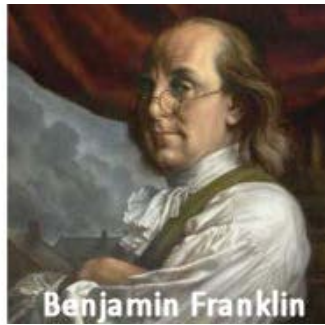




If I Had More Time, I Would Have Written a Shorter Letter

ADVERTISEMENT

Blaise Pascal? John Locke? Benjamin Franklin? Henry David Thoreau?
Cicero? Woodrow Wilson?



Dear Quote Investigator: I was planning to end a letter with the following remark:

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

But the number of different people credited with this comment is so numerous that an explanatory appendix would have been required, and the letter was already too long. Here is a partial list of attributions I have seen: Mark Twain, George Bernard Shaw, Voltaire, Blaise Pascal, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe,

Winston Churchill, Pliny the Younger, Cato, Cicero, Bill Clinton, and Benjamin Franklin. Did anybody in this group really say it?

Quote Investigator: Some of the attributions you have listed are spurious, but several are supported by solid evidence. The first known instance in the English language was a sentence translated from a text written by the French mathematician and philosopher Blaise Pascal. The French statement appeared in a letter in a collection called “Lettres Provinciales” in the year 1657: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

Je n'ai fait celle-ci plus longue que parce que je n'ai pas eu le loisir de la faire plus courte.

Here is one possible modern day translation of Pascal's statement. Note that the term “this” refers to the letter itself.

I have made this longer than usual because I have not had time to make it shorter.

An English translation was created in 1658 and published in London. Here is an excerpt from that early rendition of the letter: [4](#)

My Letters were not wont to come so close one in the neck of another, nor yet to be so large. The short time I have had hath been the cause of both. I had not made this longer than the rest, but that I had not the leisure to make it shorter then it is.

Pascal's notion was quite memorable, and it was discussed in a French book about language. That work was translated and published in London in 1676 as “The Art of Speaking”: [5](#)

These Inventions require much wit, and application; and therefore it was, that Mons. Pascal (an Author very famous for his felicity in

- [About](#)
- [Media Coverage](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter @QuoteResearch](#)

comprising much in few words) excused himself wittily for the extravagant length of one of his Letters, by saying, he had not time to make it shorter.

In 1688 a religious controversialist named George Tullie included a version of the witticism in an essay he wrote about the celibacy of the clergy: [6](#)

The Reader will I doubt too soon discover that so large an interval of time was not spent in writing this discourse; the very length of it will convince him, that the writer had not time enough to make a shorter.

Below are listed several variations of the expression as used by wellknown, lesser known, and unknown individuals. The philosopher John Locke, the statesman Benjamin Franklin, the transcendentalist Henry David Thoreau, and the President Woodrow Wilson all presented statements matching this theme and the details are provided.

Mark Twain who is often connected to this saying did not use it according to the best available research, but one of his tangentially related quotations is given later for your entertainment.

Here are additional selected citations in chronological order.

In 1688 “A Geographical Dictionary” by Edmund Bohun was published. This reference work presented an alphabetically list of cities, towns, rivers, mountains and other locations together with descriptions. The author crafted the following variant of the remark: [7](#)

The Reader may pardon this long Discourse, because the Subject so well deserved it, and I wanted Art to make it shorter.

In 1690 the philosopher John Locke released his famous work “An Essay Concerning Human Understanding” with a prefatory section called “The

ARCHIVES

Select Month

PEOPLE

[A. A. Milne](#)
[A. E. Housman](#)
[A. Gary Shilling](#)
[A. J. Liebling](#)
[Abba Eban](#)
[Abigail Van Buren](#)
[Abraham Lincoln](#)
[Ad Reinhardt](#)
[Ada Levenson](#)
[Adam Smith](#)
[Adelaide Anne Procter](#)
[Adlai Stevenson](#)
[Agatha Christie](#)
[Al Capone](#)
[Al Capp](#)
[Al Franken](#)
[Alan Dershowitz](#)
[Alan Kay](#)
[Alanis Obomsawin](#)
[Albert Camus](#)
[Albert Einstein](#)
[Albert J. Hettinger](#)
[Albert Jay Nock](#)
[Aldous Huxley](#)
[Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn](#)
[Alexander Graham Bell](#)
[Alexander Pope](#)
[Alexander Woollcott](#)
[Alfred E. Neuman](#)

Epistle to the Reader". Locke commented on the length of his essay and indicated why he decided not to shorten it: [8](#)

I will not deny, but possibly it might be reduced to a narrower Compass than it is; and that some Parts of it might be contracted: The way it has been writ in, by Catches, and many long Intervals of Interruption, being apt to cause some Repetitions. But to confess the Truth, I am now too lazy, or too busy to make it shorter.

In 1704 the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London printed a letter from William Cowper that contained the following: [9](#)

If in this I have been tedious, it may be some excuse, I had not time to make it shorter.

In 1750 Benjamin Franklin composed a letter describing his groundbreaking experiments involving electricity and sent it to a member of the Royal Society in London. Franklin excused the length of his report as follows: [10](#)

I have already made this paper too long, for which I must crave pardon, not having now time to make it shorter.

The quotation is sometimes attached to famous figures in antiquity. For example, in 1824 a version of the quote was assigned to the Roman orator Cicero: [11](#)

Cicero excuses himself for having written a long letter, by saying he had not time to make it shorter.

The German theologian Martin Luther died in 1546. A biographical work published in London in 1846 attributed the following words to him: [12](#)

[Alfred Hitchcock](#)

[Alfred Kinsey](#)

[Alfred Lord Tennyson](#)

[Alice Roosevelt Longworth](#)

[Allen Saunders](#)

[Alphonse Karr](#)

[Alva Johnston](#)

[Amarillo Slim](#)

[Ambrose Bierce](#)

[Anais Nin](#)

[Anatole France](#)

[Andre Gide](#)

[Andrew Carnegie](#)

[Andrew Jackson](#)

[Andrew Lang](#)

[Andy Warhol](#)

[Anita Merina](#)

[Ann Landers](#)

[Ann Richards](#)

[Anne Isabella Thackeray Ritchie](#)

[Anne Rice](#)

[Anne Sullivan](#)

[Annie Dillard](#)

[Anthony Burgess](#)

[Anthony Oettinger](#)

[Antoine de Saint-Exupery](#)

[Anton Chekhov](#)

[Arianna Huffington](#)

[Aristotle](#)

[Arnold J. Toynbee](#)

[Arnold Palmer](#)

[Arrigo Boito](#)

[Artemus Ward](#)

[Arthur Ashe](#)

[Arthur C. Clarke](#)

[Arthur Conan Doyle](#)

[Arthur Miller](#)

[Arthur Rubinstein](#)

[Arthur Schopenhauer](#)

[Asa George Baker](#)

If I had my time to go over again, I would make my sermons much shorter, for I am conscious they have been too wordy.

In 1857 Henry David Thoreau wrote a letter to a friend that offered commentary about story length: [13](#)

Not that the story need be long, but it will take a long while to make it short.

In 1871 Mark Twain wrote a letter to a friend that included a remark about the length of his note. Twain's comment did not really match the quotation under investigation but it is related to the general theme: [14](#)

You'll have to excuse my lengthiness—the reason I dread writing letters is because I am so apt to get to slinging wisdom & forget to let up. Thus much precious time is lost.

According to an anecdote published in 1918 Woodrow Wilson was asked about the amount of time he spent preparing speeches, and his response was illuminating: [15](#)

“That depends on the length of the speech,” answered the President. “If it is a ten-minute speech it takes me all of two weeks to prepare it; if it is a half-hour speech it takes me a week; if I can talk as long as I want to it requires no preparation at all. I am ready now.”

QI has examined a family of similar sayings about speeches in an entry located [here](#).

In conclusion, Blaise Pascal wrote a version of this saying in French and it quickly moved into the English language. The notion was very popular and variants of the expression have been employed by other notable figures in history. The saying has also been assigned to some prominent individuals

[Audrey Hepburn](#)[Augustine Birrell](#)[Austen Chamberlain](#)[Ayn Rand](#)[Babe Ruth](#)[Banksy](#)[Barbara W. Tuchman](#)[Barstow Bates](#)[Beatrice Lillie](#)[Ben Wade](#)[Ben Zimmer](#)[Benjamin Disraeli](#)[Benjamin Franklin](#)[Benjamin Jowett](#)[Bennett Cerf](#)[Bernard Baruch](#)[Bernard Le Bovier de Fontenelle](#)[Berthold Auerbach](#)[Bertrand Russell](#)[Bessie A. Stanley](#)[Bette Davis](#)[Bette Midler](#)[Bill Clinton](#)[Bill Cosby](#)[Bill Gates](#)[Bill Nye](#)[Bill Vaughan](#)[Billy Wilder](#)[Blaise Pascal](#)[Bob Dylan](#)[Bob Hope](#)[Bob Marley](#)[Bob Oliver](#)[Bobby Jones](#)[Brenda Ueland](#)[Brendan Gill](#)[Brian Eno](#)[Brian Epstein](#)[Bruce Lee](#)[Bryan O'Loghlen](#)

without adequate factual support.

(The investigation was motivated by an inquiry from a brilliant and entertaining writer who is also a strong leader of a writing group in Florida.)

Update History: On March 5, 2014 the 1918 citation was added and the previous 1946 citation to a Woodrow Wilson biography was removed.

Notes:

1. 2006, The Yale Book of Quotations by Fred R. Shapiro, Section: Blaise Pascal, Page 583, Yale University Press, New Haven. (Verified on paper)
2. 2006, The Quote Verifier by Ralph Keyes, Page 119-120, St Martin's Griffin, New York. (Verified on paper)
3. Oxford Dictionary of Quotations edited by Elizabeth Knowles, Section: Blaise Pascal, Oxford Reference Online, Oxford University Press. (Accessed March 27, 2012)
4. 1658, Les Provinciales, or, The Mystery of Jesuitisme by Blaise Pascal, [Translated into English], Second Edition Corrected, Page 292, Letter 16: Postscript, [Letter addressed to Reverend Fathers from Blaise Pascal], Printed for Richard Royston, London. (Google Books full view) [link](#)
5. 1676, The Art of Speaking, Written in French by Messieurs Du Port Royal: In Pursuance of a former Treatise, Intitled, The Art of Thinking, Rendred into English, Page 8, Printed by W. Godbid, London. (Google Books full view) [link](#)
6. 1688, An Answer to a Discourse Concerning the Celibacy of the Clergy by George Tullie, Preface, [Page 2 of Preface; unnumbered], Oxford, Printed at the Theater for Richard Chiswell, London. (Google Books full view) [link](#)
7. 1688, A Geographical Dictionary, Representing the Present and Ancient Names of all the Countries, Provinces, Remarkable Cities, ..., Of the Whole World by Edmund Bohun, [Page unnumbered], Page Header: AT, Column 2, Printed for Charles Brome, London. (Google Books full view) [link](#)
8. 1714, The Works of John Locke Esq: In Three Volumes, An Essay Concerning Human Understanding, [Essay originally published in 1690], The Epistle to the Reader, Page vii, Printed for John Churchill, London. (Google Books full view) [link](#)

[Buckminster Fuller](#)

[C. E. Lombardi](#)

[C. E. M. Joad](#)

[Cal Stewart](#)

[Calvin Coolidge](#)

[Carl Jung](#)

[Carl Sagan](#)

[Carol Burnett](#)

[Carolyn Wells](#)

[Carroll D. Wright](#)

[Cary Grant](#)

[Celeste Holm](#)

[Channing Pollock](#)

[Charles A. Dana](#)

[Charles Alexandre de Calonne](#)

[Charles Bayard Miliiken](#)

[Charles Bukowski](#)

[Charles Darwin](#)

[Charles De Gaulle](#)

[Charles Dickens](#)

[Charles Dudley Warner](#)

[Charles Edward Greene](#)

[Charles Edward Montague](#)

[Charles F. Aked](#)

[Charles F. Brannan](#)

[Charles Fair](#)

[Charles H. Grosvenor](#)

[Charles Haddon Spurgeon](#)

[Charles Kingsford-Smith](#)

[Charles Lamb](#)

[Charlie Chaplin](#)

[Charlie Fleischer](#)

[Chauncey Depew](#)

[Chief Seattle](#)

[Christopher Columbus](#)

[Christopher Marlowe](#)

[Christopher Poindexter](#)

[Chuck D](#)

[Clare Boothe Luce](#)

[Clarence Darrow](#)

9. 1706 [1704 March and April issue], Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London, A Letter to Dr. Edward Tyson from William Cowper, Start Page 1576, Quote Page 1586, Printed for S. Smith and B. Walford, Printers to the Royal Society, London. (Google Books full view)[link](#)
10. 1754, New Experiments and Observations on Electricity Made at Philadelphia in America by Benjamin Franklin, Second Edition, Part I, [Letter to Peter Collinson from Benjamin Franklin; Dated July 29, 1750], Start Page 50, Quote Page 82, Printed and sold by D. Henry and R. Cave, London. (Google Books full view) [link](#)
11. 1824 August, The Harmonicon: A Journal of Music, Number 20, Signor Rossini and Signor Carpani, Start Page 153, Quote Page 156, Published by William Pinnock, Music Warehouse, London. (Google Books full view) [link](#)
12. 1846, The Life of Luther: Written By Himself, Collected and Arranged by M. Michelet, [Translated by William Hazlitt], Table Talk – Preaching, Page 293, Published by David Bogue, London. (Google Books full view) [link](#)
13. 1879, Letters to Various Persons by Henry David Thoreau, [Letter dated November 16, 1857 to Mr. B: Harrison Blake], Start Page 161, Quote Page 165, Riverside Press, Cambridge, Houghton, Osgood, and Company, Boston. (Google Books full view) [link](#)
14. 1871 June 15, Letter from Mark Twain to James Redpath, Elmira, New York, UCCL 00617 (Union Catalog of Clemens Letters), Mark Twain Project Online. (Accessed marktwainproject.org on 2012 April 24) [link](#)
15. 1918 April, The Operative Miller, Volume 23, Number 4, (Short freestanding item), Quote Page 130, Column 1, Operative Miller Press, Chicago, Illinois. (Google Books Full View) [link](#)

This entry was posted in [Benjamin Franklin](#), [Blaise Pascal](#), [Henry David Thoreau](#), [John Locke](#), [Marcus Tullius Cicero](#), [Woodrow Wilson](#) and tagged [Benjamin Franklin](#), [Blaise Pascal](#), [Cicero](#), [Henry David Thoreau](#), [John Locke](#), [Marcus Tullius Cicero](#), [Woodrow Wilson](#) on [April 28, 2012](#).

[Clark Kerr](#)

[Claude Adrien Helvetius](#)

[Claudia Adrienne Grandi](#)

[Clifford Odets](#)

[Clifton Fadiman](#)

[Coco Chanel](#)

[Coleman Cox](#)

[Collis Huntington](#)

[Colonel Harland Sanders](#)

[Confucius](#)

[Cormac McCarthy](#)

[D. H. Lawrence](#)

[Dale Carnegie](#)

[Damana Madden](#)

[Damon Runyon](#)

[Dan Montano](#)

[Dante Alighieri](#)

[Darrell Royal](#)

[Darryl Anka](#)

[David Bowie](#)

[David Foster Wallace](#)

[David Lloyd George](#)

[David Niven](#)

[David Starr Jordan](#)

[Dennis Gabor](#)

[Diane Disney Miller](#)

[Dick Cavett](#)

[Dixie Lee Crosby](#)

[Dolly Parton](#)

[Donald McGill](#)

[Doris Lessing](#)

[Dorothy Parker](#)

[Douglas Haig](#)

[Douglas MacArthur](#)

[Drake](#)

[Dwight D. Eisenhower](#)

[Dwight Morrow](#)

[Dylan Thomas](#)

[E. Austin Robinson](#)

[E. B. White](#)

[← Students Today Can't Prepare Bark](#) [No One Can Make You Feel Inferior](#)
[to Calculate Their Problems](#) [Without Your Consent →](#)

2 thoughts on “If I Had More Time, I Would Have Written a Shorter Letter”



Xavier Mora

May 28, 2012 at 2:09 pm

A famous Spanish quotation on this theme: “Lo bueno, si breve, dos veces bueno” (Baltasar Gracián: Oráculo manual y arte de prudencia, Huesca 1647, #105). Or, as I like to put it: “Lo bueno, si breve, mejor”.

English translation by Joseph Jacobs: “Good things, when short, are twice as good” (Baltasar Gracian: The Art of Worldly Wisdom, London: MacMillan 1904, #cv).



Mat

December 13, 2012 at 1:31 am

Thanks for this!

Comments are closed.

[Earl C. Kelley](#)

[Earl of Sandwich](#)

[Earl Wilson](#)

[Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar](#)

[Ed Gardner](#)

[Ed Nelson](#)

[Ed Wynn](#)

[Eddie Fisher](#)

[Eden Phillpotts](#)

[Edgar Allan Poe](#)

[Edgar Guest](#)

[Edmund Burke](#)

[Edmund Fuller](#)

[Edmund Gwenn](#)

[Edmund Hillary](#)

[Edmund Kean](#)

[Edna Mae Oliver](#)

[Edna St. Vincent Millay](#)

[Edward Everett Hale](#)

[Edward R. Murrow](#)

[Edwin E. Slosson](#)

[Elbert Hubbard](#)

[Eleanor Roosevelt](#)

[Elvis Costello](#)

[Emerson M. Pugh](#)

[Emile Zola](#)

[Enrico Fermi](#)

[Erica Jong](#)

[Erin McKean](#)

[Erma Bombeck](#)

[Ernest Hemingway](#)

[Ernest K. Gann](#)

[Ernest Rutherford](#)

[Ethel Merman](#)

[Evan Esar](#)

[Evelyn Beatrice Hall](#)

[F. Scott Fitzgerald](#)

[Father Strickland](#)

[Ferenc Molnar](#)

[Florence Nightingale](#)

[Florynce Kennedy](#)

[Francis Bacon](#)

[Francis of Assisi](#)

[Francis Phillip Wernig](#)

[Frank Crane](#)

[Frank Herbert](#)

[Frank Lloyd Wright](#)

[Frank Outlaw](#)

[Frank Sinatra](#)

[Frank Sullivan](#)

[Frank Zappa](#)

[Franklin D. Roosevelt](#)

[Franklin P. Adams](#)

[Franz Kafka](#)

[Fred Allen](#)

[Fred Astaire](#)

[Frederick Henry Townsend](#)

[Frederick S. Perls](#)

[Frida Kahlo](#)

[Friedrich Nietzsche](#)

[G. K. Chesterton](#)

[G. W. F. Hegel](#)

[Gaius Petronius Arbiter](#)

[Gar Wood](#)

[Garret FitzGerald](#)

[Garson O'Toole](#)

[Gary Player](#)

[Gautama Buddha](#)

[Gelett Burgess](#)

[Gene Zirkel](#)

[George Bernard Shaw](#)

[George Best](#)

[George Burns](#)

[George Carlin](#)

[George Curzon](#)

[George du Maurier](#)

[George Eliot](#)

[George F. Tilton](#)

[George H. Derby](#)

[George Herbert](#)

[George Jean Nathan](#)

[George M. Cohan](#)

[George Mallory](#)

[George Orwell](#)

[George Patton](#)

[George Raft](#)

[George Riddell](#)

[George S. Kaufman](#)

[George Santayana](#)

[George T. W. Patrick](#)

[George W. Pickering](#)

[George Washington](#)

[George Washington Carver](#)

[Georges Clemenceau](#)

[Gerald Ford](#)

[Gioachino Rossini](#)

[Gloria Steinem](#)

[Goldie Hawn](#)

[Gore Vidal](#)

[Grace Hopper](#)

[Gracie Allen](#)

[Graffito](#)

[Grant Allen](#)

[Greenpeace](#)

[Groucho Marx](#)

[H. Jackson Brown](#)

[H.G. Wells](#)

[H.L. Mencken](#)

[Haley Barbour](#)

[Harlan Ellison](#)

[Harold Nicolson](#)

[Harriet Van Horne](#)

[Harry Leon Wilson](#)

[Harry Truman](#)

[Heinrich Heine](#)

[Helen Castle](#)

[Helen Gurley Brown](#)

[Helen Keller](#)

[Helena Blavatsky](#)

[Helene Hanff](#)

[Henry Cuyler Bunner](#)

[Henry David Thoreau](#)

[Henry Ford](#)

[Henry Ford II](#)

[Henry James](#)

[Henry Kissinger](#)

[Henry Miller](#)

[Henry Morgan](#)

[Henry Powell Spring](#)

[Henry Stanley Haskins](#)

[Henry Thomas Buckle](#)

[Henry Wadsworth Longfellow](#)

[Henry Ward Beecher](#)

[Herb Caen](#)

[Herbert Beerbohm Tree](#)

[Herbert Hoover](#)

[Herbert Spencer](#)

[Herman J. Mankiewicz](#)

[Herman Melville](#)

[Heywood Hale Broun](#)

[Hillary Clinton](#)

[Honore de Balzac](#)

[Horace Greeley](#)

[Horace Walpole](#)

[Hugh O'Brian](#)

[Humphrey Bogart](#)

[Ian MacLaren](#)

[Igor Stravinsky](#)

[Immanuel Kant](#)

[Indira Gandhi](#)

[Ingrid Bergman](#)

[Ira Hayes](#)

[Irene Dunne](#)

[Iris Murdoch](#)

[Irvin Cobb](#)

[Irwin Corey](#)

[Isaac Asimov](#)

[Isadora Duncan](#)

[Israel Zangwill](#)

[J. K. Rowling](#)

[J. P. McEvoy](#)

[J. R. R. Tolkien](#)

[J.B.S. Haldane](#)

[Jack Benny](#)

[Jack Kemp](#)

[Jack London](#)

[Jack Warner](#)

[Jack Youngblood](#)

[Jacob J. Rosenblum](#)

[Jacques Barzun](#)

[James Boswell](#)

[James Bradley](#)

[James Dean](#)

[James Fenimore Cooper](#)

[James G. Blaine](#)

[James Joyce](#)

[James Kirkwood Jr.](#)

[James M. Cain](#)

[James Matthew Barrie](#)

[James McNeill Whistler](#)

[James Michener](#)

[James Montgomery Flagg](#)

[James Quin](#)

[James Ussher](#)

[James Webb Young](#)

[Jan Harold Brunvand](#)

[Jane Addams](#)

[Jascha Heifetz](#)

[Jean Harlow](#)

[Jean Larteguy](#)

[Jean Piaget](#)

[Jean Sibelius](#)

[Jean-Paul Sartre](#)

[Jeanette Winterson](#)

[Jerome Michael](#)

[Jerry Barber](#)

[Jerry Pournelle](#)

[Jess Lair](#)

[Jessie Potter](#)

[Jim Brewer](#)

[Jim Morrison](#)

[Jimi Hendrix](#)

[Jimmy Durante](#)

[Joan Collins](#)

[Joe E. Lewis](#)

[Joe Franklin](#)

[Joe Namath](#)

[Joel Chandler Harris](#)

[Johann P. F. Richter](#)

[Johann Wolfgang von Goethe](#)

[John Adams](#)

[John B. Finch](#)

[John Barth](#)

[John Bradford](#)

[John Bradley](#)

[John Brunner](#)

[John Culkin](#)

[John D. Rockefeller](#)

[John Dewey](#)

[John F. Kennedy](#)

[John Forbes](#)

[John Gardner](#)

[John Godfrey Saxe](#)

[John Lennon](#)

[John Locke](#)

[John Maynard Keynes](#)

[John McTiernan](#)

[John Pierpont Morgan](#)

[John Quincy Adams](#)

[John Steinbeck](#)

[John Stuart Mill](#)

[John Watson](#)

[John Wesley](#)

[John William Gardner](#)

[John Wilmot](#)

[John Wooden](#)

[Johnny Hart](#)

[Jonathan Swift](#)

[Josef Stalin](#)

[Joseph Campbell](#)

[Joseph Cummings Chase](#)

[Joseph Stalin](#)

[Josh Billings](#)

[Josiah Stamp](#)

[Judith Martin](#)

[Julia Child](#)

[Julie Andrews](#)

[Karl Harriman](#)

[Kate Sanborn](#)

[Katharine Graham](#)

[Katharine Hepburn](#)

[Kathleen Norris](#)

[Kay Boyle](#)

[Kenneth B. Elliott](#)

[Kenneth Herford](#)

[Kenneth Tynan](#)

[Kent M. Keith](#)

[King Charles II](#)

[King George II](#)

[Kinky Friedman](#)

[Kurt Vonnegut](#)

[L. Frank Baum](#)

[La Rochefoucauld](#)

[Lao-Tzu](#)

[Larry Ferguson](#)

[Laurel Thatcher Ulrich](#)

[Laurence J. Peter](#)

[Laurie Anderson](#)

[Lawrence Pearsall Jacks](#)

[Lawrence Summers](#)

[Lee Trevino](#)

[Leo Mattersdorf](#)

[Leo Rosten](#)

[Leo Tolstoy](#)

[Leon Leonwood Bean](#)

[Leonard Bernstein](#)

[Leonard Lyons](#)

[Leonardo da Vinci](#)

[Leonora Corbett](#)

[Letitia Elizabeth Landon](#)

[Lewis H. Lapham](#)

[Lewis Morris](#)

[Lewis Mumford](#)

[Liane Cordes](#)

[Lillian Hellman](#)

[Lily Tomlin](#)

[Liz Smith](#)

[Lord Byron](#)

[Lord Chesterfield](#)

[Lord Melbourne](#)

[Louis Armstrong](#)

[Louis Fischer](#)

[Louis Zukofsky](#)

[Louisa May Alcott](#)

[Lu Xun](#)

[Lucy Baldwin](#)

[Ludwig Borne](#)

[Lyndon B. Johnson](#)

[Lynn Fontanne](#)

[Lynn Johnston](#)

[Mae West](#)

[Malcolm Forbes](#)

[Marcus Tullius Cicero](#)

[Margaret E. Sangster](#)

[Margaret Fuller](#)

[Margaret Mead](#)

[Margaret Millar](#)

[Margaret Thatcher](#)

[Margot Asquith](#)

[Maria Edgeworth](#)

[Marie Antoinette](#)

[Marie Belloc-Lowndes](#)

[Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach](#)

[Marilyn Monroe](#)

[Mario Puzo](#)

[Mark Clark](#)

[Mark Toby](#)

[Mark Twain](#)

[Marlon Brando](#)

[Marshall Field](#)

[Marshall McLuhan](#)

[Marthe Troly-Curtin](#)

[Martin Andre Rosanoff](#)

[Martin Luther](#)

[Martin Luther King](#)

[Martin Mull](#)

[Mary Heaton Vorse](#)

[Mary Kay Ash](#)

[Mary McCarthy](#)

[Mary Pettibone Poole](#)

[Mary Schmich](#)

[Maurice Chevalier](#)

[Maurice Maeterlinck](#)

[Maurice Switzer](#)

[Max Aitken](#)

[Max Beerbohm](#)

[Maya Angelou](#)

[Michael Curtiz](#)

[Michael Todd](#)

[Michael Wolff](#)

[Michel de Montaigne](#)

[Michelangelo](#)

[Mick Jagger](#)

[Milton Berle](#)

[Milton Friedman](#)

[Miriam Hopkins](#)

[Mohandas Gandhi](#)

[Moliere](#)

[Moses Hadas](#)

[Moses Henry Cass](#)

[Mother Teresa](#)

[Mrs. Amos Pinchot](#)

[Muhammad Ali](#)

[Muriel Spark](#)

[Muriel Strode](#)

[Nancy Astor](#)

[Nancy Austin](#)

[Nancy Vincent McClelland](#)

[Napoleon Bonaparte](#)

[Napoleon III](#)

[Nathaniel Hawthorne](#)

[Neal Gabler](#)

[Neil Gaiman](#)

[Nelson Mandela](#)

[Niccolo Machiavelli](#)

[Nicolas Chamfort](#)

[Niels Bohr](#)

[Nikola Tesla](#)

[Ninon de Lenclos](#)

[Noah Webster](#)

[Noel Coward](#)

[Norman Vincent Peale](#)

[Octavia Butler](#)

[Ogden Nash](#)

[Oliver Cromwell](#)

[Oliver Stone](#)

[Oliver Wendell Holmes](#)

[Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.](#)

[Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.](#)

[Omar Bradley](#)

[Orison Swett Marden](#)

[Orlando Aloysius Battista](#)

[Orson Welles](#)

[Oscar Levant](#)

[Oscar Wilde](#)

[Otto von Bismarck](#)

[P. C. Hodgell](#)

[P. T. Barnum](#)

[Pablo Casals](#)

[Pablo Picasso](#)

[Paul Ehrlich](#)

[Paul Eldridge](#)

[Paul Gallico](#)

[Paul Rodriguez](#)

[Paul Samuelson](#)

[Paul Terry](#)

[Peter De Vries](#)

[Peter Drucker](#)

[Peter Lynch](#)

[Peter Marshall](#)

[Peter O'Toole](#)

[Peter Ustinov](#)

[Philip Larkin](#)

[Philippe Halsman](#)

[Philo of Alexandria](#)

[Pierre-Auguste Renoir](#)

[Plato](#)

[Plutarch](#)

[Poul Anderson](#)

[Queen Anne](#)

[Quin Ryan](#)

[Rabindranath Tagore](#)

[Ralph Carpenter](#)

[Ralph Waldo Emerson](#)

[Ray Bradbury](#)

[Ray Manzarek](#)

[Raymond Chandler](#)

[Raymond J. Saulnier](#)

[Rebecca West](#)

[Red Smith](#)

[Richard Bach](#)

[Richard Brinsley Sheridan](#)

[Richard Feynman](#)

[Richard Grenier](#)

[Richard Henry Little](#)

[Richard Pryor](#)

[Richard Rodgers](#)

[Rita Mae Brown](#)

[Roald Dahl](#)

[Robert Anderson](#)

[Robert Benchley](#)

[Robert Browning](#)

[Robert Frost](#)

[Robert G. Ingersoll](#)

[Robert H. Schuller](#)

[Robert Heinlein](#)

[Robert M. Hutchins](#)

[Robert Orben](#)

[Robert Quillen](#)

[Robert Storm Petersen](#)

[Robert W. Service](#)

[Robin Williams](#)

[Ronald Reagan](#)

[Roy S. Durstine](#)

[Rudyard Kipling](#)

[Russell B. Long](#)

[Rutherford B. Hayes](#)

[Sakokwenonkwas](#)

[Salvador Dali](#)

[Sam Levenson](#)

[Samuel Butler](#)

[Samuel Foote](#)

[Samuel Gallu](#)

[Samuel Goldwyn](#)

[Samuel Johnson](#)

[Samuel Wilberforce](#)

[Satchel Paige](#)

[Scott Adams](#)

[Seneca the Younger](#)

[Sheilah Graham](#)

[Shirley Temple](#)

[Sid Ziff](#)

[Sigmund Freud](#)

[Simone Signoret](#)

[Sinclair Lewis](#)

[Socrates](#)

[Somerset Maugham](#)

[Sophia Loren](#)

[Sophocles](#)

[Sophonisba Breckinridge](#)

[Stan Bowles](#)

[Stephen Hawking](#)

[Stephen Leacock](#)

[Steve Jobs](#)

[Steve Martin](#)

[Steven Wright](#)

[Sting](#)

[Sybil F. Partridge](#)

[Sydney Smith](#)

[T. S. Eliot](#)

[Tallulah Bankhead](#)

[Taylor Caldwell](#)

[Tennessee Williams](#)

[The Sticher](#)

[Thelonius Monk](#)

[Theodor Seuss Geisel](#)

[Theodore Parker](#)

[Theodore Roosevelt](#)

[Theodore Sturgeon](#)

[Thomas B. Macaulay](#)

[Thomas Carlyle](#)

[Thomas De Quincey](#)

[Thomas Edison](#)

[Thomas Friedman](#)

[Thomas Fuller](#)

[Thomas Jefferson](#)

[Thomas Merton](#)

[Thomas Paine](#)

[Thomas Peters](#)

[Thomas R. Ybarra](#)

[Thomas Wolfe](#)

[Thornton Wilder](#)

[Thucydides](#)

[Tobias Smollett](#)

[Toby Keith](#)

[Tom Ferris](#)

[Tony Curtis](#)

[Truman Capote](#)

[Tug McGraw](#)

[Ulysses S. Grant](#)

[Update](#)

[Upton Sinclair](#)

[Vaclav Havel](#)

[Victor Hugo](#)

[Vince Lombardi](#)

[Vincent van Gogh](#)

[Virginia Woolf](#)

[Vladimir Lenin](#)

[Vladimir Nabokov](#)

[Voltaire](#)

[W. B. Bill Hayler](#)

[W. C. Fields](#)

[W. H. Auden](#)

[W. S. Gilbert](#)

[W. Somerset Maugham](#)

[Wallace S. Sayre](#)

[Walt Disney](#)

[Walt Whitman](#)

[Walter Barbe](#)

[Walter F. Kerr](#)

[Walter Reuther](#)

[Walter Winchell](#)

[Warren Buffett](#)

[Washington Irving](#)

[Waylon Jennings](#)

[Wendell Berry](#)

[Wilfred Thesiger](#)

[Will Durant](#)

[Will Rogers](#)

[Willard Motley](#)

[William A. Spooner](#)

[William Aberhart](#)

[William Allen White](#)

[William Blake](#)

[William Bruce Cameron](#)

[William Butler Yeats](#)

[William Dean Howells](#)

[William Ellery Channing](#)

[William F. Buckley Jr.](#)

[William Faulkner](#)

[William Fifield](#)

[William Gibson](#)

[William Gladstone](#)

[William James](#)

[William Lyon Phelps](#)

[William Makepeace Thackeray](#)

[William McChesney Martin](#)

[William Morrow](#)

[William Nevins](#)

[William Pickford](#)

[William Randolph Hearst](#)

[William S. Burroughs](#)

[William Shakespeare](#)

[William T. Arnold](#)

[William Wrigley Jr.](#)

[Willie Sutton](#)

[Wilson Mizner](#)

[Winston Churchill](#)

[Woodrow Wilson](#)

[Woody Allen](#)

[Woody Hayes](#)

[World War I](#)

[Yogi Berra](#)

[Zechariah Chafee](#)

[Zen Buddhist saying](#)

[Zero Dean](#)

[Zig Ziglar](#)

[Zora Neale Hurston](#)

BLOGROLL

[A Way with Words](#)

[Barry Popik – The Big Apple](#)

[Ben Zimmer – Vis Thesaurus](#)

[Ben Zimmer – Wall St Journal](#)

[Dave Wilton – Word Origins](#)

[Double-Tongued Dictionary](#)

[Dr. Mardy's Dictionary of](#)

[Metaphorical Quotations](#)

[Fred Shapiro – Freakonomics](#)

[Oxford English Dictionary](#)

[Oxford Reference Online](#)

[Quote Counterquote](#)

[Quote Garden](#)

[Quote Unquote – Nigel Rees](#)

[Quote Vadis](#)

[Ralph Keyes](#)

[The Phrase Finder](#)

[This Day in Quotes](#)

[TwainQuotes](#)

[Urban Dictionary](#)

[Wikiquote](#)

[World Wide Words](#)

[Proudly powered by WordPress](#)