep both sides happy - whether it's for a multi-million dollar contract or just which show to watch on TV, that determines the quality and enjoyment of our lives.

—Leigh Steinberg

You will find men who want to be carried on the shoulders of others, who think that the world owes them a living. They don't seem to see that we must all lift together and pull together.

—Henry Ford

A gentleman is a warrior, not a doormat, and he will cooperate with others only insofar as they cooperate with him. Cooperation begets cooperation, kindness begets kindness.

—Robert Axlerod

To pull together is to avoid being pulled apart.

—Bob Allisat

Human history is the sad result of each one looking out for himself.

--Julio Cortázar

Help others get ahead. You will always stand taller with someone else on your shoulders.

--Bob Moawad

As the builders say, the larger stones do not lie well without the lesser.

—Plato

No employer today is independent of those about him. He cannot succeed alone, no matter how great his ability or capital. Business today is more than ever a question of cooperation.

—Orison Swett Marden

The greatest ability in business is to get along with others and influence their actions. A chip on the shoulder is too heavy a piece of baggage to carry through life.

—John Hancock

Individual commitment to a group effort—that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work.

--Vince Lombardi

The team with the best athletes doesn't usually win. It's the team with the athletes who play best together.

--Lisa Fernandez

The real mark of a star is how how much better he makes his teammates.

--Red Holzman

On a good team there are no superstars. There are great players who show they are great players by being able to play with others as a team. They have the ability to be superstars, but if they fit into a good team, they make sacrifices, they do things necessary to help the team win. What the numbers are in salaries or statistics don't matter: how they play together does.

--Red Holzman

A team will always appreciate a great individual if he's willing to sacrifice for the group.

—Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

There is no limit to what a man can do so long as he does not care a straw who gets the credit for it.

— Charles Edward  
Montague

Playing the victim role: Manipulator portrays him- or herself as a victim of circumstance or of someone else's behavior in order to gain pity, sympathy or evoke compassion and thereby get something from another. Caring and conscientious people cannot stand to see anyone suffering and the manipulator often finds it easy to play on sympathy to get cooperation.

—George K. Simon Jr.

If you're going to play together as a team, you've got to care for one another. You've got to love each other...The difference between mediocrity and greatness...is the feeling these guys have for each other. Most people call it team spirit.

--Lee Iacocca

Build for your team a feeling of oneness, of dependence on one another and of strength to be derived by unity.

--Vince Lombardi

We do not seek to have our way, but to find a common way.

--G. P. Morris

It is better to have one person working with you than three people working for you.

--Dwight D. Eisenhower

A critic sees problems; a leader creates dynamic consensus.

--Robert D. Kaplan

The man who says he is willing to meet you halfway is usually a poor judge of distance.

--Laurence J. Peter

I would rather try to persuade a man to go along, because once I have persuaded him he will stick. If I scare him, he will stay just as long as he is scared, and then he is gone.

--Dwight D. Eisenhower

You can get everything in life you want if you will just help enough other people get what they want.

--Zig Ziglar

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

—Unknown

For solving a surprisingly large and varied number of problems, crowds are smarter than individuals.

—Michael Shermer

Conductors of great symphony orchestras do not play every musical instrument; yet through leadership the ultimate production is an expressive and unified combination of tones.

--Thomas D. Bailey

Leadership has a harder job to do than just choose sides. It must bring sides together.

--Jesse Jackson

I know of no single formula for success, but over the years I have observed that some attributes of leadership are universal, and are often about finding ways of encouraging people to combine their efforts, their talents, their insights, their enthusiasm, and their inspiration, to work together.

--Queen Elizabeth II

Power consists in one's capacity to link his will with the purpose of others, to lead by reason and a gift of cooperation.

--Woodrow Wilson

I suppose leadership at one time meant muscles; but today it means getting along with people.

--Mohandas K. Gandhi

Leaders should be collaborative, modest, and generous.

—Bill Bradley

Ants are good citizens—they place group interests first.

--Clarence Day

Many scholars of the past burrowed into library stacks, read the printed literature on a topic, consulted with a mentor, and emerged with their research. Today, the smartest person in the room is the room. While there are many instances of scholarly collaboration throughout history, none rise to the level of what's possible today, when dozens or scores or hundreds of people from around the world can connect simultaneously and in real time. NYU professor Clay Shirky says that most people 'overestimate the value of access to information and underestimate the value of access to each other.'

—Angela Maiers

Never one thing and seldom one person can make for a success. It takes a number of them, merging into one perfect whole.

--Marie Dressler

Teamwork is the long word for success.

--Jacquelinemae A. Rudd

While at a biological disadvantage in competitions, women—who even make trips to restaurant bathrooms in pairs—are at a clear advantage when it comes to grouping together and the activities that accompany it: gossiping, sharing, bonding, assisting, scrapbooking, and building networks.

—Sandra Tsing Loh

We do better together, not alone. We need to play together to feel alive. We need to share together to feel whole. At any age, we need to feel, recreate, breathe!

—Patricia Miller

It's co-existence  
Or no existence.

--Bertrand Russell

The future happiness of the human race depends upon just one thing—international co-operation.

—Hendrik van Loon

Marriage is a state of antagonistic cooperation.

--Jerome H. Blass

Life's piano can only produce the melodies of brotherhood when it is recognized that the black keys are as basic, necessary, and beautiful as the white keys.

--Martin Luther King, Jr.

Upon the conduct of each depends the fate of all.

--Alexander the Great

The educational resources provided by a child's fellow students are more important for his achievement than are the resources provided by the school board.

—James S. Coleman

151 Countries, One Technology.

—*ThinkSlogans.com*

When I die I want all the people I worked with on group projects to lower me in the ground to let me down one last time.

—Internet Meme

Joining company with those who can succeed where you can't do so alone is sometimes a solution to a difficult problem. For example, one person alone cannot change a law—so he joins an organization composed of people who feel the same way he does, and jointly they may succeed. When anyone joins in working with a group, whether large or small, he identifies himself with that group; he considers himself a part of it. This is normal and healthy. We all do it when we want to solve a big problem and can't do it by ourselves. If you sincerely want to be able to attend school regularly, for instance, one of the surest ways is to develop an interest in school. You can develop an interest by joining a club, organization, activity, or sport. You'll be making a new set of friends, you'll be having fun, and you'll begin to enjoy coming to school. School will become a more happy place than it may now be.

—Dan L. Miller