

Life Lesson Quips & One Liners . . . for Speakers & Bulletin Editors

Compiled by: Carlo Monticelli, RI Director 98/00 and Douglas W. Vincent for the ROTI Institute

One Liners . . .

"Arriving at one goal is the starting point to another."

John Dewey

"I am a great believer in luck and I find the harder I work the more I have of it." *Stephen Leacock*

"Happy are those who dream dreams and are willing to pay the price to see them come true."

"Life is like riding a bicycle, you don't fall off unless you stop pedaling." *Claude Pepper*

"Team spirit is what gives so many companies an edge over their competitors." *George L. Clements*

"Aim high, work hard and do not give up."

"No pain, no gain."

"Patience + Persistence = Progress"

"Price, Quality and Service . . .
. . . You can pick any two out of three."

"First we will be the best . . .
. . . then we will be the first."

"When you do something you don't have to, it means you want to, and when you want to, it means that you're good at it."

"Good supervision is the art of getting average people to do superior work."

"Words in ink, make the people think."

"We have to adapt to changing times but we also have to keep to unchanging principles."

"Occasional failure is the price of improvement."

"The future is chosen, not predicted."

"Be as nice as you can and only as un-nice as you have to be."

"Recognition is the best means of motivating us to achieve more than we have thought possible."

"When friends are in trouble, don't bother them by asking if there is anything you can do. Think of something appropriate and just do it."

"The future is ours because of the beauty of our dreams."

"Coffee isn't my cup of tea."

"It would be a better world if we could always lead by recognizing and praising the contributions of others."

"Nothing is more common than unsuccessful people with talent."

"Keep your face to the sunshine . . .
. . . and you'll never see the shadow."

"A dream is always a bargain . . .
. . . no matter what you pay for it."

"Of all the things you wear your expression is the most important."

"You only get one chance to make a good first impression, and yours may be in the hands of your receptionist."

"A true leader has to "sell" the future."

"The art of diplomacy is getting people to see things your way."

"Nothing is interesting if you are not interested."

"There is hardly anything in the world that some men cannot make a little worse and sell a little cheaper, and the people who consider price only are this man's lawful prey." *John Ruskin*

"You cannot buy enthusiasm, loyalty, devotion of hearts, minds, or souls. You must earn these."

"Include me out."

"You can give without loving . . .
. . . but you can't love without giving."

"Friendship is like a bank account. You can't continue to draw on it without making deposits."

"Kindness is the most pleasant form of egoism." *Ludovic O'Followell*

"A verbal contract isn't worth . . .
 . . . the paper it's written on."
"In two words: impossible."
"I'll give you a definite maybe."
"Anybody who goes to a psychiatrist . . .
 . . . ought to have his head examined."
"The world is full of willing people; some willing to
work, the rest to let them." *Robert Frost*
"The only place where success comes before work is a
dictionary." *Vidal Sassoon*
"A person all wrapped up in himself generally makes a
pretty small package." *E. Joseph Cossman*
"Anyone can hold the helm when the sea is calm."
Publilius Syrus
"The man who removes a mountain begins by carrying
away small stones." *Chinese Proverb*
"Character is made by what you stand for; reputation, by
what you fall for." *Robert Quillen*
"The man who needs no "pull" . . .
 . . . is the man with a lot of "push"
"Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only
true friends will leave footprints in your heart."
"We all admire the wisdom of people who come to us
for advice." *Jack Herbert*
"Looks are so deceptive that people should be done up
like food packages with the ingredients clearly labeled."
Helen Hudson
"Any child can tell you that the sole purpose of a middle
name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble."
"The right angle to approach a difficult problem is the
"TRY-angle". *Gio McKay*
"The poor man is not he who is without a cent, but he
who is without a dream." *Harry Kemp*
"Creativity is so delicate a flower that praise tends to
make it bloom while discouragement often nips it at the
bud." *Alex Osborn*
"The man who has no inner life is a slave to his
surroundings." *Henri-Frederic Amiel*
"People only see what they are prepared to see."
Ralph Waldo Emerson
"The voyage to discovery is not in seeking new

landscapes but in having new eyes." *Marcel Proust*
"Keep your words soft and sweet 'cause you never know
when you'll have to eat 'em."
"Life is like a shower . . .
 . . . one wrong move and you're in hot water."
"There's nothing wrong with having nothing to say
unless you insist on saying it."
"Opportunities are never lost the other fellow
always takes those you miss."
"There's nothing either good or bad . . .
 . . . thinking makes it so." *W. Shakespeare*
"It takes wisdom to know one's fault,
 . . . but it takes greatness to admit them."
"Everything is changing. People are taking the
comedians seriously and the politicians as a joke."
Will Rogers
"Common sense is the knack of seeing things as they are
and doing things as they ought to be done." *C.E. Stowe*
"If you would create something,
 . . . you must be something." *J.W. Van Goethe*
"Anger is only one letter short of danger."
"There are two ways of meeting difficulties. . .
 . . . you alter the difficulties, or you alter yourself to
meet them." *Phyllis Bottome*
"Instruction ends in the schoolroom, but education ends
only with life." *F.W. Robertson*
"All progress stems from change, but all change is not
necessarily progress." *Bruce Barton*
"A goal, a love and a dream gives you total control over
your body & your life."
John Schlatter
"True eloquence consists in saying all that should be
said, and that only." *La Rochefoucauld*
"Rotary takes ordinary people and gives them
extraordinary opportunities to do more with their lives
than they ever dreamed possible."
Clem Renouf, RI President 1978-79

"Great minds discuss ideas. Average minds discuss events. Small minds discuss people."

"If someone betrays you once, it's his fault;
... if he betrays you twice, it's your fault."

"God gives every bird it's food . . .
... but he does not throw it into the nest."

"Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself."

"The tongue weighs practically nothing, but so few people can hold it."

Life's Lessons . . .

"No man or woman of the humblest sort can really be strong, gentle and good, without the world being better for it, without somebody being helped and comforted by the very existence of that goodness." *Phillips Brooks*

"The work an unknown good man has done is like a vein of water flowing hidden underground, secretly making the ground green."
Thomas Carlyle

"The shortest and surest way to live with honor in the world is to be in reality what we would appear to be."
Socrates

"When a work lifts your spirits and inspires bold and noble thoughts in you, do not look for any other standard to judge by: the work is good, the product of a master craftsman."
La Bruyere

The sages do not consider that making no mistakes is a blessing. They believe, rather, that the great virtue of man lies in his ability to correct his mistakes and continually make a new man of himself.*Wang Yang-Ming*

"Friendship is a living thing that lasts only as long as it is nourished with kindness, sympathy and understanding. Friendship that is bought will not stay bought; sooner or later there will be a higher bidder." *Shehzad Ahmed*

"There was no such thing as half-trying. Whether it was running a race or catching a football, competing in school - we were to try. And we were to try harder than anyone else. We might not be the best, and none of us were, but we were to make the effort to be the best."*Robert F Kennedy*

To me, a successful life is to be able to say to oneself, "I have done everything to the best of my ability."*George (Mingo) K M Chin*

"I find the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving. To reach

the port of heaven, we must sail sometimes with the wind and sometimes against it but we must sail, and not drift, nor lie at anchor."

Oliver Wendell Holmes

"Cherish your visions and your dreams as they are the children of your soul; the blue prints of your ultimate accomplishments."
Napoleon Hill

"You can have anything you want - if you want it badly enough. You can be anything you want to be, do anything you set out to accomplish if you hold to that desire with singleness of purpose."
Abraham Lincoln

Man & Woman:

An English professor wrote the words, "Woman without her man is nothing" on the blackboard and directed his students to punctuate it correctly.

The men wrote:

"Woman, without her man, is nothing."

The women wrote:

"Woman! Without her, man is nothing."

Honesty: No man, for any considerable period, can wear one face to himself, and another to the multitude, without finally getting bewildered as to which may be true.*Nathaniel Hawthorne*

A Baby: A baby is a small member of the family that makes love stronger, days shorter, nights longer, the bankroll smaller, the home happier, clothes shabbier, the past forgotten, and the future worth living.

Trust: Trust men and they will be true to you; treat them greatly and they will show themselves great.
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Time: Lost, yesterday, somewhere between sunrise and sunset, two golden hours, each set with sixty diamond minutes. No reward is offered, for they are gone forever.
Horace Mann

"People of widely divergent views in our country live in peace together because they share certain common aspirations which are more important than their differences. The common responsibility of all Americans is to become effective, helpful participants in a way of life that blends and harmonizes the fiercely competitive demands of the individual and society."*Dwight D. Eisenhower*

Remember the three R's:

Respect for yourself;

Respect for others;

Responsibility for all your actions.