

Say Hello to
your very own book of
Quotes



QuotationsBook

Quotes about Conversation

from QuotationsBook.com

Debate is masculine, conversation is feminine.

- Alcott, Amos Bronson

It is all right to hold a conversation but you should let go of it now and then.

- Armour, Richard

A good conversationalist is not one who remembers what was said, but says what someone wants to remember.

- Brown, John Mason

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.

- Bruyere, Jean De La

The true spirit of conversation consists in building on another man's observation, not overturning it.

- Bulwer-Lytton, Edward G.

Never hold anyone by the button or the hand in order to be heard out; for if people are

unwilling to hear you, you had better hold your tongue than them.

- Chesterfield, Lord

There is nothing so dangerous for anyone who has something to hide as conversation! A human being, Hastings, cannot resist the opportunity to reveal himself and express his personality which conversation gives him. Every time he will give himself away.

- Christie, Agatha

A sudden silence in the middle of a conversation suddenly brings us back to essentials: it reveals how dearly we must pay for the invention of speech.

- Cioran, E. M.

Talk ought always to run obliquely, not nose to nose with no chance of mental escape.

- Colby, Frank Moore

Repartee is perfect when it effects its purpose with a double edge. It is the highest order of wit, as it indicates the coolest yet quickest exercise of genius, at a moment when the passions are roused.

- Colton, Charles Caleb

Reply to wit with gravity, and to gravity with wit.

- Colton, Charles Caleb

I find we are growing serious, and then we are in great danger of being dull.

- Congreve, William

I would rather take hellebore than spend a conversation with a good, little man.

- Dahlberg, Edward

Mediocre people have an answer for everything and are astonished at nothing. They always want to have the air of knowing better than you what you are going to tell them; when, in their turn, they begin to speak, they repeat to you with the greatest confidence, as if dealing with their own property, the things that they have heard you say yourself at some other place. A capable and superior look is the natural accompaniment of this type of character.

- Delacroix, Eugene

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.

- Elton, Ben

Things said for conversation are chalk eggs. Don't say things. What you are stands over you the while, and thunders so that I cannot hear what you say to the contrary.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

In conversation the game is, to say something new with old words. And you shall observe a man of the people picking his way along, step by step, using every time an old boulder,

yet never setting his foot on an old place.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

Conversation is an art in which a man has all mankind for competitors.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

The great secret of succeeding in conversation is to admire little, to hear much; always to distrust our own reason, and sometimes that of our friends; never to pretend to wit, but to make that of others appear as much as possibly we can; to hearken to what is said and to answer to the purpose.

- Franklin, Benjamin

You guys are both saying the same thing. The only reason you're arguing is because you're using different words. Conversation in a dorm room quoted in Language in Thought and Action,

- Hayakawa, S. I.

In conversation, humor is worth more than wit and easiness more than knowledge.

- Herbert, George

Saying what we think gives a wider range of conversation than saying what we know.

- Hightower, Cullen

And when you stick on conversation's burrs, don't strew your pathway with those dreadful
urs.

- Holmes, Oliver Wendell

Nothing lowers the level on conversation more than raising the voice.

- Horowitz, Stanley

If you ever have to support a flagging conversation, introduce the topic of eating.

- Hunt, Leigh

There is nothing that exasperates people more than a display of superior ability or
brilliance in conversation. They seem pleased at the time, but their envy makes them
curse the conversationalist in their heart.

- Johnson

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

- Johnson, Samuel

I never desire to converse with a man who has written more than he has read.

- Johnson, Samuel

No one is qualified to converse in public except those contented to do without such

conversation.

- Kempis, Thomas

We often forgive those who bore us, but we cannot forgive those whom we bore.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Conceit causes more conversation than wit.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

The opposite of talking isn't listening. The opposite of talking is waiting.

- Lebowitz, Fran

No one will ever shine in conversation, who thinks of saying fine things: to please, one must say many things indifferent, and many very bad.

- Lockier, Francis

Conversation. What is it? A Mystery! It's the art of never seeming bored, of touching everything with interest, of pleasing with trifles, of being fascinating with nothing at all.

How do we define this lively darting about with words, of hitting them back and forth, this sort of brief smile of ideas which should be conversation?

- Maupassant, Guy de

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

know.

- Maurois, Andre

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

- Miller, Henry

With thee conversing I forget all time.

- Milton, John

In my opinion, the most fruitful and natural play of the mind is in conversation. I find it sweeter than any other action in life; and if I were forced to choose, I think I would rather lose my sight than my hearing and voice. The study of books is a drowsy and feeble exercise which does not warm you up.

- Montaigne, Michel Eyquem De

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

- Montaigne, Michel Eyquem De

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

- Nevill, Dorothy

Ideal conversation must be an exchange of thought, and not, as many of those who worry most about their shortcomings believe, an eloquent exhibition of wit or oratory.

- Post, Emily

It is not what we learn in conversation that enriches us. It is the elation that comes of swift contact with tingling currents of thought.

- Replier, Agnes

Can we talk?

- Rivers, Joan

It's apparent that we can't proceed any further without a name for this institutionalized garrulousness, this psychological patter, this need to catalogue the ego's condition. Let's call it psychobabble, this spirit which now tyrannizes conversation in the seventies.

- Rosen, Richard D.

Say nothing good of yourself, you will be distrusted; say nothing bad of yourself, you will be taken at your word.

- Roux, Joseph

Not only to say the right thing in the right place, but far more difficult, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

- Sala, George

The primary use of conversation is to satisfy the impulse to talk.

- Santayana, George

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

- Seneca

Conversation should be pleasant without scurrility, witty without affection, free without indecency, learned without conceitedness, novel without falsehood.

- Shakespeare, William

She has lost the art of conversation, but not, unfortunately, the power of speech.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Never talk for half a minute without pausing and giving others a chance to join in.

- Smith, Sydney

The techniques of opening conversation are universal. I knew long ago and rediscovered that the best way to attract attention, help, and conversation is to be lost. A man who seeing his mother starving to death on a path kicks her in the stomach to clear the way, will cheerfully devote several hours of his time giving wrong directions to a total stranger who claims to be lost.

- Steinbeck, John

One of the very best rules of conversation is to never, say anything which any of the company wish had been left unsaid.

- Swift, Jonathan

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

- Temple, Sir William

An American cannot converse, but he can discuss, and his talk falls into a dissertation. He speaks to you as if he was addressing a meeting; and if he should chance to become warm in the discussion, he will say Gentlemen to the person with whom he is conversing.

- Tocqueville, Alexis De

A good memory and a tongue tied in the middle is a combination which gives immortality to conversation.

- Twain, Mark

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

- Unknown, Source

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

monologues, that is all.

- West, Rebecca

If other people are going to talk, conversation becomes impossible.

- Whistler, James Mcneill

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.

- Wilde, Oscar

Conversation should touch everything, but should concentrate itself on nothing.

- Wilde, Oscar

Talking to Laren is like smoking weed: you feel good for a while, but then you feel retarded because you realize you lost brain cells in the process.

- van, Zanten, Quinn



QuotationsBook