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Quotes about Speech

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It's a damn shame we have this immediate ticking off in the mind about how people sound. On the other hand, how many people really want to be operated upon by a surgeon who talks broad cockney?

- Aitkins, Eileen

Wherever the relevance of speech is at stake, matters become political by definition, for speech is what makes man a political being.

- Arendt, Hannah

Speech of yourself ought to be seldom and well chosen.

- Bacon, Francis

Language is legislation, speech is its code. We do not see the power which is in speech because we forget that all speech is a classification, and that all classifications are oppressive.

- Barthes, Roland

It's better to keep your mouth shut and give the impression that you're stupid than to open it and remove all doubt.

- Belson, Rami

The stroke of the whip maketh marks in the flesh: but the stroke of the tongue breaketh the bones. Many have fallen by the edge of the sword: but not so many as have fallen by the tongue. [Ecclesiasticus 28:17 --18]

- Bible

Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man. [Colossians 4:6]

- Bible

Better pointed bullets than pointed speeches.

- Bismarck, Otto Von

The basic rule of human nature is that powerful people speak slowly and subservient people quickly --because if they don't speak fast nobody will listen to them.

- Caine, Michael

From my earliest days I have enjoyed an attractive impediment in my speech. I have never permitted the use of the word stammer. I can't say it myself.

- Campbell, Patrick

Speech is human, silence is divine, yet also brutish and dead: therefore we must learn both arts.

- Carlyle, Thomas

Speech is the gift of all, but the thought of few.

- Cato The Elder

Speech and silence. We feel safer with a madman who talks than with one who cannot open his mouth.

- Cioran, E. M.

They that are loudest in their threats are the weakest in the execution of them. It is probable that he who is killed by lightning hears no noise; but the thunder-clap which follows, and which most alarms the ignorant, is the surest proof of their safety.

- Colton, Charles Caleb

The only happy talkers are dandies who extract pleasure from the very perishability of their material and who would not be able to tolerate the isolation of all other forms of composition; for most good talkers, when they have run down, are miserable; they know that they have betrayed themselves, that they have taken material which should have a life of its own, to dispense it in noises upon the air.

- Connolly, Cyril

Talk is over-rated as a means of settling disputes.

- Cruise, Tom

Let thy speech be better than silence, or be silent.

- Dionysius of Halicarnassus

What this country needs is more free speech worth listening to.

- Duckett, Hansell B.

Speech is power: speech is to persuade, to convert, to compel. It is to bring another out of his bad sense into your good sense.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

Listening to someone talk isn't at all like listening to their words played over on a machine. What you hear when you have a face before you is never what you hear when you have before you a winding tape.

- Fallaci, Oriana

For mankind, speech with a capital S is especially meaningful and committing, more than the content communicated. The outcry of the newborn and the sound of the bells are fraught with mystery more than the baby's woeful face or the venerable tower.

- Goodman, Paul

Everything becomes a little different as soon as it is spoken out loud.

- Hesse, Hermann

Speak clearly, if you speak at all; carve every word before you let it fall.

- Holmes, Oliver Wendell

Sweet Benjamin, since thou art young, and hast not yet the use of tongue, make it thy slave, while thou art free; Imprison it, lest it do thee.

- Hoskins, John

Why doesn't the fellow who says, I'm no speechmaker let it go at that instead of giving a demonstration?

- Hubbard, Kin

Speeches that are measured by the hour will die with the hour.

- Jefferson, Thomas

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

- Lawrence, D. H.

Speech is civilization itself. The word... preserves contact -- it is silence which isolates.

- Mann, Thomas

What has influenced my life more than any other single thing has been my stammer. Had

I not stammered I would probably... have gone to Cambridge as my brothers did, perhaps have become a don and every now and then published a dreary book about French literature.

- Maugham, W. Somerset

Let us speak, though we show all our faults and weaknesses, --for it is a sign of strength to be weak, to know it, and out with it -- not in a set way and ostentatiously, though, but incidentally and without premeditation.

- Melville, Herman

Speech is the small change of silence.

- Meredith, George

Speeches are not magic and there is no great speech without great policy.

- Noonan, Peggy

Man does not speak because he thinks; he thinks because he speaks. Or rather, speaking is no different than thinking: to speak is to think.

- Paz, Octavio

When you have spoken the word, it reigns over you. When it is unspoken you reign over it.

- Proverb, Arabian

People resent articulacy, as if articulacy were a form of vice.

- Raphael, Frederic

Speech is external thought, and thought internal speech.

- Rivarol, Antoine

The world does not speak. Only we do. The world can, once we have programmed ourselves with a language, cause us to hold beliefs. But it cannot propose a language for us to speak. Only other human beings can do that.

- Rorty, Richard

Speech is always bolder than action.

- Schiller, Johann Friedrich Von

I don't want to talk grammar. I want to talk like a lady.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Bigotry and intolerance, silenced by argument, endeavors to silence by persecution, in old days by fire and sword, in modern days by the tongue.

- Simmons, Charles

Speech is the mirror of action.

- Solon

We have as many planes of speech as does a painting planes of perspective which create perspective in a phrase. The most important word stands out most vividly defined in the very foreground of the sound plane. Less important words create a series of deeper planes.

- Stanislavsky, Konstantin

All speech, written or spoken, is a dead language, until it finds a willing and prepared hearer.

- Stevenson, Robert Louis

Speech is the mirror of the soul; as a man speaks, so he is.

- Syrus, Publilius

Speech has been given to man to disguise his thoughts.

- Talleyrand, Charles Maurice De

Speech is for the convenience of those who are hard of hearing; but there are many fine things which we cannot say if we have to shout.

- Thoreau, Henry David

It usually takes more than three weeks to prepare a good impromptu speech.

- Twain, Mark

The mind is a wonderful thing. It starts working the minute you're born and never stops working until you get up to speak in public.

- Ball, Patricia Ann

I've decided to discontinue my long talks. It's because of my throat. Someone threatened to cut it.

- Unknown, Source

Speech is an arrangement of notes that will never be played again.

- Unknown, Source

Never try to impress people with the profundity of your thought by the obscurity of your language. Whatever has been thoroughly thought through can be stated simply.

- Unknown, Source

A long tongue shortens life.

- Unknown, Source

A talk is like a woman's dress. Long enough to cover the subject, but short enough to be interesting.

- Unknown, Source

I have often regretted my speech, never my silence.

- Unknown, Source

If you don't want to read it, see it or hear it, don't say it.

- Unknown, Source

A witty saying proves nothing.

- Voltaire

Speech is human nature itself, with none of the artificiality of written language.

- Whitehead, Alfred North

Speech is the twin of my vision, it is unequal to measure itself, it provokes me forever, it says sarcastically, Walt you contain enough, why don't you let it out then?

- Whitman, Walt

Many great writers have been extraordinarily awkward in daily exchange, but the greatest give the impression that their style was nursed by the closest attention to colloquial speech.

- Wilder, Thornton

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.

- Wilson, Woodrow T.

There are remarks that sow and remarks that reap.

- Wittgenstein, Ludwig

Speech is conveniently located midway between thought and action, where it often substitutes for both.

- Holmes, John Andrew

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