

Webster's
NewWorld

DICTIONARY^{OF}
QUOTABLE
DEFINITIONS

THOUSANDS OF THE MOST
MEMORABLE DEFINITIONS
EVERY SCHOOL GRAD
ALPHABETICALLY

EUGENE E. BRUSSELL

Webster's New World Dictionary of Quotable Definitions Second Edition

Edited by
Eugene E. Brussell

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Introduction to This New Edition

When the *Dictionary* first emerged in 1970, I was convinced then that it was a unique work of descriptive definitions in that aphorisms and metaphors replaced straight dictionary meanings. Time has not erased this belief. It was then and remains now in this completely revised and updated edition neither a conventional dictionary nor a mere book of quotations.

This new edition, like the previous one, is primarily for the speaker, writer, businessperson, clergyman, author, lecturer, teacher, student. In short, it is a work suited for anyone attempting to address others effectively, imaginatively but without flat verbiage. I have added, however, almost five thousand new entries as well as many new subject areas.

Many of the definitions will not be located in standard books of quotations. A large number of entries are of a humorous nature. This coincides with the goal of resurrecting whenever possible the pungent line at the expense of the dull or obvious. The selection of each entry was carefully weighed in regard to the practical aspects of communication as well as to the witty or even outrageous connotation.

The *Webster's New World Dictionary of Quotable Definitions* is very easy to use. It is framed in a true dictionary form but also employs two systems of cross-referencing to aid the reader—topically within the subject entry and in an authors' index. Subjects are arranged alphabetically and within each subject entry alphabetically by the author's last name. Anonymous entries are placed under the last known author entry. Translations are tailored for modern usage.

The *Dictionary* will help you in the search for the right comment. You will also enjoy browsing through it in your leisure and professional moments for wisdom and entertainment. That has always been the goal in what has turned out to be a true labor of love.

Eugene E. Brussell

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Dictionary of Quotable Definitions

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To David, my father loyal

A

ABILITY

(Consists) mainly in a high degree of solemnity.

Ambrose Bierce

(That which distinguishes) able men from dead ones.

Ambrose Bierce

The heart to conceive, the understanding to direct, or the hand to execute.

Junius

Trying all things; achieving what you can.

Adapted from Herman Melville

The art of getting credit for all the home runs that somebody else hits.

Casey Stengel

The explanation of your success.

Harry Thompson

SEE ALSO GENIUS, INSTINCT, SKILL, TALENT, WORK.

ABNORMAL

Not conforming to standard. In matters of thought and conduct, to be independent is to be abnormal.

Ambrose Bierce

To have intelligence, character or genius; to be less stupid than one's neighbor; to be better than the worst; to be one's self.

Elbert Hubbard

SEE ALSO ECCENTRICITY, GENIUS, MADNESS.

ABOMINATION

A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood. A heart that devises wicked imaginations, feet that are swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaks lies, and he that sows discord among brethren.

Bible: Proverbs, VI, 16-19.

ABORTION

Nothing but murder.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Any operation which directly destroys either the unborn child or the mother.

Decree of the Tribunal of the Holy Office, May 28, 1884

A smutty thing under any circumstances, legal or illegal.

Rustan Feroze

Infanticide.

Flavius Josephus

The direct murder of the innocent.

Pope Pius XI

A capital crime.

Talmud: Sanhedrin, 57b,c.

A precipitation of murder. He also is a man who is about to be one.

Tertullian

SEE ALSO BIRTH CONTROL, POPULATION EXPLOSION.

ABSENCE

A woman's great strength. *Emile C. Alain*

(To be) superseded in the consideration and affection of another. *Ambrose Bierce*

Absence is to love what wind is to fire; it extinguishes the small, it enkindles the great.
Comte de Bussy-Rabutin

The pain without the peace of death.
Thomas Campbell

The common cure of love.
Miguel de Cervantes

(That which) sharpens love. *Thomas Fuller*

The enemy of love. *Italian Proverb*

Absence and death are the same—only that in death there is no suffering.
Walter Savage Landor

The invisible and incorporeal mother of ideal beauty. *Walter Savage Landor*

That which extinguishes small passions and increases great ones. *La Rochefoucauld*

Death . . . to them that love. *Philip Sidney*

The cure for love. *Spanish Proverb*

That which makes the heart grow fonder—of somebody else. *Anon.*

ABSOLUTE

The most fatal illusion . . . life is growth and motion. *Brooks Atkinson*

Nothing more than the deceased spirit of theology and thus a belief in pure phantoms.
Ludwig A. Feuerbach

The absolute is what it is, regardless of anything else. *Charles Hartshorne*

Independent or neutral to relational alternatives.
Charles Hartshorne

The finalities of the earlier ages.
A. Eustace Haydon

God . . . all else is relative. *Will Herberg*

Everything absolute belongs to pathology.
Friedrich W. Nietzsche

Something all-inclusive, and not dependent upon anything outside itself. *Anon.*

SEE ALSO FANATICISM, IDEALS, TRUTH.

ABSTAINER

A weak person who yields to the temptation of denying himself a pleasure. *Ambrose Bierce*

Whereby a man refraineth from anything which he may lawfully take. *Thomas Elyot*

ABSTINENCE

A peculiarly fitting and appropriate method of self-denial and self-discipline. *John C. Ford*

The best safeguard of morals and health.
Robert E. Lee

The beginning of saintliness. *Moses Luzzato*

The surety of temperance. *Plato*

Something good in its place . . . if forbidden food, forbidden sexual indulgence, forbidden money present themselves. *Joseph Saiida*

Something that is beneficial as long as it does not harm anybody. *Adapted from Mark Twain*

The virtue of those too ill or too old to enjoy life.
Anon.

SEE ALSO ABSTAINER, CONTINENCE, MODERATION, SELF-DENIAL, TEMPERANCE.

ABSTRACTION

The concreteness of Idealists.
Eugene E. Brussell

What the eye sees before habit sets up its categories. *John Ciardi*

The intellectual's favorite pastime.
Aldous Huxley

SEE ALSO IDEALS, PHILOSOPHER, SCIENCE.

ABSURDITY

SEE FOOLISHNESS, RIDICULOUSNESS.

ABYSS

The measureless gulf between literature and the American magazine. *Elbert Hubbard*

The distance between a thinker and an editorial writer.
Elbert Hubbard

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Simply a way of saying that we get the best results in education and research if we leave their management to people who know something about them.
Robert M. Hutchins

Read this to mean imposing by violence anti-academic conditions on our schools and universities. Dissenters are shouted down, not allowed to speak, or the microphone is wrestled from them. Discussion exists only among those who agree. They demand that others follow democratic rules that they themselves defy.
Henry J. Taylor

The right...to study, discuss, and write about facts and ideas without restrictions, other than those imposed by conscience and morality.

*Yale University, Report
Advisory Committee, 1952.*

ACADEMY

A modern school where football is taught.

Ambrose Bierce

An ancient school where morality and philosophy were taught.

Ambrose Bierce

A society promoting the love of the static, immobile.

Adapted from Elbert Hubbard

Pertaining to fossils; vegetative; parasitic—the opposite of change.

Elbert Hubbard

They commit their pupils to the theatre of the world, with just taste enough of learning to be alienated from industrious pursuits, and not enough to do service in the ranks of science.

Thomas Jefferson

SEE ALSO COLLEGE, SCHOOL, UNIVERSITY.

ACCENT

A kind of chanting; all men have accent of their own,—though they only notice that of others.

Thomas Carlyle

The soul of talk; it gives it feeling and verity.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau

SEE ALSO ELOQUENCE, LANGUAGE, SPEECH.

ACCEPTANCE

The truest kinship with humanity.

Gilbert Keith Chesterton

To go with the drift of things,

To yield with a grace to reason,

And bow and accept the end

Of a love or a season?

Robert Frost

What makes any event put on a new face.

Adapted from Henry S. Haskins

The art of making someone who has just done you a small favor wish that he might have done you a greater one.

Russell Lynes

ACCIDENT

An inevitable occurrence due to the action of immutable natural laws.

Ambrose Bierce

An event happening unexpectedly and without fault; if there is any fault, there is liability.

Thomas M. Cooley

A condition in which presence of mind is good, but absence of body better.

Foolish Dictionary

Accidents exist only in our heads, in our limited perceptions. They are the reflections of the limit of our knowledge.

Franz Kafka

Accidents are accidents only to ignorance.

George Santayana

There is no such thing...What we call by that name is the effect of some cause which we do not see.

Voltaire

A surprise arranged by nature.

Anon.

SEE ALSO CHANCE, FORTUNE, LIFE, LUCK.

ACCOMPLICE

One associated with another in crime, having guilty knowledge and complicity, as an attorney who defends a criminal, knowing him guilty.

Ambrose Bierce

ACHIEVEMENT

That which is socially useful.

Adapted from Alfred Adler

The death of endeavor and the birth of disgust.

Ambrose Bierce

A bondage. It drives us to a higher achievement.
Albert Camus

Finding out what you would be; then doing what you have to do. *Adapted from Epictetus*

Taking risks and making efforts. *Karen Horney*

To send a son to Harvard. *Edgar W. Howe*

Building a house, begetting a son, or writing a book. *Italian Proverb*

To attempt the impossible. *Anon.*

SEE ALSO ACTION, DEEDS, SUCCESS.

ACQUAINTANCE

A degree of friendship called slight when its object is poor or obscure, and intimate when he is rich or famous. *Ambrose Bierce*

A person whom we know well enough to borrow from, but not well enough to lend to.
Ambrose Bierce

Anyone who has refused us a loan.
Elbert Hubbard

A friend who has borrowed money from you.
Anon.

ACTING

Consists of the ability to keep an audience from coughing. *Jean-Louis Barrault*

Acting is honesty. If you can fake that, you've got it made. *George Burns*

A poor traditionary fame. *William Combe*

A voluntary dream. *William Hazlitt*

The art of speaking in a loud clear voice and the avoidance of bumping into furniture.
Adapted from Alfred Lunt

To seem natural rather than to be natural.
Alan A. Milne

The lowest of art; if it is an art at all.
George Moore

Acting isn't really a creative profession. It's an interpretative one. *Paul Newman*

Just one version of the unreal after another.
Jack Nicholson

The art of persuasion. The actor persuades himself, first, and through himself, the audience.
Laurence Olivier

Just one big bag of tricks. *Laurence Olivier*

A masochistic form of exhibitionism. It is not quite the occupation of an adult.
Laurence Olivier

An art which consists of keeping the audience from coughing. *Ralph Richardson*

The ability to dream on cue. *Ralph Richardson*

Acting is characterization, the process of two entities merging—the actor and the role.
George C. Scott

That attempt to find universality, reality and truth in a world of pretending. *George C. Scott*

To hold as 'twere, the mirror up to nature.
William Shakespeare

One of the imitative arts. *William Shenstone*

A sad business where you crawl from hope to hope. *Walter Slezak*

The moving picture of nature. *William Winter*

SEE ALSO ACTOR, HOLLYWOOD, MOVIE, THEATER.

ACTION

Coarsened thought—thought become concrete, obscure, and unconscious. *Henry F. Amiel*

That which gives meaning to the world.
Adapted from Leon Baeck

What matters . . . We are present where we act.
Henri Bergson

Your business. *Bhagavad-Gita*

A readiness for responsibility.
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Our epochs. *Lord Byron*

The proof, the criterion, of the Holy Spirit.
Hermann Cohen

The only things in life in which we can be said to have any property. *Charles Caleb Colton*

A man's action is only a picture book of his creed.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Words are also actions, and actions are a kind of words.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

To think.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Our acts our angels are, or good or ill,
Our fatal shadows that walk by us still.

John Fletcher

The soul of all action is blindness. He who knows,
cannot act any longer. Knowing means foregoing
action.

Egon Friedell

The proper Fruit of Knowledge.

Thomas Fuller

That which justifies itself only through morality.

Warren Goldberg

The great end of life.

Thomas Henry Huxley

The normal completion of the act of will which
begins as prayer. That action is not always external,
but it is always some kind of effective energy.

William R. Inge

The best interpreters of . . . thoughts.

John Locke

Man's destiny and duty in this life.

Dean Mansel

To befriend any one on God's account, and to be at
enmity with whosoever is the enemy of God.

Mohammed

Desire and force . . . desire causes our voluntary
acts, force our involuntary.

Blaise Pascal

(That which) must be shown, by each of us in his
appointed place, not merely in the patience, but in
the activity of our hope . . . our labor.

John Ruskin

The only road to knowledge.

George Bernard Shaw

The first task of life.

William G. Sumner

Simply the refuge of people who have nothing
whatever to do.

Oscar Wilde

The basis of action is lack of imagination. It is the
last resource of those who know not how to
dream.

Oscar Wilde

A blind thing dependent on external influences,
and moved by an impulse of whose nature it is
unconscious.

Oscar Wilde

Action is transitory, a step, a blow,
The motion of a muscle—this way or that.

William Wordsworth

**SEE ALSO ACHIEVEMENT, DEEDS, GREAT-
NESS, HERO, LIVING, MORALITY, RELIGION,
WORK.**

ACTOR

Rogues, vagabonds and sturdy beggars.

Act of Parliament, 1597.

A professional (one) is a man who can do his job
when he doesn't feel like it. An amateur is
(one) . . . who can't do his job when he does feel
like it.

James Agate

A sculptor who carves in snow.

Lawrence Barrett

Casual laborers.

Lillian Braithwaite

An actor is a guy who, if you ain't talking about
him, he ain't listening.

Marlon Brando

A favored class—as they are merry folk who give
pleasure, everyone favors and protects them.

Miguel de Cervantes

The strolling tribe; a despicable race.

Charles Churchill

A wandering, careless, wretched, merry race.

George Crabbe

A nuisance in the earth, the very offal of society.

Timothy Dwight

A musician who plays on a home-made instru-
ment—himself.

Helen Hayes

The only honest hypocrite.

William Hazlitt

A paradox who plays when he works and works
when he plays.

Lewis C. Henry

The best . . . is that man who can do nothing
extremely well.

Alfred Hitchcock

No better than creatures set upon tables . . . to
make faces and produce laughter, like dancing
dogs.

Samuel Johnson

Compulsive quoters of people who originated the
ideas which they have finally come to believe are
entirely their own.

Alexander King

Men who sleep till noon, and spend the afternoon
calling on women.

George Jean Nathan

ADAM

A man with an infinite capacity for taking praise.

Michael Redgrave

They are the abstract and brief chronicles of the time.

William Shakespeare

Actors are like politicians, and politicians are like actors. They both spend time each day contemplating their image. They both have a desire to be loved.

Gore Vidal

A child's prerogative. Children are born to act. Usually, people grow out of it. Actors always seem to be people who never did quite grow out of it.

Joanne Woodward

One who is no better than the director. *Anon.*

A man who can walk to the side of a stage, peer into the wings filled with dust . . . and say "What a lovely view there is from this window." *Anon.*

A puppet under its own power. *Anon.*

A person who makes faces for a living. *Anon.*

One who gets a glazed look in his eye when the conversation drifts away from himself. *Anon.*

One who creates illusion in order to reveal reality. *Anon.*

SEE ALSO ACTING, HOLLYWOOD, MOVIE, STARLET.

ADAM

The luckiest man—he had no mother-in-law.

Sholom Aleichem

A man without a navel. *Thomas Browne*

God created Adam out of dust and then made Eve to dampen him down. *Leonard L. Levinson*

(One who) sinned when he fell from Contemplation. Since then, there has been division in man.

Jacques Maritain

The goodliest man of men. *John Milton*

Adam was created single to teach us that to destroy one person is to destroy a whole world, and to preserve one person is to preserve a whole world.

Mishna

Originally one, he has fallen, and, breaking up . . . he has filled the whole earth with the pieces.

Saint Augustine

(A man who) when he said a good thing . . . knew nobody had said it before. *Mark Twain*

The first great benefactor of our race. He brought death into the world. *Mark Twain*

The first man to tell anybody about his operation. *Anon.*

The only human to escape teething pains. *Anon.*

The only one who could not say, "Haven't we met before?" *Anon.*

SEE ALSO CREATION (WORLD), MAN.

ADMIRAL

That part of a war-ship which does the talking while the figure-head does the thinking.

Ambrose Bierce

Admirals extoll'd for standing still
Or doing nothing with a deal of skill.

William Cowper

SEE ALSO GENERAL, MILITARISM, WAR.

ADMIRATION

A very short-lived passion, that immediately decays upon growing familiar with its object.

Joseph Addison

Our polite recognition of another's resemblance to ourselves. *Ambrose Bierce*

A youthful fancy which scarcely ever survives to mature years. *Josh Billings*

Ignorance. *Thomas Fuller*

Things not understood. *Thomas Fuller*

A form of shamefaced flattery. *Elbert Hubbard*

Approbation, heightened by wonder and surprise, constitutes the sentiment. *Adam Smith*

One of the most bewitching, enthusiastic passions of the mind . . . it arises from novelty and surprise, the inseparable attendants of imposture.

William Warburton

SEE ALSO FAME, REVERENCE.

ADOLESCENCE

A phase of transition from childhood to manhood,
a phase of uprootedness and drastic change.

Eric Hoffer

A kind of emotional seasickness. Both are funny,
but only in retrospect. *Arthur Koestler*

Just at the age 'twixt boy and youth. When
thought is speech, and speech is truth.

William Shakespeare

Not yet old enough for a man, nor young enough
for a boy. *William Shakespeare*

A house on moving day—a temporary mess.

Julius E. Warren

In America, a period of time spent as if it were the
last fling at life, rather than a preparation for it.

Anon.

That period in life in which the young feel a great
urge to answer the telephone. *Anon.*

That period in life when one's parents become
more difficult. *Anon.*

That period in life when a boy refuses to believe
that someday he'll be as stupid as his parents.

Anon.

That period when the young feel their parents
should be told the facts of life. *Anon.*

A stage between infancy and adultery. *Anon.*

SEE ALSO CHILDREN, JUVENILE DELIN-
QUENCY, YOUTH.

ADOLESCENT

One who goes from humpty-dumpty to hanky-
panky. *Hyman Maxwell Berston*

Those who are quickest to discern hypocrisy.

Eugene E. Brussell

One who is well informed about anything he
doesn't have to study. *Marcelene Cox*

(One who) looks inward; the adult can look
outward. *Pamela Frankau*

One who has reached the age of dissent.

Harold Leslie

The awkward age when a child is too old to say
something cute and too young to say something
sensible. *Anon.*

ADULT

A child blown up by age. *Simone de Beauvoir*

When childhood dies, its corpses are called adults
and they enter society. *Brian Aldiss*

An obsolete child. *Theodore Geisel*

(Those who) have forgotten what it is to be a
child. *Randall Jarrell*

To be alone. *Jean Rostand*

A kernel of instinct surrounded by a vast husk of
education. *Bertrand A. Russell*

A word used to lure children to movies.

Sidney Skolsky

(When) a child . . . realizes he has a right not only
to be right but also to be wrong. *Thomas Szasz*

One who has ceased to grow vertically but not
horizontally. *Anon.*

SEE ALSO AGE, MAN, MATURITY, MIDDLE-
AGE, WOMAN.

ADULTERY

Whosoever looks on a woman to lust after her
hath committed adultery with her already in his
heart. *Bible: Matthew, V, 28.*

Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be
for fornication, and shall marry another, commits
adultery. *Bible: Matthew, XIX, 9.*

Usually an act done under cover of darkness and
secrecy, and in which the parties are seldom
surprised. *Decision of the Maryland
Court of Appeals, 1931.*

To set your neighbor's bed a-shaking . . . an ancient
and long-established custom. *Juvenal*

A man is guilty of adultery if he marries a
divorced woman; and so is he who divorces his
wife, save on the ground of misconduct, to marry
again. *Firmianus Lactantius*

ADVANTAGE

The application of democracy to love.

Henry Louis Mencken

Not only when you look with...desire at a woman who is not your wife, but also if you look in the same manner at your wife.

Pope John Paul 2

If a man leaves his wife and she marries another, she commits adultery.

Saint Augustine

To leave a wife who is sterile in order to take another by whom children may be had. Anyone doing this is guilty of adultery.

Saint Augustine

(The) great democratic vice.

George Bernard Shaw

SEE ALSO CUCKOLD, LOVERS, MISTRESS, SEX (LOVE), SIN.

ADVANTAGE

To seize an opportunity...to know when to forego an advantage.

Benjamin Disraeli

Recognition of opportunity.

Max Gralnick

To enjoy no advantage at all.

Henry David Thoreau

SEE ALSO ANCESTRY, WEALTH.

ADVENTURE

Rightly considered, only an inconvenience.

Gilbert Keith Chesterton

Something you seek for pleasure, or even for profit, like a gold rush or invading a country...the thing you *will* to occur.

Katherine Ann Porter

ADVENTURER

An outlaw...Adventure must start with running away from home.

William Bolitho

The tremendous outsider.

William Bolitho

With the woman-adventurer all is love or hate. Her adventure is man; her type is not the prospector, but the courtesan. That is, her adventure is an escape, developing inevitably into a running fight with the institution of marriage.

William Bolitho

One who has a passion to realize the impossible.

Adapted from Isaac Wise

ADVERTISEMENTS

The principal reason why the businessman has come to inherit the earth.

James R. Adams

The mouthpiece of business.

James R. Adams

Eighty-five per cent confusion and fifteen per cent commission.

Fred Allen

The ideals of a nation.

Norman Douglas

One of the most interesting and difficult of modern literary forms.

Aldous Huxley

The only truths to be relied on in a newspaper.

Thomas Jefferson

Legalized lying.

Herbert G. Wells

A creator of false hunger.

Anon.

SEE ALSO ADVERTISING, NEWSPAPERS, PUBLIC RELATIONS, TELEVISION COMMERCIAL.

ADVERTISING

A sort of tumor, that ends by killing the victim's sympathies.

Henry Adams

The great art in...finding out a proper method to catch the reader's eye.

Joseph Addison

Instruments of ambition.

Joseph Addison

Advertising isn't a science. It's persuasion...an art.

William Bernbach

What you do when you can't go see somebody.

Fairfax Cone

To avoid the concrete promise...and cultivate the delightfully vague.

John Crosby

The education of the public as to who you are, where you are, and what you have to offer in way of skill, talent, commodity.

Elbert Hubbard

An organized effort to extend and intensify craving.

Aldous Huxley

Promise—large promise—is the soul of advertising.

Samuel Johnson

The science of arresting the human intelligence long enough to get money from it.

Stephen Leacock

The cheapest way of selling goods, particularly if the goods are worthless. *Sinclair Lewis*

The place where the selfish interests of the manufacturer coincide with the interests of society. *David Ogilvy*

That essential American strategy. *Richard H. Rovere*

The modern substitute for argument; its function is to make the worse appear better. *George Santayana*

The art of making whole lies out of half truths. *Edgar A. Shoaff*

Millions of dollars...spent annually to entice people to dedicate themselves to the "cult of things," nice things which are phony, valueless, glamorous, sinful. *Rolan Simonitsch*

A campaign of subversion against intellectual honesty and moral integrity. *Arnold Toynbee*

A technique which makes you believe you've longed all your life for something you've never heard of before. *Anon.*

The vision which reproaches man for the paucity of his desires. *Anon.*

The whip which hustles humanity up the road to the Better Mousetrap. *Anon.*

A paying thought. *Anon.*

Bragging for profit. *Anon.*

SEE ALSO ADVERTISEMENTS, NEWSPAPERS, PROPAGANDA, PUBLIC RELATIONS, TELEVISION, TELEVISION COMMERCIAL.

ADVICE

The suggestions you give someone else which you hope will work for your benefit. *Ambrose Bierce*

To seek another's approval of a course already decided upon. *Ambrose Bierce*

A drug on the market; the supply always exceeds the demand. *Josh Billings*

What is best to yourself given by yourself. *Adapted from Cicero*

Like snow; the softer it falls, the longer it dwells upon, and the deeper it sinks into, the mind. *Samuel Taylor Coleridge*

AFFECTION

Always a confession. *Emile Herzog*

(Something) offensive, because it shows us that we are known to others, as well as to ourselves. *Samuel Johnson*

What we ask for when we already know the answer but wish we didn't. *Erica Jong*

What a man gives when he gets too old to set a bad example. *La Rochefoucauld*

A sacred thing. *Plato*

A thing sought by all, but taken by none, including the one who gives it. *Harry Ruby*

One of those injuries which a good man ought, if possible, to forgive. *Horace Smith*

A commodity more blessed to give than receive. *Anon.*

Something that costs you nothing unless you act upon it. *Anon.*

AFFECTATION

A fault. *Miguel de Cervantes*

It is a form of affectation to emphasize the fact that you do not indulge in it. *La Rochefoucauld*

An awkward and forced imitation of what should be genuine and easy, wanting the beauty that accompanies what is natural. *John Locke*

The whole aim of affectation is to cheat you. *Adapted from G. H. Powell*

What spoils fine faces. *Anon.*

SEE ALSO HYPROCRISY.

AFFECTION

A body of enigmas, mysteries, riddles wherein two so become one that they both become two. *Adapted from Thomas Browne*

The purest affection the heart can hold is the honest love of a nine-year old. *Holman Day*

These jets...which make a young world for me. *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

A bad adviser. *German Proverb*

A woman's whole life. *Washington Irving*

SEE ALSO FEELING, HAPPINESS, LOVE.

AFTER-THOUGHT

A tardy sense of prudence that prompts one to try to shut his mouth about the time he has put his foot in it. *Gideon Wurdz*

SEE ALSO REPARTEE.

AGE

Always 15 years older than I am.

Bernard Baruch

Only a number, a cipher for the records. A man can't retire his experience. *Bernard Baruch*

(Something that) doesn't matter unless you're a cheese. *Billie Burke*

Succeeding stages. *Thomas Campbell*

A matter of feeling, not of years.

George W. Curtis

Youth is a blunder; manhood is a struggle; old age a regret. *Benjamin Disraeli*

The essence of age is intellect.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Childhood is ignorant, boyhood is lighthearted, youth is rash, and old age is ill-humored.

Luis de Granada

When a man is young he writes songs; grown up, he speaks in proverbs; in old age he preaches pessimism. *Hebrew Proverb*

A bad habit which a busy man has no time to form. *Emile Herzog*

A person's age is not dependent upon the number of years that have passed over his head, but upon the number of colds that have passed through it.

Woods Hutchinson

At eighteen, one adores at once; at twenty, one loves; at thirty, one desires; at forty, one reflects.

Paul de Kock

Age is not all decay; it is the ripening, the swelling, of the fresh life within, that withers and bursts the husks. *George Macdonald*

Youth is fair, a graceful stag,
Leaping, playing in a park
Age is gray, a toothless hag,
Stumbling in the dark.

Isaac Peretz

The first forty years of life give us the text; the next thirty supply the commentary on it.

Arthur Schopenhauer

A matter of arteries.

Adapted from Thomas Sydenham

Youth is a garland of roses; old age a crown of willows. *Talmud: Sabbath, 152a.*

A man is still young as long as women can make him happy or unhappy. He reaches middle age when they can no longer make him unhappy. He is old when they cease to make him either happy or unhappy. *Anon.*

At ten, a child; at twenty, wild;

At thirty, tame if ever;

At forty, wise; at fifty, rich;

At sixty, good, or never.

Anon.

The only thing that comes to us without effort.

Anon.

Your length in years.

Anon.

When one begins to exchange emotions for symptoms. *Anon.*

SEE ALSO MATURITY, MIDDLE AGE, OLD AGE, YOUTH.

AGGRESSION

An innate, independent, instinctual disposition in man... it constitutes the most powerful obstacle to culture. *Sigmund Freud*

The evil projected by the aggressor into the souls of those he aims to destroy or oppress.

Gustave Thibon

AGNOSTIC

One who doesn't know whether God exists, but is afraid to say so loudly in case God might hear him. *Eugene E. Brussell*

A man who doesn't know whether there is a God or not, doesn't know whether he has a soul or not, doesn't believe that anyone else knows any more about these matters than he does, and thinks it a waste of time to try to find out.

Richard Henry Dana

A confession of ignorance where honest inquiry might easily find the truth. "Agnostic" is but Greek for "ignoramus." *Tyron Edwards*

I took thought, and invented what I conceived to be the appropriate title of "agnostic." It came into my head as suggestively antithetic to the "Gnostic" of Church history.

Thomas Henry Huxley

The person who admits that he does not know, and is consequently open to learning.

David E. Trueblood

SEE ALSO AGNOSTICISM, ATHEIST, FREE THINKERS, SKEPTIC.

AGNOSTICISM

The philosophical, ethical, and religious dry rot of the modern world.

F. E. Abbot

I do not pretend to know where many ignorant men are sure—that is all that agnosticism means.

Clarence S. Darrow

A shadow cast by the eclipse of the supernatural... Its meaning departs when the intellectual outlook is directed wholly to the natural world.

John Dewey

A theory about knowledge and not about religion.

Richard Downey

Not open-mindedness; it is culpable inaction.

Nels F. Ferré

It is wrong for a man to say that he is certain of the objective truth of any proposition unless he can produce evidence which logically justifies that certainty. This is what agnosticism asserts.

Thomas Henry Huxley

Not a creed, but a method, the essence of which lies in the rigorous application of a single principle... that every man should be able to give a reason for the faith that is in him.

Thomas Henry Huxley

Simply means that a man shall not say he knows or believes that for which he has no grounds for professing to believe.

Thomas Henry Huxley

Help for the living, hope for the dead.

Robert G. Ingersoll

The everlasting perhaps.

Francis Thompson

ALIMONY

SEE ALSO AGNOSTICISM, ATHEISM, SKEPTICISM.

AGREEABLE

A person who agrees with me.

Benjamin Disraeli

He who is endowed with the natural bent to do acceptable things, from a delight he takes in them merely as such.

Richard Steele

AGRICULTURE

SEE FARM, FARMING.

ALCOHOL

SEE DRINKING, WINE.

ALCOHOLIC

SEE DRUNKENNESS.

ALIMONY

Buying oats for a dead horse.

Arthur Baer

Billing minus cooing.

Mary Dorsey

A system which results when two people make a mistake and one of them continues to pay for it.

Jimmy Lyons

Disinterest, compounded annually.

Walter McDonald

The ransom that the happy pay to the devil.

Henry Louis Mencken

The wages of sin is alimony.

Carolyn Wells

Matrimonial insurance for women paid by men for having poor judgment.

Anon.

The cash surrender value of the American male.

Anon.

The act of giving comfort to the enemy.

Anon.

The high cost of leaving.

Anon.

The male's best proof that you have to pay for your mistakes.

Anon.

The result of marrying in haste and repenting insolvent.

Anon.

Time balm. *Anon.*
 A form of guaranteed income. *Anon.*
 What a woman who loved a man for all he is worth gets. *Anon.*
SEE ALSO DIVORCE, MARRIAGE, WIFE.

ALLEGORY

Like so many tracts of light in a discourse, that make everything about them clear and beautiful. *Joseph Addison*
 A man's life. *John Keats*

ALLIANCE

SEE TREATY.

ALMS

SEE CHARITY, PHILANTHROPY.

ALONE

SEE LONELINESS, SOLITUDE.

ALTRUISM

Disregarding one's own cause. *Eugene E. Brussell*
 Inverted egotism. *Jacob Cohen*
 The art of using others with the air of loving them. *Rene Dubreuil*
 Living largely for the good and happiness of others. *Adapted from Judah Moscato*
 Mowing your neighbor's lawn. *Harry Thompson*
 Making the common good the mark of one's aim. *Adapted from John Wise*
 Slavery. *Anon.*
 Desiring nothing for others that you do not desire for yourself. *Anon.*
 The art of doing unselfish things for selfish reasons. *Anon.*
SEE ALSO CHARITY, IDEALIST, PHILANTHROPY, REFORM.

AMATEUR

A public nuisance who confounds his ambition with his ability. *Ambrose Bierce*
 One who practices something without hope of fame and money or of even doing it well. *Adapted from Gilbert Keith Chesterton*
SEE ALSO DILETTANTE.

AMBASSADOR

In American politics, a person who having failed to secure an office from the people is given one by the Administration on condition that he leave the country. *Ambrose Bierce*
 (One who) should be versed in all the sciences; he should understand hints, gestures and expressions of the face; he should be honest, skillful and of good family. *Code of Manu, VII*
 A man whose vocabulary becomes three times as extensive and twice as indistinct as any one elses. *Adapted from John Kenneth Galbraith*

The eyes and ears of states. *Francesco Guicciardini*
 A man who had the most money and the fewest votes. *John D. Lodge*
 Ambassadors are, in the full meaning of the term, titled spies. *Napoleon I*

An honest man, sent abroad to lie for the commonwealth. *Henry Wotton*
 One who makes the world safe for hypocrisy. *Anon.*

A paid political tourist. *Anon.*
 A politician who is given a job abroad in order to get him out of the country. *Anon.*
SEE ALSO DIPLOMAT.

AMBIDEXTROUS

Able to pick with equal skill a right-hand pocket or a left. *Ambrose Bierce*

AMBITION

The desire of rising. *Thomas Adams*