BEST QUOTES ON COMMUNICATION AND 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

We who officially value freedom of speech above life itself seem to have nothing to talk about but the weather.

—Barbara Ehrenreich

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 of the great arts of conversation.

—Marcus Tullius Cicero

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

Speaking to your partner before making a decision is not being controlled, it's respect.

—Internet Meme

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

Your words have power. Speak words that are kind, loving, positive, uplifting, encouraging and life-giving.

—Internet Meme

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 (1879)

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 Commynes

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.

—Andy Rooney

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

It's illegal to bore people.

—Mo Siegel

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, is it kind, is it necessary, is it true, does it improve on the silence?

—Shirdi Sai Baba

In conversation, discretion is more important than eloquence.

--Baltasar Gracian

The world is wide, and I will not waste my life in friction when it could be turned into momentum.

—Frances Willard (1874)

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

To be a bestseller is not necessarily a measure of quality, but it is a measure of communication.

—Barbara W. Tuchman

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

Don't sit at a table where they talk about others, because when you get up, you're the next topic.

—*creativehealthyfamily.com*

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

Speak when you're angry—and you'll make the best speech you'll ever regret.

—Groucho Marx

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.

—Internet Meme

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.

—Internet Meme

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.

—Internet Meme

There are few things harder to imagine than other people's conversations about yourself.

—Jonathan Franzen

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!

—Internet Meme

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

—Internet Meme

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.

—Internet Meme

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

The most expensive liquid in the world is a tear. It's 1% water and 99% feelings. Think before you hurt someone.

—Internet Meme

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

—Internet Meme

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.

—Internet Meme

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

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

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

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

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

—Descartes

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

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

The thoughtless are rarely wordless.

—Howard W. Newton

How long is it going to take before deliberate misinformation is recognized as a crime against humanity?

—Christiana Figueres

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

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

--William Butler Yeats

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

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 may 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

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

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 bot 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 everythingisconnected. 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

'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

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

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

--Ed Howe

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

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

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

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

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

—W. Edwards Deming

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

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

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

—Epictetus

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*

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.

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

--Lucille S. Harper

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.

—Internet Meme

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

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

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

--Paul Géraldy

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

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 our cell towers, there are teams 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

People who constantly argue seek control and power over others. You cannot reason with them, so it's better to withdraw from an argument than try to prove them wrong.

—-Nicola Davies

Soft words win hard hearts.

--W. G. Benham

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

The phrase 'don't take this the wrong way' has a 0% success rate.

—Internet Meme

'Boy, the older I get, the more I find myself talking to myself.'
'Well, I think that's fairly…'
'I wasn't talking to you.'

—Internet Meme

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

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. Al low 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

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

--Jeff Bezos

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 thrasonical 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

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

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

--Phil Cooke

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

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

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

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

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

When a man says he had pleasure with a woman he does not mean conversation.

—Samuel Johnson

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 form 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

Tact is the art of making a point without making an enemy.

—Isaac Newton

The more you read, the less you sound foolish when you speak.

—Amit Kalantri

A word is dead
When it is said,
Some say.
I say it just
Begins to live
That day.

--Emily Dickinson

Communications without intelligence is noise;
Intelligence without communications is irrelevant.

—Gen. Alfred Gray,
USMC

I dream of lost vocabularies that might express some of what we no longer can.

—Jack Gilbert

I've come loaded with statistics, for I've noticed that a man can't prove anything without statistics.

—Mark Twain

Most men make little use of their speech than to give evidence against their own understanding.

—George Savile

The vanity of being known to be trusted with a secret is generally one of the chief motives to disclose it.

—Samuel Johnson

You only had to choose which me to talk to, for, you know, we all change our manners, depending on who has come to chat. One doesn't behave at all the same way to a grandfather as to a bosom friend, to a professor as to a curious niece.

—Catherynne M. Valente

The loudest one in the room is the weakest one in the room.

—Frank Lucas

Most people talk, but say nothing. That's ok because nobody is listening anyway. Let today be the day you stop with words and take ACTION! Shut-up and say something with your behavior.

—Steve Maraboli

93/7 Rule: 93% of communication occurs through nonverbal behavior & tone; only 7% of communication takes place through the use of words.

—John Stoker

As a black man who is not slight of stature, I am aware that displays of emotion that might be construed as passion or overlooked altogether coming from my white counterparts may easily be interpreted as threatening coming from me, or get me branded as an 'angry black man.' Black women, including Michelle Obama, have been called angry when they dare project a temperament other than sweetness and sunshine. Race is at least as important as gender in business communications if you are not a white male.

—Steve Brown

The tongue is the only instrument that gets sharper with use.

—Washington Irving

When people talk without seeing each other, they're better at recognizing each other's feelings. They're more empathetic. Freud understood this long before empirical research demonstrated it. That's why he and his patients lie on a couch, facing away from him. He could listen all the harder for the nuggets of truth in their ramblings, while they, undistracted by scowls or smiles, slipped into that twilight state in which they could unburden themselves of stifled feelings.

—Judith Shulevitz

The deflective technique is a method you can use during meetings to cope with criticism regarding something you did. Rather than get into an argument or expose your emotions, simply and quickly—and without a hint of sarcasm—ask the questions, 'Honestly, how would you have done better?' Or 'How would you have done it differently?' Learning the answers to these questions before you address the criticism from your own point of view will allow you to find out exactly what the person expected. This technique gives you time to think before responding and lets you more fully understand your critic's point of view before you respond. It can quickly level the playing field—and give you an advantage you wouldn't have otherwise.

—Robert L. DeBruyn

TALKING WITH PARENTS

➢ Be positive. Talk about the good things you see in the child. Show you were interested and want to help.

➢ Work with the parent. Stress the idea that you need to work together. Tell them how important their help is. Use their help.

➢ Be flexible. Talk to the parents on their own level. Meet in a comfortable place at a mutually convenient time. Do not present your ideas first. Seek their opinions and work together on plans solicited from them.

➢ Be a good observer. Notice both what the parent says and what he does not say. Be aware of bodily tension, hesitation, excitability, etc.

➢ Listen. Do not interrupt to say what you would have done. Be attentive and nod to show that you are listening and are interested.

➢ Begin where the parent is. Help him feel relaxed and comfortable. Encourage him to talk. Ask leading questions. Facilitate the

conversation by asking questions that require more than a 'yes' or 'no' answer. Avoid putting answers and the parent's mouth. Some leading questions might be: What does he do when _____? How do you feel when _____? What do you do when _____? How do you discipline your children?

➢ Make comments thoughtfully. Use your comments to reassure, to encourage, or to carefully direct parents to relevant matters. Make sure you use the language of the parents.

➢ Answer personal questions. Be frank, brief, and truthful. Then try to redirect the conversation back to the parent.

➢ Good relationships take time. Working with parents is a process. It takes time to develop rapport and trust. Don't try to do everything in one short meeting. The more difficult the problem, the more meetings it takes.

—Nancy Chavkin

There is good news and bad news regarding the literacy levels and literary engagement of today's youth. The good news is that today's young people are reading and writing at high levels heretofore unachievable. They are engaged in literacy activities for major portions of their day. The bad news is that their reading and writing is comprised of communicating through social media—Twitter, Facebook, and texting. Although the level of literary engagement is high, the quality of the engagement is quite low. Texters and chatters communicate with phrases, single words, sentence fragments, misspellings, myriad abbreviations, web slang, acronyms, and emoticons-:).

—Dan L. Miller

A letter is always better than a phone call. People write things in letters they would never say in person. They permit themselves to write down feelings and observations using emotional syntax far more intimate and powerful than speech will allow.

—Alice Steinbach

If someone won't stop talking or let you get a word in, drop something (keys, pen). Reach down to pick them up and start talking. It's a way to interrupt without the other person realizing it.

—Internet Meme

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

I usually get minimum input for the Newsletter, so for this issue I'd like to request input from everyone. Think back over the past couple of months about activities in your class, interesting events or incidents, and outstanding student achievements, and also think ahead about upcoming events. Then jot down any information you feel would be appropriate for the Newsletter. As much as possible, please mention specific students' names.

Ideas:

- A student who has a perfect record of A's on tests or quizzes.
- A student with perfect attendance thus far.
- An interesting report or project a student has presented.
- An interesting discussion that was held in class.
- A particular lesson you conducted that may be of interest to parents.
- A film you showed or a guest speaker you had.
- Something interesting you may have done outside of school either related to your field or to a special interest you may have.
- Most improved student(s) in your classes.
- A special project or assignment coming up that you want parents to be aware of.
- Any special event you want to alert parents to.
- Students who have been particularly helpful in school or are providing services for others.
- Achievements of students in activities outside of school.
- Simply describe what activities you've been conducting it in your class over the past few weeks.
- Policies or procedures in your department that you feel need to be reinforced.

I get a lot of positive feedback on the Newsletter, and it can be a very effective means of promoting goodwill, school spirit, and support. It can help to improve the image of Jefferson Junior High School, so please help promote your school by submitting to me an article or information by Tuesday, January 22.
THANKS!

—Dan L. Miller

Always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor never the tormented.

—Elie Wiesel

Anger is one of the densest forms of communication. It conveys more information, more quickly, than most any other type of emotion. And it does an excellent job of forcing us to listen to and confront problems we might otherwise avoid.
…studies have found other benefits as well. We're more likely to perceive people who express anger as competent, powerful, and the kinds of leaders who will overcome challenges. Anger motivates us to undertake difficult tasks. We're often more creative when we're angry, because our outrage helps us see solutions we've overlooked. 'When we look at the brains of people who are expressing anger, they look very similar to people who are experiencing happiness,' says Dacher Keltner, the director of the Berkeley Social Interaction Lab. 'When we become angry, we feel like we're taking control, like we're getting power over something.'

—Charles Duhigg

About 4,000 years ago someone scrawled a smiling face on a clay pitcher. When it was unearthed in Turkey in 2017, on archaeologist called it 'the oldest smiley emoji,' reminding us that silly cartoon symbols were around long before their first pixelated appearance on a cellphone screen 20 years ago. Today 90 percent of people online speak emoji—with curious local dialects….Could emojis become our universal language? Probably not. Studies show that men and women use this limited 2,823-symbol vocabulary differently, as do people of different ages and cultures.

—April White

All languages travel at the speed of sound, but sign language travels at the speed of light.

—*theChive*

Before you argue with someone, think to yourself first whether that person is even mentally mature enough to grasp the concept of different perspectives…because if not, there's absolutely no point.

—Helen Mirren

Nothing is as fake as a conversation with a close friend while your parents are around.

—*theChive*

Among educated citizens, especially those who become afflicted by 'professional' languages, the demon 'jargon' afflicts the written word with what appears to be an incurable disease. One only needs to pick up professional journals in such areas as education, sociology, and law to realize the unintelligibility of much of the written prose as vended by presumably educated people.

—William Goldstein

Every time he opens his mouth, he subtracts from the sum total of human wisdom.

—Theodore Roosevelt

Avoid the No. 1 Sin: Jargon

Just because you work for an institution, you don't have to sound like one. As parents we want to think of the men and women who are running our children's schools as people not unlike ourselves. I don't want to give my school my 'input' and get its 'feedback,' though I'd be glad to exchange ideas and options, and even offer some complaints….The message is simple: Avoid sentences that sound like 'informed academic writing.'

—William Zinsser

Keep it simple. As for your use of language: Remember that two great masters of language, William Shakespeare and James Joyce, wrote sentences which were almost childlike when their subjects were most profound. 'To be or not to be?' Asks Shakespeare's Hamlet. The longest word is three letters long. Joyce, when he was frisky, could put together a sentence as intricate and as glittering as a necklace for Cleopatra, but my favorite sentence is his short story 'Eveline' is this one: 'She was tired.' At that point in the story, no other word could break the heart of a reader as those three words do.

Simplicity of language is not only reputable, but perhaps even sacred,. The *Bible* opens with a sentence well within the writing skills of a lively fourteen-year-old: 'In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

—Kurt Vonnegut

I need to teach my facial expressions how to use their inside voice.

—https://www.facebook.com/Fun.Pics.Stuff/

It hurts to get things out in the open, but it hurts even more not to.

—Chrissy Moon

I have a friend who likes to date younger women because their stories are shorter.

—Jerry Uelsmann

Unfortunately, you never get a second chance to make a first impression.

—João Zilhão

The worst thing in the world is when someone doesn't get your sarcasm and you have to say 'I'm joking' after every sentence, so they don't cry.

—facebook.com/
WeirdPeopleRock

This was 1991, remember. We didn't have the Internet. So, as teenagers, we lived on the phone. There was no webcamming, no social networking. We dreamt simply of having our own personal phone lines one day, along with uninterrupted hours to talk, and we rarely got that. No matter who we were talking to, no matter how private the conversation, parents picked up the phone accidentally, siblings demanded their time. The introduction of call waiting made all of this even worse, as it allowed aunts and uncles and people you didn't even know to butt in. This is part of why we talked so late in the night, Lindy and I, all of us teens. This is why we looked so pale in our grunge clothes. These night hours were the only times we felt we could tell the truth without danger, the only times we could live separately from our parents while still inside of their homes. There were no cell phones. No private text messages. It was simple one on one conversation and, if it was any good at all, you had to whisper.

—M. O. Walsh

Discussions are always better than arguments, because an argument is to find out who is right, and a discussion is to find what is right.

—*eminentlyquotable.com*

We cannot force someone to hear a message they are not ready to receive, but we must never underestimate the power of planting a seed.

—Internet Meme

The secret of being boring is to say everything.

—Voltaire

Words have energy and power with the ability to help, to heal, to hinder, to hurt, to harm, to humiliate, and to humble.

—Yehuda Berg

Don't mix bad words with your bad mood. You'll have many opportunities to change a mood, but you'll never get the opportunity to replace the words you spoke.

—Unknown

Words are seeds that do more than blow around.
They land in our hearts and not the ground.
Be careful what you plant and careful what you say.
You might have to eat what you planted one day.

—Unknown

You never know how long your words will stay in someone's mind even long after you've forgotten you spoke them.

—*LiveLifeHappy.com*

Being taught to avoid talking about politics and religion has led to a lack of understanding of politics and religion. What we should have been taught was how to have a civil conversation about a difficult topic.

—Ryan Fournier

Men are good at relating to each other in this way. We get along well when there's a project in front of us—when we're side by side looking at some third thing. All of the classic 'male bonding' activities are like this—when you're hunting, or working on a car, or shooting free throws, you can look together at the deer, or the transmission, or the basket, and talk. The common objective gives you something to talk about, and not having to face each other means you don't have to lay the full weight of your emotions on each other….For many of us, gaming is a way of talking and relating to other men that feels normal and relaxed—a way to be one of the guys while still finding space to open up.

—Spencer A. Klavan

Ellipses…These are now a staple of passive aggression. 'Karen, did you set up that meeting…' serves as an impatient foot tap. Or an ellipsis can be threatening: 'Out of office until Sept. 30, see you soon…' conveys 'I'm planning your murder, which will happen on Sept. 30.'
Periods. In response to a question in a text message, send a simple 'Yes' or 'No'; forgo punctuation. The period with a 'Yes' says 'OBVIOUSLY, yes. I'm annoyed.'
ALL CAPS This is not effective unless you REALLY WANT TO SHOUT AT SOMEONE.

—Charlotte Barnett

[Michael] Sheehan's own stutter improved, but didn't fully go away, when he took up speech and debate in high school. This eventually led him to the theater, which is a common, if surprising, place where some stutterers find that they're able to speak with relative ease. Taking on a character, another voice, the theory goes, relies on a different neural pathway from the one used in conversation. Many successful actors have battled stutters—Samuel L. Jackson, Bruce Willis, Emily Blunt, James Earl Jones. In 2014, Jones, whose muscular baritone is the bedrock of one of the most quoted lines in film history, told NPR that he doesn't use the word cured to describe his apparent fluency. 'I just work with it,' he said.

—John Hendrickson

New research shows that speech patterns strongly affect a person's wages, particularly African Americans. The report by Jeffrey Grogger, the Irving Harris Professor in Urban Policy at the *University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy*, and published in the *Journal of Human Resources*, found that workers with racially and regionally distinctive speech patterns earn lower wages compared with those who speak in the mainstream or Standard American English (SAE)….Data for the report came from audio collected during the 1997 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY(&), a large, nationally representative panel survey of the labor market behavior of males who were ages 12-16 in 1997. After reviewing each audio file, listeners were asked to specify the speaker's sex, race/ethnicity, and region of origin. Linguists have shown that listeners can generally identify the race of a speaker based on a very short audio clip. Meanwhile, social psychologists have shown that both African American and white listeners routinely rate African American Vernacular English (AAVE) speakers lower than SAE speakers in terms of socioeconomic status….In his analysis, Grogger found that the impact on wages can be in the magnitude of 20% for blacks, as well as for whites who live in the rural South.

—Darcel Rockett

[Claudia] Quesada, 31, who immigrated to the U.S. with members of her family in 2003, is preparing for a role in 'A Xmas Cuento Remix,' a modern-day take on 'A Christmas Carol'….And although she's aware that her accent may be the cause of missed acting opportunities, she's staying positive. She said that thinking about how her accent is going to come across in auditions puts limits on her and her economic possibilities. 'I'm aware that it could be an obstacle, but for me, being an immigrant, I embrace who I am,' she said. 'I spent half my life in Cuba. You either love me for who I am or you don't'

—Darcel Rockett

Our speech, that is, all our utterances [are] filled with others' words

—M. M. Bakhtin

Stuttering was the best thing that ever happened to me. Stuttering gave me an insight I don't think I ever would have had into other people's pain.

—Joe Biden

It is a lot easier to convince people to change if you treat them in a civil manner. Even if you are unsuccessful in changing minds, treating them as humans rather than as symbols embodying all that you hate is quite simply the right thing to do.

—Diane Nash

It's Friday. I ran out of small talk on Tuesday. Please leave me alone.

—*someecards.com*

Arguing with a woman is like reading the Software License Agreement. In the end, you ignore everything and click 'I agree.'

—Internet Meme

In my childhood you'd gather around the grandparents and they would tell the family stories…Now individuals sit around the TV, watching other families' stories.

—Barry Levinson

Mend your speech a little, lest it mar your fortunes.

—Shakespeare

Tears are the noble language of eyes, and when true love of words is destitute. The eye by tears speak, while the tongue is mute.

—Robert Herrick

Language allows us to reach out to people, to touch them with our innermost fears, hopes, disappointments, victories. To reach out to people we'll never meet. It's the greatest legacy you could ever leave your children or your loved ones: The history of how you felt.

—Simon Van Booy

We live in a world where unfortunately the distinction between true and false appears to become increasingly blurred by manipulation of facts, by exploitation of uncritical minds, and by the pollution of the language.

—Arne Tiselius

As our larynxes descended, we were able to make sounds with our mouths in new and far more expressive ways. Verbal language soon overtook physical gesturing as the primary means of communication for all human beings except Italians.

—Jon Stewart

Few people...have had much training in listening. The training of most oververbalized professional intellectuals is in the opposite direction. Living in a competitive culture, most of us are most of the time chiefly concerned with getting our own views across, and we tend to find other people's speeches a tedious interruption of the flow of our own ideas.

—S. I. Hayakawa

All our troubles spring from our failure to use plain, clear-cut language.

—Jean-Paul Satre

Thirteen-year-olds should come with subtitles.

—Maya Gold

We read each other through our eyes, and anatomically they are an extension of our brains. When we catch someone's eye, we look into a mind.

—Siri Hustvedt

A good conversationalist directs attention, inspires, corrects, affirms, and empowers others. It is a demanding vocation that involves attentiveness, skilled listening, awareness of one's own interpretive frames, and a will to understand and discern what is true.

—Marilyn Chandler McEntyre

Communication is manipulation. Every time we speak we are trying to achieve an effect—a goal. We first learn to talk so we may better manipulate our parents. Sign language. Grunting and pointing. Wearing certain clothes and baubles. Walking or standing a certain way. This is all language and it is all manipulation.

—Michael R. Fletcher

Use simple words everyone knows, then everyone will understand.

—Winston Churchill

Most often when I stammer
That's my brain
Correcting my grammar.

—Joyce Rachelle

People's sense of how they talk tends to differ from the reality.

—John McWhorter

Without freedom of speech we would never know who the idiots are.

—*rusfu.com*

Children who are exposed to multiple languages—perhaps because…they were raised in a country far from where they were born—are better able to understand an adult's perspective, and they may go on to become better communicators overall.

—Olga Khazan

Two monologues do not make a dialogue.

—Jeff Daly

Anyone who thinks the art of conversation is dead ought to tell a child to go to bed.

—Robert Gallagher

'Tis the privilege of friendship to talk nonsense and have nonsense respected.

—Charles Lamb

There is nothing we like to see so much as the gleam of pleasure in a person' eye when he feels that we have understood him.

—Don Marquis

There's a kind of emotional exploration you plumb with a friend that you don't really do with your family.

—Bette Midler

True happiness arises from the enjoyment of one's self and from the friendship and conversation of a few select companions.

—Joseph Addison

I believe in freedom of speech, but I also believe that we have an obligation to condemn speech that is racist, bigoted, anti-Semitic, or hateful.

—John Robert Lewis

If you've made your point, stop talking.

—*theChive*

China has spent all but a few centuries of its 5,000 year history at the vanguard of information technology. Along with Sumer and Mesoamerica, it was one of three places where writing was independently invented, allowing information to be stored outside the human brain. In the second century A.D., the Chinese invented paper. This cheap, bindable information-storage technology allowed data—Silk Road trade records, military communiqués, correspondence among elites—to crisscross the empire on horses bred for speed by steppe nomads beyond the Great Wall. Data began to circulate even faster a few centuries later, when Tang-dynasty artisans perfected woodblock printing, a mass-information technology that helped administer a huge and growing state.

—Ross Andersen

Light travels faster than sound. That's why some folks appear bright until they speak.

—Robert Orben

Never trust your tongue when your heart is bitter. Hush until you heal.

—Samuel J. Hurwitt

If you want to be heard, learn the language of your listeners.

—Jeffrey G. Duarte

Good conversation is life-giving: it inspires and invigorates...liveliness in our use of language, both oral and written, matters: how lively language is life-giving—how it may literally, physiologically, quicken our breath, evoke our laughter, raise our eyebrows, open our hearts, renew our energies. Lively language invents and evokes and sustains.

—Marilyn Chandler McEntyre

Witty conversation can degenerate into exhibitionistic banter if it is not tempered by an opposite and perhaps even more important virtue, which is the capacity to hold one's peace, to wait to pause for thought, to consent to shared silence. Words need space. Witty, weighty, well-chosen words need more space than others to be received rightly, reckoned with, and responded to. That space, the silence between words, is as important a part of good conversation as rests are a part of a pleasing, coherent musical line.

—Marilyn Chandler McEntyre

The dumbing down, oversimplification, or flattened character of public speech may make our declamations and documents more accessible, but it deprives us all of a measure of beauty and clarity that could enrich our lives together. In more and more venues where speech and writing are required, adequate is adequate. A most exhilarating denunciation of this sort of mediocrity may be found in Mark Twain's acerbic little essay, 'Fenimore Cooper's Literary Offenses,' in which he observes: When a person has a poor ear for music, he will flat and sharp right along without knowing it. He keeps near the tune, but it is not the tune. When a person has a poor ear for words, the result is a literary flatting and sharping; you perceive what he is intending to say, but you also perceive that he doesn't say it. This is Cooper. He was not a word-musician. His ear was satisfied with the approximate word.

—Marilyn Chandler McEntyre

Everyone smiles in the same language.

—George Carlin

Conversation, like good reading, nourishes.

—Marilyn Chandler McEntyre

Strong communicators increase their influence because they are intentional and focused with their language.

—Dianna Booher

Important things are learned in faces, in gestures, not in our locked tongues. The true things are too big or too small, or in any case is always the wrong size to fit in the template called language.

—Jeanette Winterson

You can lie in any language on earth, and body language is no exception.

—Nenia Campbell

Oftentimes, people meet our writing before they meet us; our writing is our first impression. People read our résumés, cover letters, proposals, and emails, and that's the basis on which we are judged first. If our writing is full of grammar and punctuation errors, even though the content may be great, it's like wearing a beautifully made Prada dress that has deodorant stains.

—Jenny Baranick

The words a person reads and hears and repeats become his own, enter his verbal storehouse. When needed they become, even if he does not know it, the clothing for the thoughts to which he gives birth.

—Moshe Seidel

Is it possible to make a sharp distinction between the content and the the form, between the personality of the Texas auctioneer and the language that he uses? Are not our attitudes toward people and events in great part shaped by the very language in which we describe them? When we try to describe one person to another or to a group, what do we say? Not usually how or what that person ate, rarely what he wore, only occasionally how he managed his job—no, what we tell is what he said and, if we are good mimics, how he said it. We apparently consider a person's spoken words the true essence of his being.

—Cleanth Brooks

It is impossible to speak in such a way that you cannot be misunderstood: there will always be some who misunderstand you.

—Karl Popper

Never mistake legibility for communication.

—David Carson

The correct answer to the question 'How are you?' Is 'Not too bad'.
Why? Because it's all-purpose. Whatever the circumstances, whatever the conditions, *Not too bad* will get you through. In good times it projects a decent pessimism, an Eeyore-ish reluctance to get carried away. On an average day it bespeaks a muddling-through modesty. And when things are rough, really rough, it becomes a heroic understatement. Best of all, with three equally stressed syllables, it gently forestalls further inquiry, because it is—basically—meaningless.

—James Parker

Radio and television speech becomes standardized, perhaps better English than we have ever used. Just as our bread, mixed and baked, packaged and sold without benefit of accident of human frailty, is uniformly good and uniformly tasteless, so will our speech become one speech.

—John Steinbeck

There's language in her eye, her cheek, her lip, Nay, her foot speaks; her wanton spirits look out at every joint and motive of her body.

—William Shakespeare

The quantity of consonants in the English language is constant. If omitted in one place, they turn up in another. When a Bostonian 'pahks' his 'cah,' the lost r's migrate southwest, causing a Texan to 'warsh' his car and invest in 'erl wells.'

—Unknown

The great enemy of clear language is insincerity. When there is a gap between one's real and one's declared aims, one turns as if it were instinctively to long words and exhausted idioms, like a cuttlefish squirting out ink.

—George Orwell

Schools and businesses have been known to turn down prospective employees because of misspellings on letters and resumes. Writers need to be understood by their readers, and misspelled words are a source of distraction and irritation.

—Rebecca Bowers Sipe

Competence in the use of language—reading, writing, listening, and speaking—is the basis for all other learning. A subject is not fully known until the learner can talk or write about it in his or her own words. A principal cause of failure of college students or young people in the workplace is inability to handle language effectively… It follows that all teachers of all subjects have a major responsibility to foster growth in language skills…[and] Studies have shown that, outside of English classes, most teachers are not fulfilling their responsibility to foster growth in language skill.

—*National Council of Teachers of English*

I like having conversations with kids. Grownups never ask me what my third favorite reptile is.

—Simon Holland

People don't really listen carefully to one another. In real life, most conversation collides, overlaps and trails off.

—Garry Trudeau

The aim of an effective English language arts curriculum is to develop competent users of language who can read, write, listen, and speak effectively. All areas of language arts share common attributes, so one facet cannot be isolated without affecting the others. Students can make better connections when all communication skills are taught in an integrated fashion.

—Sylvia Rendon

Problems of unclear expression…abound in the professions. Each has its specialized vocabulary that excludes and awes the uninitiated. Physicians, lawyers and others can establish for themselves a safe distance from challenge by the ponderous trappings of jargon. As for politicians, they usually emit more wind than wisdom. Some have become masters of nonstop nonsense. The same holds for academicians. At professional meetings, my head has reeled from the copious inanities and gibberish I hear couched in ponderous jargon.

—Lois DeBakey

It's hard to communicate anything exactly and that's why perfect relationships between people are difficult to find.

—Gustave Flaubert

Why should we teach about language, and specifically about the English language? My first response is that it is a part of general knowledge. We should learn about ourselves and the world we live in, and therefore we should learn about language. For language is both our most personal possession (every individual's language is unique to some extent) and at the same time a facility that contributes most to our relationships with others (it is the major means of human communication). Language is distinctive to human beings. Animal languages are called such by analogy with human language; none approach the marvelous complexity and flexibility of human language.

My second response is that linguistics (the study of language in all its aspects) is a basic discipline. Just as mathematics is important for the physical sciences, so linguistics is important for the social sciences and the humanities. Its relationship to other disciplines is evident in the hybrid disciplines that focus on language; psycholinguistics, socialinguistics, the sociology of language, anthropological linguistics, linguistic philosophy, the philosophy of language, philology, and stylistics. Linguistics has practical applications in areas as diverse as the teaching of languages, the teaching of the deaf, speech therapy, the diagnosis and treatment of aphasia, communications engineering, information retrieval, and the identification of author or speaker in legal cases. The study of language also provides a useful introduction to research methods and argumentation in the sciences, since language data are readily available: students can immediately draw on knowledge of their own language and can easily collect samples of the language of others.

—Sidney Greenbaum

Study of the English language can help students to develop and refine their ability to adjust their language to the situational context. To be effective in our social relationships we must use language that is appropriate to the medium of communication, to our status relative to other participants in the situation, to the type of language activity, and to the purpose of the communication. In this respect we are all multivarietal, varying our language to suit the occasion. But we differ in our competence to vary our language appropriately. Children gradually learn from the reactions of others what are the effects of different choices from the resources of the language. Study of the language can make them more aware of this type of variation and can increase their control of the language.

—Sidney Greenbaum

Remote work is efficient only if communication processes are well established and most tasks are well defined with little room for ambiguity. If you're presenting a new idea to your company, you will need multiple ways of communicating it, and it will probably not be understood the first time. This is very hard to do online compared with face-to-face interactions.

—Hyejin Youn

The best readers usually have the best vocabularies. No really good reader has a poor one. A good reader is word-conscious, word-sensitive. One way to improve our reading is to improve our vocabulary, and vice versa. If we accept the late John Erskine's theory that we have a moral obligation to be intelligent, we will improve our vocabularies so we can read magazines and books that wake us up mentally. We can 'argue' with the authors. We can discuss what we have read, improve our conversations, be more interesting people.

—Edgar Dale

How beautiful to touch another's soul with a word, a gesture, a thought.

—Marty Rubin

The written word remains. The spoken word takes wing and cannot be recalled.

—Horace

Novels... teach you the secret, that the best of life is conversation.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

PRACTICE THE PAUSE

Pause before judging. Pause before assuming. Pause before accusing. Pause whenever you're about to react harshly and you'll avoid doing and saying things you'll later regret.

—Lori Deschene

TIPS TO BECOME A BETTER CONVERSATIONALIST

Lesson 10: Ask people questions that give them an opportunity to talk about themselves.
'What the hell is wrong with you?'

—Doug Savage

When children learn to read, they are making a transition from spoken to written language. Reading instruction builds on conversational skills: the better children are at using spoken language, the more successfully they will learn to read written language. To succeed at reading, children need a basic vocabulary, some knowledge of the world around them, and the ability to talk about what they know. These skills enable children to understand written material more readily.

—*U.S. Department of Education—What Works*

It's not what you think that influences your child; it's what you communicate.

—Charles Stanley

Sports, politics, and religion are the three passions of the badly educated.

—William H. Gass

For millions of years, mankind lived just like the animals. Then something happened which unleashed the power of our imagination. We learned to talk and we learned to listen. Speech has allowed the communication of ideas, enabling human beings to work together to build the impossible. Mankind's greatest achievements have come about by talking, and its greatest failures by not talking. It doesn't have to be like this. Our greatest hopes could become reality in the future. With the technology at our disposal, the possibilities are unbounded. All we need to do is make sure we keep talking.

—Stephen Hawking

Here's why I will be a good person. Because I listen. I cannot talk, so I listen very well. I never deflect the course of the conversation with a comment of my own. People, if you pay attention to them, change the direction of one another's conversations constantly. It's like being a passenger in your car who suddenly grabs the steering wheel and turns you down a side street. For instance, if we met at a party and I wanted to tell you a story about the time I needed to get a soccer ball in my neighbor's yard but his dog chased me and I had to jump into a swimming pool to escape, and I began telling the story, you, hearing the words soccer and neighbor in the same sentence, might interrupt and mention that your childhood neighbor was Pele, the famous soccer player, and I might be courteous and say, Didn't he play for the Cosmos of New York? Did you grow up in New York? And you might reply that, no, you grew up in Brazil on the streets of Tres Coracoes with Pele, and I might say, I thought you were from Tennessee, and you might say not originally, and then go on to outline your genealogy at length. So my initial conversational gambit—that I had a funny story about being chased by my neighbor's dog—would be totally lost, and only because you had to tell me all about Pele. Learn to listen! I beg of you. Pretend you are a dog like me and listen to other people rather than steal their stories.

—Garth Stein

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

—Socrates

In certain trying circumstances…profanity furnishes a relief denied even to prayer.

—Mark Twain

You can trick people into being more interesting by being more interesting yourself.

—Elisa Gabbert

Thank God for books as an alternative to conversation.

—W. H. Auden

Listen, there are people who are gonna talk bad about you for no reason at all. Don't be so quick to clap back. Don't waste your time on reassuring, some people are just salty. They see something that they don't see in themselves. Remember, confidence is silent, insecurity is loud.

—*ifunny.co*

They say women speak 20,000 words a day I have a daughter who gets that done by breakfast.

—Internet Meme

To talk to each other is but a more animated and an audible thinking.

—Charlotte Bronte

My idea of good company…is the company of clever, well-informed people who have a great deal of conversation; that is what I call good company.

—Jane Austen

To argue with a man who has renounced the use and authority of reason, and whose philosophy consists in holding humanity in contempt, is like administering medicine to the dead, or endeavoring to convert an atheist by scripture.

—Thomas Paine

Fill your mind before you empty your mouth.

—Habeeb Akande

Part of being American is respecting all people's right to be whatever they want to be and at the same time respecting your own right to bi**h about it, as long as you're educated and can reason your way through your bi**hing.

—Sara Zarr

There are two types of people: Morning chatterboxes and people who do not want to speak or be spoken to…and they usually marry each other.

—Internet Meme

The internet is not the first promising technology to have quickly turned dystopian. In the early 20th century, radio was greeted with as much enthusiasm as the internet was in the early 21st. Radio will 'fuse together all mankind' wrote Velimir Khlebnikov, a Russian futurist poet in the 1920s. Radio would connect people, end war, promote peace!
Almost immediately, a generation of authoritarians learned how to use radio for hate propaganda and social control. In the Soviet Union, radio speakers in apartments and on street corners blared Communist agitprop. The Nazis introduced the *Volksempfänger*, a cheap wireless transistor set, to broadcast Hitler's speeches; in the 1930s, Germany had more radios per capita than anywhere else in the world.

—Anne Applebaum and
Peter Pomerantsev

I feel very strongly indeed that a Cambridge education for our scientists should include some contact with the humanistic side. The gift of expression is important to them as scientists; the best research is wasted when it is extremely difficult to discover what it is all about ... It is even more important when scientists are called upon to play their part in the world of affairs.

—Sir William Bragg

A writer writes not because he is educated but because he is driven by the need to communicate. Behind the need to communicate is the need to share. Behind the need to share is the need to be understood. The writer wants to be understood much more than he wants to be respected or praised or even loved.

—Leo Rosten

When somebody shy is speaking, if you look at them and nod your head it encourages them to keep talking.

—*theChive*

Let's play the freeze game. I'll say freeze, and you stop talking until I'm ready to listen again.

—Brody, 4-years-old

Speak to people in a way that if they died the next day you'd be satisfied with the last thing you said to them.

—Internet Meme

Geography, climate, population determine communications, economy, political organization.

—Robert D. Kaplan

Your grammar is crucial to your image, brand, and reputation. It reflects upon your level of intelligence, education, experience, upbringing, and native geography. Poor grammar can totally bomb a job interview, make someone delete your email request, cause people to judge you behind your back, or dismiss you as being a poor communicator. It is all preventable!

—Susan C. Young

Some people with autism not only repeat themselves but dominate conversations, sharing great amounts of information about a favorite topic (say, geography or trains) without considering the other person's thoughts, feelings, or interests. This too can be a sign of dysregulation. For a person with a poor grasp of social cues who finds the unpredictability of typical conversation stressful, speaking incessantly on a familiar and beloved topic might provide a sense of control.

—Barry M. Prizant

I like when I don't have to be careful about what I say. That's when you know you're with the right people.

—*www.dailyinspirationalquotes.in*

Bad language is a stage all children go through, and it dies with time when they learn they're not attracting attention with it.

—Harper Lee

One thing I've learned about people is that the easiest way to get them to like you is to shut up and let them do the talking.

—Jesse Andrews

Only 7%…when receiving a spoken message, primarily focused on the speaker's words; 38% focused on the verbal tone; and 55%, by far the largest group, focused on body language.

—Albert Mehrabian

When you wish to instruct, be brief; that men's [children's] minds take in quickly what you say, learn its lesson, and retain it faithfully. Every word that is unnecessary only pours over the side of a brimming mind.

—Cicero

The parameters of acceptable expression are a lot narrower than they used to be. A written thought can be a form of violence. The loudest public voices in a controversy will prevail.

—George Packer

In survey after survey, employers say that the most valuable and hardest to find skills are unrelated to the technical skills of particular jobs. What employers are seeking most, and not finding nearly as often as they'd like, are workers who have what are known as 'noncognitive' or 'soft' skills such as communication, critical thinking, team orientation, diligence, and integrity—in other words the kind of 'human' skills that make people successful at working with other people.

—Brent Orrell

In highly specialized technical fields, soft-skills are critical to the career path. A survey the American Enterprise Institute conducted last year found that nearly half of workers in science, technology, engineering and math fields thought that good writing and communication skills were extremely important and around 70% said the same regarding critical thinking skills. At the same time, less than 40% of these workers said that high level math, analytical or computer skills were extremely important.

—Brent Orrell

HOW TO DISAGREE, YET BE AGREEABLE

The art of public relations includes more than news releases and meetings with community groups. Public relations also means human relations. Although most interactions with parents, teachers, and students are pleasant, sometimes the administrator finds himself or herself disagreeing. To disagree without being disagreeable:

- Accept the other person's feelings. It is of little value to say, 'You shouldn't feel that way.' The person already has those feelings. Your task is not necessarily to agree with those feelings but to recognize and accept them.
- Accept the other person's ideas. By accepting the ideas, you are not necessarily agreeing but letting the person know that you hear what he or she is saying. Repeat what you believe he or she is saying, and indicate that you will look into it or get some other facts or opinions. Most of the time the attackers just want to be heard and are satisfied by having a receptive, captive listener.

—Ronald Green

Clothes are a language we use to tell others about ourselves; fashion is a conversation.

—Amanda Mull

Either all of us are going to die together or we are going to learn to live together, and if we are to live together we have to talk.

—Eleanor Roosevelt

Storytelling is the best way to communicate. We're raised on stories and folklore. I can tell my children, 'You shouldn't do that because of this,' but I have a better chance if I tell a story about the boy who touched fire or tried to put his fork in the electrical socket. If you dramatize the facts, we listen and remember more. And if you weave facts into a personal story, a parable, and make associations, they become like music.

—Matthew McConaughey

I have learned that I should be careful with the words I choose to say when I am angry because later, those words always leave a huge wound of regrets in my heart besides hurting the loved ones. Those wounds can't be healed!

—Nino Varsimashvili

Asking lots of questions makes people like you more. Not random questions—follow along the conversation flow and expand. It shows you are actively listening instead of waiting for your turn to talk—and people love talking about themselves! Try to be genuinely interested (or at least seem it) and they will pick up on your enthusiasm. This works for dates, interviews, dealing with difficult stakeholders at work, neighbors, you name it.

—*theChive*

There are times when you must speak, not because you are going to change the other person, but because if you don't speak, they have changed you.

—Mary Quinn

There is no sound more annoying than the chatter of a child, and none more sad than the silence they leave when they are gone.

—Mark Lawrence

You can sway a thousand men by appealing to their prejudices quicker than you can convince one man by logic.

—Robert A. Heinlein

My wife just stopped and said, 'You weren't even listening were you?'
I thought…'That's a pretty weird way to start a conversation.'

—Internet Meme

I can explain it to you, but I can't comprehend it for you.

—Edward I. Koch

FROM A TEACHER: Yesterday, I shut down class about five minutes early and told my students I wanted them to just sit and talk to one another. Several of them immediately opened their laptops and began navigating to their favorite computer game.

I said, 'No, no laptops. I want you to have face-to-face conversations right now.'

After a collective groan went up, I observed something both wonderful and alarming. For the next few minutes, a couple of tables came alive with conversation. They looked at each other in the eyes and talked with great enthusiasm and interest. It was beautiful to watch and listen to.

However, many students were deflated. They did not know what to do without some sort of entertainment from a device. A couple of them put their heads down and avoided eye contact with anyone. I went around the room to those students and tried to engage with them. Some of them mustered a few words, but most didn't know what to do.

I share this story as a wake up call for parents, grandparents, and guardians. It's tragic to me that a large percentage today's youth do not know how to have real conversation, but it's not their fault. It is our responsibility as adults to lead by example and hold our kids accountable. Unplug every day, talk, and listen to your children. Getting lost in a device does not help them cope with and overcome the things they're going through mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. All it causes is isolation and depression. They need relationships; they need you.

—Helen Haramule

We need to provide opportunities for youngsters and adolescents to engage in challenging kinds of conversation, And we need to help them learn how to do so. Such conversation is all too rare in schools. I use 'conversation' seriously, for challenging conversation is an intellectual affair. It has to do with thinking and responding reflectively, analytically, and imaginatively to that process. The practice of conversation is almost a lost art. We turn to talk shows to experience what we cannot do very well or very often.

—Elliot W. Eisner

The relationships among adults in schools are the basis, the pre-condition, the sine qua non that allow, energize, and sustain all other attempts at school improvement. Unless adults talk with one another, observe one another, and help one another, very little will change.

—Roland S. Barth

There are some people that if they don't know, you can't tell them.

—Louis 'Satchmo' Armstrong

The music that can deepest reach,
And cure all ill, his cordial speech.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

As an editor, I get yelled at by writers. Generally with complete justification. So I nod, I absorb, I mollify, etc.…On one occasion, however, the yelling overwhelmed me. I took a slurp from the goblet of chaos and started yelling back. And like magic, it stopped. The universe of yelling was abruptly quieted. Some kind of elemental equalization had taken place. I felt like the great firefighter Red Adair, who used to extinguish flaming oil wells by literally blowing them out with a blast of high explosives.
And then, post yell, the world is altered…You and the yeller may never forgive each other. But you know each other a little better.

—James Parker

Part of [Henry] James' daily routine was devoted to corresponding with friends and his brother William: He wrote an astounding 10,000 letters in his lifetime.

—Elizabeth Fishel

If one cannot state a matter clearly enough so that even an intelligent twelve-year-old can understand it, one should remain within the cloistered walls of the university and laboratory until one gets a better grasp of one's subject matter.

—Margaret Mead

Winston's Rule: When someone else is speaking: no laptops. No cell phones. Some people ask why no laptops no cell phones is a rules of engagement. The answer is, we humans only have one language processor. And if your language processor is engaged…you're distracted. And worse yet, you're distracting all of the people around you. Studies have shown that.

—Patrick Wilson

He can compress the most words into the smallest idea of any man I know.

—Abraham Lincoln

You have no idea how long something you say can stay in someone's mind.

—Scarlet Leithold

Do you think it's possible for someone to actually be very intelligent but poor at articulating the point they are trying to make so they come across as stupid?

—Internet Meme

If I had more time, I would have written a shorter letter.

—Mark Twain

People don't want to hear your opinion….They want to hear their opinion coming out of your mouth.

—Internet Meme

Nothing else can quite substitute for a few well-chosen, well-timed, sincere words of praise. They are absolutely free—and worth a fortune.

—Sam Walton

It's hard to listen when you're planning something you think needs to be said.

—Unknown

Many people who have the gift of gab don't know how to wrap it up.

—Arnold Glasow

Words have a magical power. They can bring either the greatest happiness or deepest despair; they can transfer knowledge from teacher to student; words enable the orator to sway his audience and dictate its decision. Words are capable of arousing the strongest emotions and prompting all men's actions.

--Sigmund Freud

Well done is better than well said.

—Benjamin Franklin

The best way to save face is to keep the lower half of it shut.

—Tom Penders

Don't tell your problems to people. Eighty percent don't care and the other twenty percent are glad you have them.

—Lou Holtz

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

—Plato

The biggest problem with communication is the illusion that it has taken place.

—George Bernard Shaw

Most conversations are monologues delivered in the presence of a witness.

—Margaret Millar

Friends are those rare people who ask how we are and then wait to hear the answer.

—Ed Cunningham

People love to talk but hate to listen. Listening is not merely not talking, though even that is beyond most of our powers; it means taking a vigorous, human interest in what is being told us. You can listen like a blank wall or like a splendid auditorium where every sound comes back fuller and richer.

--Alice Duer Miller

The right word may be effective, but no word was ever as effective as a rightly timed pause.

—Mark Twain

People demand freedom of speech to make up for the freedom of thought which they avoid.

--Søren Kierkegaard

To be clearly understood one must speak the simple, essential truth as plainly as he is able.

—Roy H. Williams

If you can't explain what you're doing and why you're doing it to any intelligent layman, that really means that you don't understand it yourself.

—Allan Bromley

Whatever is worth saying can be stated in fifty words or less.

—Stan Ulam

If you cannot—in the long run—tell everyone what you have been doing, your doing has been worthless.

—Erwin Schrodinger

For many students, their teacher may be the only adult with whom they have a meaningful conversation all day.

—Vicki Gill

A fanatic is one who can't change his mind and won't change the subject.

—Sir Winston Churchill

A torn jacket is soon mended; but hard words bruise the heart of a child.

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

If you can't explain something simply, you don't understand it well.
Most of the fundamental ideas of science are essentially simple, and may, as a rule, be expressed in a language comprehensible to everyone.
Everything should be as simple as it can be, yet no simpler

—Albert Einstein

We should not be speaking to, but with.

—Noam Chomsky

The worse the news, the more effort must go into delivering it.

—Unknown

Never deliver bad news in writing.

—Unknown

If you fail to satisfy people's craving for communication, the rumor mill will fill the void.

—Unknown

Silence and smile are two powerful tools. Smile is the way to solve many problems and Silence is the way to avoid many problems.

—Iris Johansen

Once a human being has arrived on this earth, communication is the largest single factor determining what kinds of relationships he makes with others and what happens to him in the world about him.

—Virginia Satir

Those who attack always do so with greater fervor than those who defend.

—Eleanor Roosevelt

Each person's life is lived as a series of conversations.

—Deborah Tannen

There is no arena in which vanity displays itself under such a variety of forms as in conversation.

—Madame de Staël

Humans abhor a vacuum. The immediate filling of a vacuum is one of the basic functions of speech. Meaningless conversations are no less important in our lives than meaningful ones.

—Lydia Ginsburg

One has to grow up with good talk in order to form the habit of it.

—Helen Hayes

Too much brilliance has its disadvantages, and misplaced wit may raise a laugh, but often beheads a topic of profound interest.

—Margot Asquith

Lord Beaconsfield in his later years talked little when in society—men of his stamp, although they possessed the gold of conversation, seldom have its small change.

—Dorothy Nevill

Cynicism is more than a pose; it's also a handy time saver. By deflating your companion's enthusiasm, you can cut conversations in half.

—Lisa Birnbach

None but the lonely heart, they say, keeps a diary. None but a lonelier heart, perhaps, reads one. The diary keeper has no one to speak to; the diary reader has no one who speaks to him. The diary writer is at least talking to himself. The diary reader is listening to a man talking to himself.

—Jessamyn West

Eating without conversation is only stoking.

—Marcelene Cox

We use eating as a medium for social relationships: satisfaction of the most individual of needs becomes a means of creating community.

—Margaret Visser

My heart is happy, my mind is free.
I had a father who talked with me.

—Hilda Bigelow

People keep telling us about their love affairs, when what we really want to know is how much money they make and how they manage on it.

—Mignon McLaughlin

Oh, the comfort—the inexpressable comfort of feeling safe with a person—having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words, but pouring them all right out, just as they are, chaff and grain together; certain that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping, and then with the breath of kindness blow the rest away.

—Dinah Maria Mulock Craik (1866)

There are two barriers that often prevent communication between the young and their elders. The first is middle-aged forgetfulness of the fact that they themselves are no longer young. The second is youthful ignorance of the fact that the middle-aged are still alive.

—Jessamyn West

Gossip is a news story with a lot of leeway.

—Liz Smith

If you haven't got anything good to say about anyone, come and sit by me.

—Alice Roosevelt Longworth

Malicious gossip…takes the place of creation in noncreative lives.

—Nancy Hale

Talk uses up ideas….Once I have spoken them aloud, they are lost to me, dissipated into the noisy air like smoke. Only if I bury them, like bulbs, in the rich soil of silence do they grow.

—Doris Grumbach

We are so placid that the smallest tremor of objection to anything at all is taken as a full-scale revolution. Should any soul speak up in favor of the obvious, it is taken as a symptom of the influence of the left, the right, the pink, the black, the dangerous. An idea for its own sake—especially an obvious idea—has no respectability.

—Cynthia Ozick

The passion for setting people right is in itself an afflictive disease.

—Marianne Moore

Accuracy of language is one of the bulwarks of truth.

—Anna Jameson (1855)

I personally think we developed language because of our deep inner need to complain.

--Jane Wagner

Everything is so fast-paced these days. Sending a quick text or email and then moving on to the next thing. It's my hope that in-person, face-to-face, non-digital conversations always remain. There's nothing better than hearing the passion when debating a book, a hopeful heart when encouraging a piece of writing, or a look of interest when you hear different points of view. While the digital world is great for its quickness, the personal world is so much better for the sensors.

—Jennifer Benzinger

I was a science girl. Scientists are trained to be excellent individual contributors… Nobody tells them how to work with other people. We weren't given the tools to interact with humankind.

—Madhushree Ghosh

As anyone with a speech or hearing disability can tell you, listening is not always auditory communication.

—Hannah Merker

Someone to tell it to is one of the fundamental needs of human beings.

—Miles Franklin

It seemed rather incongruous that in a society of supersophisticated communication, we often suffer from a shortage of listeners.

—Erma Bombeck

He began to realize the deep truth that no one, broadly speaking, ever wishes to hear what you have been doing.

— Angela Thirkell

No one really listens to anyone else, and if you try it for a while you'll see why.

—Mignon McLaughlin

Take away the misery and you take away some folks' reason for living. Their conversation piece anyway.

—Toni Cade Bambara

Nagging is the repetition of unpalatable truths.

—Edith Summerskill

School was a worry to her. She was not glib or quick in a world where glibness and quickness were easily confused with ability to learn.

—Tilly Olsen

Silence gives consent.

—Mrs. E. D E. N.
Southworth (1877)

Speech is the mark of humanity. It is the normal terminus of thought.

—Susanne K. Langer

Most of us do not use speech to express thought. We use it to express feelings.

—Jennifer Stone

Many a pair of curious ears had been lured by that well-timed pause.

—Li Ang

There is no agony like bearing an untold story inside you.

—Zora Neale Hurston

Tact is the ability to describe others as they see themselves.

—Mary Pettibone Poole

There was no way for me to understand it at the time, but the talk that filled the kitchen those afternoons was highly functional. It served as therapy, the cheapest kind available to my mother and her friends….But more than therapy, that free-wheeling, wide-ranging, exuberant talk functioned as an outlet for the tremendous creative energy they possessed.

—Paule Marshall

There are very few people who don't become more interesting when they stop talking.

—Mary Lowry

Conversation is the legs on which thought walks; and writing, the wings by which it flies.

—Countess of Blessington (1839)

To rush into explanations and excuses is always a sign of weakness.

—Agatha Christie

During a quarrel, to have said too little may be mended; to have a said too much, not always.

—Minna Thomas Antrim

My husband, who is a lawyer, is very careful with words and with the truth. He thinks that the truth exists, and it's something that is beyond questioning, which I think is totally absurd. I have several versions of how we met and how wonderful he was and all that. At least twenty. And I'm sure that they are all true. He has one. And I'm positive that it's not true.

—Isabel Allende

If American men are obsessed with money, American women are obsessed with weight. The men talk of gain, the women talk of loss, and I do not know which talk is the more boring.

—Marya Mannes

By men's words we know them.

—Marie de France (12th Century)

You may choose your words like a connoisseur,
And polish it up with art,
But the word that sways, and stirs, and stays,
Is the word that comes from the heart.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox (1906)

Words can destroy. What we call each other ultimately becomes what we think of each other, and it matters.

--Jeane Kirkpatrick

A broken bone can heal, but the wound a word opens can fester forever.

—Jessamyn West

If people are highly successful in their professions they lose their senses. Sight goes. They have no time to look at pictures. Sound goes. They have no time to listen to music. Speech goes. They have no time for conversation. They lose their sense of proportion—the relations between one thing and another. Humanity goes.

—Virginia Woolf

A request not to worry…is perhaps the least soothing message capable of human utterance.

—Mignon G. Eberhart

Writers…haven't time to meet one another. But then, a writer learns nothing from a writer, conversationally. If a writer has anything witty, profound or quotable to say he doesn't say it. He's no fool. He writes it.

—Edna Ferber

How difficult it is to communicate with one's fellow beings, even one's own parents! We think we speak a certain language and they interpret it quite differently.

—Jean Dutourd

Most people don't know how to talk. They give such garbled, uninspiring accounts of their experiences that they nearly always mislead their listeners. Helplessly they watch misunderstandings grow before their very eyes.

—Jean Dutourd

People reveal themselves far better in their letters than in their words or gestures.

—Jean Dutourd

Even [with] the most superior women…love is their specialty, their vocation, their art. They discuss love with each other the way painters discuss painting, poets poetry and doctors medicine. They will endlessly chew over some point of passion; they analyze the characters of the men and whom they are interested; they pick them to pieces before their friends, just like an engineer expounding his calculations to a colleague; they seek solutions together, consult each other, in short have a splendid time. They have all the fun of two technicians discussing method. Besides…they are generally pretty discrete. There exists between them a kind of corporate solidarity and, in matters of love, it is it as if they believe themselves to be more or less bound by a kind of professional secrecy.

—Jean Dutourd

Some people maintain that one shouldn't talk when one is eating well, that one should devote oneself wholly and singlemindedly to the oysters or the black pudding. They are guzzlers and fools. To my mind, good conversation adds saver to the feast, gives it extra spice, makes what was merely good delicious. It is a conclusion I always reach at dinners where I am bored. However succulent the dishes being served, I subside into gloom. No lobster is worth an hour's boredom: it is too high a price to pay. In the old days, when I was young and poor and in the need of at least one square meal a week, I would sometimes accept invitations to dinners which I knew beforehand would be deadly. I would sit and eat like an ogre, I would gorge myself for three or four hours, but I could never help feeling ashamed; by those bartering my time in conversation for roast chicken, by thus lending my presence against payment in kind, I was acutely conscious of indulging in a form of prostitution.

—Jean Dutourd

When old people speak it is not because of the sweetness of words in our mouths; it is because we see something which you do not see.

—Chinua Achebe

Finnish people are silent—small talk doesn't exist. Don't speak unless spoken to or don't invade other people's personal space. It's seen as a sign of disrespect.

—*BuzzFeed.com*

Using the word 'but' can completely ruin an apology. Studies show that making it clear you understand what you did wrong, taking full responsibility, offering a plan to fix things, and promising to do better is the most effective way to apologize—however, saying 'I'm sorry I _____, BUT…' can sound so defensive that you ultimately end up blaming the other person and appear insincere.

—Karina Schumann

We are the only animals on Earth proven to cry for any reason other than to protect our eyes (though elephants and primates show promise). We most likely developed the ability of emotional crying so we could communicate with other humans before language existed.

—*https://didyouknowfacts.com*

Gossips are worse than thieves because they steal another person's dignity, honest reputation and credibility… which are challenging to restore. Remember: When your feet slip, you can always recover your balance. But when your tongue slips, you cannot recover your words.

—Karen Salmansohn

Breaking eye contact actually makes you a better conversationalist. Studies show people who are forced to maintain eye contact take longer to recall words than those who are allowed to take a break from the mental stimulation of staring into someone else's eyes. Even though maintaining eye contact is key for building emotional connections, looking away is key for having focused and productive conversations.

— Jeremy Dean

If you swear a lot, you're probably more honest and trustworthy than people who don't. Researchers have found that if you use unfiltered speech in the form of curse words, you're more comfortable expressing your unfiltered thoughts and feelings, too. You're also more likely to have a higher verbal intelligence.

—Jennifer M. Wood

If you want someone to take you seriously, talk to them in person. Research shows it's much easier to convince someone of something when you speak to them directly instead of over text or email.

—Amy Ellis Nutt

Just because I disagree with you, does not mean that I hate you. We need to relearn that in our society.

—Internet Meme

It's okay to have an opinion. It's okay to disagree with someone's opinion. It's not okay to humiliate them because they don't think the same way you do. Show some respect. Society needs more of that.

—Internet Meme

No one should go through life without being armed with the ability to properly communicate….Your success in life will be determined largely by your ability to speak, your ability to write, and the quality of your ideas, in that order.

—Patrick Winston

The best speakers know how to inform, persuade, and direct their listeners. They speak with confidence and conviction. In turn, they motivate their audience to take action. (Just imagine how less successful Apple may have been if Steve Jobs didn't know how to give an effective presentation.)

—Justin Bariso

The written word has special power. It can be done at one's own pace. It can be continually refined and improved. It influences and motivates. And as more and more work gravitates to remote, it becomes even more important to be able to communicate via writing in a concise, easy-to-understand manner.

—Justin Barrios

Robin Lakoff's 1973 paper, 'Language and Women's Place,' discusses the criticism of women's use of tag questions (e.g. The war in Vietnam is terrible, isn't it?). The criticism claims that tag questions suggest the speaker is looking to the listener for confirmation with no opinion of her own. 'One wonders,' Lakoff writes, 'how much of it reflects the use of a language that has been imposed on women from their earliest years.'

—Victoria Vouloumanos

In the field of sociolinguistics, it is widely accepted that women and young women are often the leaders of language change. So if there is something 'new' going on in the language, it's not surprising to find women doing it. However, it seems to be the case that in the process of leading language change, women pay a price in that their speech is overly policed and, in some cases, even pathologized.

—Dr. Meghan Armstrong-Abrami

The havoc unleashed by social media has prompted some serious soul-searching on my part about my attitude toward the *First Amendment*. Like many staunch liberals, I have always been a free-speech absolutist. That is, I would rather defend the right of repugnant ideas to be heard than to accept the slightest censorship. But armies of bots and trolls now flood the internet with disinformation. Campaigns designed by foreign intelligence services stir up hatred and violence. This stuff no longer deserves the protection of the *First Amendment*. This is not free expression; these are weapons of destruction.

—Mick Stern

Do you ever just forget to hide your expressions for a minute and then you're like 'Woah! I did not mean to make that face out loud.'

—Ann Mark

Social skills on the trail: While hiking the trails in our nations parks I frequently encounter oncoming hikers—many with eyes on the trail, many looking straight ahead, and some making eye contact, but most ignoring my 'hello.' More gregarious hikers return my 'hello,'and some engage in short banter. Teenagers…nothing.

—Dan L. Miller

Before you assume,
learn the facts.
Before you judge,
understand why.
Before you hurt
someone, feel.
Before you speak, think.

—Internet Meme

The most important persuasion tool you have in your entire arsenal is integrity.

—Zig Ziglar

Centuries ago Voltaire stated that 'the multiplicity of facts and writings is becoming so great that everything must soon be reduced to extracts.' Considering that we live in an age of information glut, we have apparently arrived. Regardless of Voltaire's prophesy, there exists a number of advantages to using quotations as a staple in the English classroom.

Quotations are short. Considering the fast-paced, media culture in which our students live, adolescents in a hurry accept a quotation ranging from five to six words to three or four sentences. As a change of pace from short stories, poems, and novels, teachers can delve into the genre of the quotation to stimulate thought and focus on the development of communication skills.

—Dan L. Miller

Sometimes the thoughts in my head get so bored they go out for a stroll through my mouth. This is rarely a good thing.

—Scott Westerfield

When teachers present antithesis in quotations, they can stimulate thought and subsequent discussion and debate. Since society, and a classroom full of students, represents decisively diverse views, presenting statements with antithetical points of view may generate remarkable levels of debate and discussion.

—Dan L. Miller

The governor of New York secured an indictment of seditious libel against John Peter Zenger for publishing articles criticizing him. At this time in history (1735) and based on English common law, truth was not a defense for libel. But after a compelling defense by Andrew Hamilton, a jury acquitted Zenger. Many consider this case to establish a principle that is now embedded in U.S. law that truthful information cannot be libelous.

—John R. Vile

'I'm just being honest' is a poor excuse for being rude. Candor is being forthcoming in what you say. Respect is being considerate in how you say it. Being direct with the content of your feedback doesn't prevent you from being thoughtful about the best way to deliver it.

—Adam Grant

The art of conversation lies in listening.

—Malcolm Forbes

Listening well and answering well is one of the greatest perfections that can be obtained in conversation.

—François de La Rochefoucauld

The most basic and powerful way to connect to another person is to listen. Just listen.

—Rachel Naomi Remen

If you're a kid who has an identity that's not very represented in your offline world —say, you're the only Goth kid, you're the only violin player, you're the only gay kid —then your social network is probably critically important to your mental health. There are kids out there for whom social media has probably saved their lives.

—Megan Moreno, M.D.

There are dangers in cursive's loss.…During my years as *Harvard* president, I regarded the handwritten note as a kind of superpower. I wrote hundreds of them and kept a pile of notecards in the upper-left-hand drawer of my desk. They provided a way to reach out and say: I am noticing you. This message of thanks or congratulations or sympathy comes not from some staff person or some machine but directly from me. I touched it and hope it touches you. Now I wonder how many recipients of these messages could not read them.

—Drew Gilpin Faust

When we find out we might be wrong, a standard defense is 'I'm entitled to my opinion.' I'd like to modify that: yes, we're entitled to hold opinions inside our own heads. If we choose to express them out loud, though, I think it's our responsibility to ground them in logic and facts, share our reasoning with others, and change our minds when better evidence emerges.

—Adam M. Grant

When someone becomes hostile, if you respond by viewing the argument as a war, you can either attack or retreat. If instead you treat it as a dance, you have another option—you can sidestep. Having a conversation about the conversation shifts attention away from the substance of the disagreement and toward the process for having a dialogue. The more anger and hostility the other person expresses, the more curiosity and interest you show. When someone is losing control, your tranquility is a sign of strength. It takes the wind out of their emotional sails.

—Adam M. Grant

Even today, speaking while female remains notoriously difficult. Across cultures, there's a rich body of evidence showing that people continue to hold strong gender-role stereotypes, expecting men to be assertive and women to be communal.

—Adam M. Grant (2013)

In a heated argument, you can always stop and ask, 'What evidence would change your mind?' If the answer is 'nothing,' then there's no point in continuing the debate. You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it think.

—Adam M. Grant

The greatest tragedy of mankind comes from the inability of people to have thoughtful disagreement to find out what's true.

—Adam M. Grant

When I argue with someone, it's not a display of disrespect—it's a sign of respect. It means I value their views enough to contest them. If their opinions didn't matter to me, I wouldn't bother.

—Adam M. Grant

Having a husband is great because I always have someone to gossip to and he won't tell a soul because he wasn't actually listening in the first place.

—Phoebe Green

Yes, you do have an accent. If you think you don't because you 'read words exactly as they're written, without any kind of regional flair,' you're mistaken about that. There's no such thing. Speaking without an accent would be like typing without a font. An accent is just a method of pronouncing your language—everyone has one!

—*BuzzFeed.com*
Contributor

Your words start to lose value, when your actions don't match.

—Internet Meme

When ideas survive it's not because they're true—it's because they are interesting. What makes an idea interesting is that it changes our weakly held opinions.

—Adam Grant

The way we speak to our children matters, for those words travel beyond their ears, settling into the creases of their hearts and the crevices of their self-worth.

—Angela Pruess

Always tell someone how you feel, because opportunities are lost in the blink of an eye but regret can last a lifetime.

—Internet Meme

'Tell me what you think I said.' So many fights, accusations, and cheating happened because he heard something other than what I said. Hearing is NOT the same as listening.

—*Buzzfeed.com*
Contributor

The decline of cursive: writing is a technology, I must add that it's an art form too, a thing of beauty regardless of skill level or perfection of form. It's a wondrous visual reminder of individuality and adds an element of artistry and humanness to everyday life.
Recently, I was scribing gift notes at a retailer in New York City and a teenage boy watched over my shoulder curiously as I used an oblique dip pen and inkwell. I was shocked when he asked what language I was writing in: I realized that to kids who haven't learned script, I may as well have been writing in cuneiform.

—Rita Polidori O'Brien

Honestly, it's not the way I look that reveals my age, it's my use of complete sentences when I text.

—Internet Meme

When a woman says 'What?', it's not because she didn't hear you. She's giving you a chance to change what you said.

—Internet Meme

Career studies have shown that humanities majors, with their communication and analytical skills, often end up in leadership jobs. To that extent, the value of the educated human touch is likely to hold in a storm of technological and cultural change.

—Nathan Heller

We Indians know about silence. We are not afraid of it. In fact, for us, silence is more powerful than words. Our elders were trained in the ways of silence, and they handed over this knowledge to us. Observe, listen, and then act, they would tell us. That was the manner of living. With you, it is just the opposite. You learn by talking. You reward the children that talk the most at school. In your parties, you all try to talk at the same time. In your work, you are always having meetings in which everybody interrupts everybody and all talk five, ten or a hundred times. And you call that 'solving a problem'. When you are in a room and there is silence, you get nervous. You must fill the space with sounds. So you talk compulsorily, even before you know what you are going to say. White people love to discuss. They don't even allow the other person to finish a sentence. They always interrupt. For us Indians, this looks like bad manners or even stupidity. If you start talking, I'm not going to interrupt you. I will listen. Maybe I'Il stop listening if I don't like what you are saying, but I won't interrupt you. When you finish speaking, I'Il make up my mind about what you said, but I will not tell you I don't agree unless it is important. Otherwise, I'll just keep quiet and I'll go away. You have told me all I need to know. There is no more to be said. But this is not enough for the majority of white people. People should regard their words as seeds. They should sow them, and then allow them to grow in silence. Our elders taught us that the earth is always talking to us, but we should keep silent in order to hear her. There are many voices besides ours. Many voices..

—Ella Deloria

Talking about our problems is our greatest addiction. Break the habit. Talk about your joys.

—Rita Schiano

For centuries, higher education has fought against censorship and for the principle that the best way to combat speech is with more speech. To combat bad ideas is with better ideas.

—Neeli Bendapudi, *Penn State University* President

The use of cell phones with their accompanying emojis and acronyms has shortened many people's written communication style. In the same line, as more people communicate over screens, extra letters may be added to certain words to add emphasis: 'Mom, it's fiiiine.'

—Bronwyn Petry

Don't waste your time with explanations: people only hear what they want to hear.

—Paulo Coelho

You can't use reason to convince anyone out of an argument that they didn't use reason to get into.

—Neil deGrasse Tyson

There is no need to pay attention to gossip, much less get ill by giving in to those who perhaps have never known what truth is.

—Pier Giorgio Frassati

Speak in such a way that others love to listen to you. Listen in such a way that others love to speak to you.

—*MomentofCalm.org*

What…is absolutely essential is people speaking up, people speaking out, whether it's the host of a dinner party or the person who has 38 million followers on TikTok. We have to make the antisemite into the social pariah. It's not to be rationalized. It's incumbent on everyone to speak out, to make it clear that it's unacceptable. There's no standing silent. When you hear or encounter any form of oppression, any form of discrimination, if you stay silent, then you've cited with the oppressor.

—Deborah Lipstadt

Older people are more likely to choose to disengage from minor problems, understanding and It's really not worth it to get upset about the small stuff. If an older adult is talking politics with someone they don't necessarily agree with, for example, they are much better than younger people at changing the topic.

—Oliver Broudy

We're in such a hurry most of the time we never get much chance to talk. The result is a kind of endless day-to-day shallowness, a monotony that leaves a person wondering years later where all the time went and sorry that it's all gone.

—Robert M. Pirsig

When people don't express themselves, they die one piece at a time.

—Laurie Halse Anderson

Successfully getting your message across can..boost your confidence, but it's hard to do that when you're rambling or talking too quietly. Instead, 'slow it down, lower the pitch of your voice and turn up the volume' to be taken more seriously. To speak quickly and too softly at a high pitch sends a message of low confidence. It may communicate that you just want to get a conversation over with and that your message is not worth hearing.

—Bonnie Low-Kramen

Animation can explain whatever the mind of a man can conceive. This facility makes it the most versatile and explicit means of communication yet devised for quick mass appreciation.

—Walt Disney

Human society differs from animal societies in one crucial way. In the non-human world each animal responds to the various life situations in which it may be placed in a fixed manner determined by heredity.…But humans alone are capable of symbolic communication. Hence, only men can transcend present situations and establish cumulative bodies of knowledge as well as codes of conduct. Moreover, they can transmit them from generation to generation. Human societies alone possess culture.

—Lewis A. Coser

When someone spews something really hurtful, don't pick it up and hold it and rub it into your heart and snuggle with it and carry it around for a long time. Don't even put energy into kicking it to the curb. You gotta see it and step OVER it or go AROUND it and keep on going.

—Brené Brown

The folks who know the truth aren't talking…The ones who don't have a clue, you can't shut them up!

—Tom Waits

Turn 'I'm sorry' communications into 'thank you' communications.
Instead of saying 'Sorry I'm late,' say, 'Thank you for waiting.'
Instead of saying, 'Sorry for rambling…' say, 'Thanks for listening.'
It's minor, but it'll put you and whoever you're speaking to in a better, positive mindset.

—*Reddit.com* Contributor

When young people say to me 'what can I study to be a force for change, should I study law or biology or business?' My answer is music, drama, journalism, communications.

—Paul Watson

Very few people can communicate with one another. The only language that's not subject to interpretation is mathematics, chemistry, basic science, engineering principles, and applied agriculture. But other than that, many systems today are subject to interpretation.

—Jacque Fresco

Presuming that a nonspeaking child has nothing to say is like presuming that an adult without a car has nowhere to go.

—Ellen Notbohm

Writing is a way of talking without being interrupted.

--Jules Renard

Gerald Ford once said that if he went back to college again he would…'concentrate on two areas: learning to write and to speak before an audience. Nothing in life is more important than the ability to communicate effectively.'

—Christopher Stollar

I'm at the age where I won't make eye contact with someone because they look like a 'talker'.

—*theChive*

Do you know how they teach you early on that 'Sticks and stones may break your bones, but words will never hurt you?' Well, that's a lie.

—Richard Simmons

I can't be held responsible for what my face does when you talk.

—Internet Meme

Don't Let Someone's Words Blind You from Their Behavior.

—Steve Maraboli

Since the liar is free to fashion his 'facts' to fit the profit and pleasure, or even the mere expectations, of his audience, the chances are that he will be more persuasive than the truth-teller.

—Hannah Arendt

Why do you always fall asleep when I'm talking to you?
I'm not sleeping, I'm praying.
What are you praying for?
That you'll stop talking and let me sleep.

—Internet Meme

Gossip dies when it hits the ears of a wise man.

—Amit Kalantri

Rain. I haven't explained rain. The meteorologically inclined among you might be wondering about the planet's weather patterns and water cycle. If you're one of those to whom these things are extremely important, you have my sympathies. It's never too late to develop a personality. Maybe go to a party. But try to avoid topics like weather patterns and water cycles. Unless of course you can do it like me.

--Brandon Sanderson

It was our first time really talking to one another. We talked about the weather. Now, I don't like surface conversations about the weather. It seems to just be a way to have a polite conversation because there isn't really much else to say. Sometimes it's a way to buffer an awkward situation, or light enough of a topic to carry in passing and quickly abandon without anything left hanging. But this particular weather discussion was far from that. It was so eloquent. We talked about how the weather can inspire certain longings. It was laced with romantic intonations. You could sense the magnitude of how powerful this energy transfer between us in the climate we were existing in, already was and could be.

--Kayko Tamaki

Change of weather is the discourse of fools.

—Thomas Fuller

Talk with people who make you see the world differently.

—Internet Meme

Men and women range themselves into three classes or orders of intelligence; you can tell the lowest class by their habit of always talking about persons; the next by the fact that their habit is always to converse about things; the highest by their preference for the discussion of ideas.

—Henry Thomas Buckle

An incorrect phrasing or an offhand comment can move markets or make the phone lines at the state department blow up. This is really the first thing you learn when you come to the White House. Anything out of the president's mouth or even a tweet from a White House account has tremendous power.

—Dan Pfeiffer

The bully pulpit is one of the more unique tools that is available to a president that other branches of government or government officials can't utilize in the same way. Because it is a powerful tool, presidents have to wield it carefully and with great thought and intention.

—Lindsey Chervinsky

No amount of evidence will ever persuade an idiot.

—Unknown

Complaining about a problem without proposing a solution is called whining.

—Theodore Roosevelt

I go to therapy just so someone will talk to me without looking at their phone.

—Patrick Walsh

The feeling of seeing a person's handwriting who is thinking and cares about you cannot be replaced by an email or text. When anyone receives one of the few still written, it generates a warm, exciting feeling.

— M. A. McRae

Never underestimate the power of stupid people in large groups.

—George Carlin

The Founding Fathers, who introduced freedom of speech, hadn't the remotest idea of what would be said today.

—William O. Douglas

Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.

--Unknown

If it's a penny for your thoughts and you put in your two cents worth, then someone, somewhere is making a penny.

—Steven Wright

The most un-American thing you can say is, 'You can't say that.'

—Garrison Keillor

The first guy who heard a parrot talk was probably not OK for several days.

—Internet Meme

I've come to learn that the best time to debate family members is when they have food in their mouths.

—Kenneth Cole

I have always been among those who believed that the greatest freedom of speech was the greatest safety, because if a man is a fool, the best thing to do is to encourage him to advertise the fact by speaking.

—Woodrow Wilson

Distance is my new answer to disrespect. I no longer react. I no longer argue. I no longer dive into drama. I simply remove my presence.

—Internet Meme

I don't curse. I speak fluent trucker with a sailor dialect and a construction accent.

—Internet Meme

Arguing with a fool proves there are two.

—Doris M. Smith

The discomfort highly intelligent people feel around small talk gets misread as arrogance more often than not. It's actually closer to understimulation. Research published in Psychological Science found that people with higher levels of well-being and social-cognitive functioning had significantly fewer shallow exchanges and more substantive ones—and were measurably less satisfied when conversations stayed surface-level. Small talk runs on scripts: weather, weekend plans, blanket complaints about being busy. For a brain wired toward complexity, those scripts get processed almost immediately, leaving nothing to engage with. It's not that these people have no interest in others. Often the opposite is true. They just need the conversation to go somewhere substantial.

—Ashley Fike

Writing is thinking. To do a job well, you need to be able to communicate clearlv in writing, make an argument, back it up—and it needs to sound like you. This is one of the foolish things about using Al to write emails and memos. Being charming in these spaces really makes a difference. As things get increasingly automated and robotic, good human writing will be even more important.

—Amanda Litman

What is 'Register'?
Register is the way a speaker adjusts their language based on context, audience, and purpose. You do not speak to a judge the way you speak to a friend. The words, grammar, and tone all shift automatically. This is register. Five registers are commonly identified: frozen (legal), formal (academic), consultative (professional), casual (friends), intimate (family).

—*Semicolon Society*
Social Media Post

I find fan mail really depressing. I mean the grammatical errors, the spelling errors I see, and I am not being a stickler about this.

—Bebe Neuwirth, Actor

The way in which we say something is often more important than what we say.

—Sydney J. Harris

They talk behind my back because that's where they belong.

—Andrea Russo

I don't get why people are scared of grown-up conversations. You don't like me? Just say it. You don't wanna talk? Let me know. You're upset with me? Tell me how you feel. If I'm wrong, we can discuss it. If we disagree, share your side. It's really not that hard.

—Scott Ziems

The real flex is refusing to let a harsh world make you harsh too.

—Cory Allen

PSYCHOLOGY TRICK—THE CONFUSION TECHNIQUE

- ➢ Let them speak first. If someone insults you, look at them and ask: 'Are you okay?' It turns them from an attacker into a victim.
- ➢ If someone is yelling, whisper your reply. They will stop yelling to hear you.
- ➢ If someone is staring at you, look at their shoes. It makes them self- conscious instantly.
- ➢ If you want someone to stop talking, drop something (keys, pen). It breaks their flow and you can take control.

—*PsychologyTricks*
Social Media Post

The conversations you avoid today become the problems you are forced to deal with tomorrow.

—Paul Alex

No meetings or phone calls unless I'm picking up a check. Everything is email. Love it. Live on it. Saves me hours and hours every day. No meetings. No phone calls. All because of email. I set my schedule.

—Mark Cuban

The most dangerous form of blindness, is believing that your perspective is the only reality.

—Friedrich Nietzsche

You don't have to make everyone happy. Practice responding honestly (and simply) instead of automatically agreeing. Permit yourself to have your own preferences. Authenticity starts to happen once you understand it's okay for a relationship to hear 'No.'

—Bonnie Lambert

Your body tells the truth your mouth won't. Crossed arms say 'I'm not open to this.!' A tight jaw says 'I'm holding something back.' Shallow breathing says 'I don't feel safe here.' If you want to know how someone actually feels, stop listening to their words and start watching their body.

—Scott D. Clary

Letters are among the many things whose passing from our lives we will regret… [Old] letters have a humbling effect on memory. They reveal those closest to us without our distorting presence. They let other people come back to life and have their say.

—George Packer

I sent my 12-year-old granddaughter a postcard while on vacation. When I got home, she said, 'Nanni! I can't read your writing. We don't learn cursive in school anymore!'

—*BuzzFeed* Contributor



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