

# Language Quotes

We have too many high sounding words, and too few actions that correspond with them.

**Abigail Adams**

Words are the physicians of the mind diseased.

**Aeschylus**

The language of truth is unadorned and always simple.

**Marcellinus Ammianus**

Drawing on my fine command of language, I said nothing.

**Anonymous**

The kindest word in all the world is the unkind word, unsaid.

**Anonymous**

Kindness: a language the deaf can hear and the blind can see.

**Anonymous**

The easiest way to save face is to keep the lower half shut.

**Anonymous**

Foolishness always results when the tongue outraces the brain.

**Anonymous**

Never miss a good chance to shut up.

**Anonymous**

The words you choose to say something are just as important as the decision to speak.

**Anonymous**

I just wish my mouth had a backspace key.

**Anonymous**

The most important thing in communication is hearing what isn't being said.

**Anonymous**

Keep your words soft and tender because tomorrow you may have to eat them.

**Anonymous**

Talk is cheap because supply exceeds demand.

**Anonymous**

Never argue with a fool. Someone watching may not be able to tell the difference.

**Anonymous**

When you're arguing with a fool, make sure he isn't doing the same thing.

**Anonymous**

The only weapon that becomes sharper with constant use is the tongue.

**Anonymous**

How many languages are there in the world? How about 5 billion! Each of us talks, listens, and thinks in his/her own special language that has been shaped by our culture, experiences, profession, personality, mores and attitudes. The chances of us meeting someone else who talks the exact same language is pretty remote.

**Anonymous**

Even a fish wouldn't get into trouble if he kept his mouth shut.

**Anonymous**

I do not mind what language an opera is sung in so long as it is an language I do not understand.

**Sir Edward Appleton**

Let thy speech be short, comprehending much in a few words.

**Aprocrypha**

High thoughts must have high language.

**Aristophanes**

All true language is incomprehensible, like the chatter of a beggar's teeth.

**Antonin Artaud**

It's not what you tell them...it's what they hear.

**Red Auerbach**

A special kind of beauty exists which is born in language, of language, and for language.

**Gaston Bachelard**

An inability to stay quiet is one of the conspicuous failings of mankind.

**Walter Bagehot**

If everybody thought before they spoke, the silence would be deafening.

**George Barzan**

No language is rude that can boast polite writers.

**Aubrey Beardsley**

Drawing on my find command of language, I said nothing.

**Robert Charles Benchley**

For me, words are a form of action, capable of influencing change.

**Ingrid Bengis**

Ours is the age of substitutes: Instead of language we have jargon; instead of principles, slogans; and instead of genuine ideas, bright suggestions.

**Eric Bentley**

Lenin could listen so intently that he exhausted the speaker.

**Isaiah Berlin**

Heaven, n.: A place where the wicked cease from troubling you with talk of their personal affairs, and the good listen with attention while you expound your own.

**Ambrose Bierce**

Speak when you are angry and you will make the best speech you will ever regret.

**Ambrose Bierce**

Silence is one of the hardest arguments to refute.

**Josh Billings**

Language is the biggest barrier to human progress because language is an encyclopedia of ignorance. Old perceptions are frozen into language and force us to look at the world in an old fashioned way.

**Edward de Bono**

Self-expression must pass into communication for its fulfillment.

**Pearl S. Buck**

The English language is rather like a monster accordion, stretchable at the whim of the editor, compressible ad lib.

**Robert Burchfield**

Among my most prized possessions are words that I have never spoken.

**Orson Rega Card**

There are four ways, and only four ways, in which we have contact with the world. We are evaluated and classified by these four contacts: what we do, how we look, what we say, and how we say it."

**Dale Carnegie**

The dead might as well try to speak to the living as the old to the young.

**Willa Cather**

Grasp the subject, the words will follow.

**Cato the Elder**

It is a mass language only in the same sense that its baseball slang is born of baseball players. That is, it is a language which is being molded by writers to do delicate things and yet be within the grasp of superficially educated people. It is not a natural growth, much as its proletarian writers would like to think so. But compared with it at its best, English has reached the Alexandrian stage of formalism and decay.

**Raymond Chandler**

To have another language is to possess a second soul.

**Charlemagne**

One of the basic causes for all the trouble in the world today is that people talk too much and think too little. They act impulsively without thinking. I always try to think before I talk.

**Margaret Chase Smith**

Not the fastest horse can catch a word spoken in anger.

**Chinese Proverb**

Language is a process of free creation; its laws and principles are fixed, but the manner in which the principles of generation are used is free and infinitely varied. Even the interpretation and use of words involves a process of free creation.

**Noam Chomsky**

Broadly speaking, the short words are the best, and the old words best of all.

**Sir Winston Churchill**

By swallowing evil words unsaid, no one has ever harmed his stomach.

**Winston Churchill**

Never hold discussions with the monkey when the organ grinder is in the room.

**Winston Churchill**

In the course of my life, I have often had to eat my words, and I must confess that I have always found it a wholesome diet.

**Winston Churchill**

From now on, ending a sentence with a preposition is something up with which I will not put.

**Winston Churchill**

Language is the armory of the human mind, and at once contains the trophies of its past and the weapons of its future conquests.

**Samuel Taylor Coleridge**

Works of imagination should be written in very plain language; the more purely imaginative they are the more necessary it is to be plain.

**Samuel Taylor Coleridge**

To a teacher of languages there comes a time when the world is but a place of many words and man appears a mere talking animal not much more wonderful than a parrot.

**Joseph Conrad**

I have noticed that nothing I have never said ever did me any harm.

**Calvin Coolidge**

Euphemisms are unpleasant truths wearing diplomatic cologne.

**Quentin Crisp**

If you describe things as better than they are, you are thought a romantic; if you describe things as worse than they are, you are thought a realist; if you describe things as exactly as they are, then you are thought a satirist.

**Quentin Crisp**

Two monologues do not make a dialogue.

**Jeff Daly**

And who in time knows whither we may vent the treasure of our tongue, to what strange shores this gain of our best glories shall be sent, 't unknowing Nations with our stores? What worlds in the yet unformed Occident may come refined with the accents that are ours?

**Samuel Daniel**

Even if you do learn to speak correct English, whom are you going to speak it to?

**Clarence Darrow**

The individual's whole experience is built upon the plan of his language.

**Henri Delacroix**

There is more than a verbal tie between the words common, community, and communication.... Try the experiment of communicating, with fullness and accuracy, some experience to another, especially if it be somewhat complicated, and you will find your own attitude toward your experience changing.

**John Dewey**

Talk to people about themselves and they will listen for hours.

**Benjamin Disraeli**

One of the lessons of history is that nothing is often a good thing to do and always a clever thing to say. **Will Durant**

Male supremacy is fused into the language, so that every sentence both heralds and affirms it.

**Andrea Dworkin**

The words of language, as they are written or spoken, do not seem to play any role in my mechanism of thought. The physical entities which seem to serve as elements in thought are certain signs and more or less clear images.

**Albert Einstein**

The finest language is mostly made up of simple unimposing words.

**George Eliot**

It is very hard to say the exact truth, even about your own immediate feelings - much harder than to say something fine about them which is not the exact truth.

**George Eliot**

Blessed is the man who, having nothing to say, abstains from giving evidence of the fact.

**George Eliot**

Among provocatives, the next best thing to good preaching is bad preaching. I have even more thoughts during or enduring it than at other times.

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

Language is a city to the building of which every human being brought a stone.

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

Use soft words and hard arguments.

**English Proverb**

Thought is the blossom; language the bud; action the fruit behind it.

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

We have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak.

**Epictetus**

Whenever two good people argue over principles, they are both right.

**Marie Ebner von Eschenbach**

The language of truth is simple.

**Euripides**

I tell you everything that is really nothing, and nothing of what is everything, do not be fooled by what I am saying. Please listen carefully and try to hear what I am not saying.

**Charles C. Finn**

Deeds, not words shall speak me.

**John Fletcher**

Words are the leaves of the tree of language, of which, if some fall away, a new succession takes their place.

**John French**

Writing is a struggle against silence.

**Carlos Fuentes**

Honest disagreement is often a good sign of progress.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

Be careful of your thoughts; they may become words at any moment.

**Ira Gassen**

We live at the level of our language. Whatever we can articulate we can imagine or explore. All you have to do to educate a child is leave them alone and teach them to read. The rest is brainwashing.

**Ellen Gilchrist**

The older I grow the more I listen to people who don't talk much.

**Germain G. Glien**

Those who know nothing of foreign languages, knows nothing of their own.

**Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe**

When ideas fail, words come in very handy.

**Johann Wolfgang von Goethe**

When someone does something good, applaud! You'll make two people happy.

**Sam Goldwyn**

Dance is the hidden language of the soul, of the body

**Martha Graham**

Don't tell your friends about your indigestion. "How are you" is a greeting, not a question.

**Arthur Guiterman**

Public speaking is done in the public tongue, the national or tribal language; and the language of our tribe is the men's language. Of course women learn it. We're not dumb. If you can tell Margaret Thatcher from Ronald Reagan, or Indira Gandhi from General Somoza, by anything they say, tell me how. This is a man's world, so it talks a man's language.

**Ursula K. Le Guin**

Always do sober what you said you'd do drunk. That will teach you to keep your mouth shut.

**Ernest Hemingway**

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

**Hermann Hesse**

The proverbial German phenomenon of the verb-at-the-end about which droll tales of absentminded professors who would begin a sentence, ramble on for an entire lecture, and then finish up by rattling off a string of verbs by which their audience, for whom the stack had long since lost its coherence, would be totally nonplussed, are told, is an excellent example of linguistic recursion.

**Douglas Hofstadter**

There is no 'cat language.' Painful as it is for us to admit, they don't need one!

**Barbara Holland**

Talking is like playing on the harp; there is as much in laying the hands on the strings to stop their vibration as in twanging them to bring out their music.

**Oliver Wendell Holmes**

Language is the blood of the soul into which thoughts run and out of which they grow.

**Oliver Wendell Holmes**

Once a word has been allowed to escape, it cannot be recalled.

**Horace**

Don't knock the weather; nine-tenths of the people couldn't start a conversation if it didn't change once in a while.

**Kin Hubbard**

The only way to entertain some folks is to listen to them.

**Kin Hubbard**

Grammar and logic free language from being at the mercy of the tone of voice. Grammar protects us against misunderstanding the sound of an uttered name; logic protects us against what we say have double meaning.

**Rosenstock Huessy**

The right to be heard does not automatically include the right to be taken seriously.

**Hubert H. Humphrey**

Every individual is at once the beneficiary and the victim of the linguistic tradition into which he has been born - the beneficiary inasmuch as language gives access to the accumulated records of other people's experience, the victim in so far as it confirms him in the belief that reduced awareness is the only awareness and as it bedevils his sense of reality, so that he is all too apt to take his concepts for data, his words for actual things.

**Aldous Huxley**

To speak and to speak well are two things. A fool may talk, but a wise man speaks.

**Ben Jonson**

I am always sorry when any language is lost, because languages are the pedigrees of nations.

**Samuel Johnson**

Always and never are two words you should always remember never to use.

**Wendell Johnson**

Words ought to be a little wild for they are the assaults of thought on the unthinking.

**John Maynard Keynes**

Words ought to be a little wild for they are the assaults on the unthinking.

**John Maynard Keynes**

Words are, of course, the most powerful drug used by mankind.

**Rudyard Kipling**

Communication across the revolutionary divide is inevitably partial.

**Thomas S. Kuhn**

The trouble with talking too fast is you may say something you haven't thought of yet.

**Ann Landers**

Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening when you'd have preferred to talk.

**Doug Larson**

If the English language made any sense, a catastrophe would be an apostrophe with fur.

**Doug Larson**

A spoonful of humor makes the message go down easier.

**Frank Leahy**

Language is a form of human reason, which has its internal logic of which man knows nothing.

**Claude Levi-Strauss**

It is better to keep one's mouth shut and be thought a fool than to open it and resolve all doubt.

**Abraham Lincoln**

He can compress the most words into the smallest ideas of any man I ever met.

**Abraham Lincoln**

Good communication is as stimulating as black coffee, and just as hard to sleep after.

**Anne Morrow Lindbergh**

Language is the inventory of human experience.

**L. W. Lockhart**

Any language is necessarily a finite system applied with different degrees of creativity to an infinite variety of situations, and most of the words and phrases we use are "prefabricated" in the sense that we don't coin new ones every time we speak.

**David Lodge**

The fewer words the better prayer.

**Martin Luther**

Arguments over grammar and style are often as fierce as those over IBM versus Mac, and as fruitless as Coke versus Pepsi and boxers versus briefs.

**Jack Lynch**

Communication leads to community, that is, to understanding, intimacy and mutual valuing.

**Rollo May**

No one really listens to anyone else, and if you try it for a while you'll see why.

**Mignon McLaughlin**

He who knows only his own side of the case, knows little of that.

**John Stuart Mill**

Most conversations are simply monologues delivered in the presence of a witness.

**Margaret Millar**

A man thinks that by mouthing hard words he understands hard things.

**Herman Melville**

I quote others only in order the better to express myself.

**Michel de Montaigne**

There is in every child a painstaking teacher, so skilful that he obtains identical results in all children in all parts of the world. The only language men ever speak perfectly is the one they learn in babyhood, when no one can teach them anything!

**Maria Montessori**

We die. That may be the meaning of life. But we do language. That may be the measure of our lives.

**Toni Morrison**

People say conversation is a lost art; how often I have wished it were.

**Edward R. Murrow**

The newest computer can merely compound, at speed, the oldest problem in the relations between human beings, and in the end the communicator will be confronted with the old problem, of what to say and how to say it.

**Edward R. Murrow**

The best way to keep one's word is not to give it.

**Napoleon I, Maxims**

The problems of society will also be the problems of the predominant language of that society. It is the carrier of its perceptions, its attitudes, and its goals, for through it, the speakers absorb entrenched attitudes. The guilt of English then must be recognized and appreciated before its continued use can be advocated.

**Njabulo Ndebele**

Of those who say nothing, few are silent.

**Thomas Neiel**

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.

**Dorothy Nevill**

Language ought to be the joint creation of poets and manual workers.

**George Orwell**

The great enemy of clear language is insincerity.

**George Orwell**

Never throw mud. You may miss the mark, and you'll have dirty hands.

**Joseph Parker**

I wonder what language truck drivers are using, now that everyone is using theirs?

**Sydney Pfizer**

The true genius shudders at incompleteness - and usually prefers silence to saying something which is not everything it should be.

**Edgar Allan Poe**

It is impossible to speak in such a way that you cannot be misunderstood.

**Karl Popper**

The more elaborate our means of communication, the less we communicate.

**Joseph Priestley**

We are healed of a suffering only by expressing it to the full.

**Marcel Proust**

No one has a finer command of language than the person who keeps his mouth shut.

**Sam Rayburn**

The most basic and powerful way to connect to another person is to listen. Just listen. Perhaps the most important thing we ever give each other is our attention.... A loving silence often has far more power to heal and to connect than the most well-intentioned words.

**Rachel Naomi Remen**

Lying is done with words and also with silence.

**Adrienne Rich**

When a language creates -- as it does -- a community within the present, it does so only by courtesy of a community between the present and the past.

**Christopher Ricks**

Be sincere; be brief; be seated.

**Franklin Delano Roosevelt**

The secret of language is the secret of sympathy and its full charm is possible only to the gentle.

**John Ruskin**

I am annoyed by individuals who are embarrassed by pauses in a conversation. To me, every conversational pause refreshes.

**George Sanders**

Feelings of worth can flourish only in an atmosphere where individual differences are appreciated, mistakes are tolerated, communication is open, and rules are flexible -- the kind of atmosphere that is found in a nurturing family.

**Virginia Satir**

Language furnishes the best proof that a law accepted by a community is a thing that is tolerated and not a rule to which all freely consent.

**Ferdinand De Saussure**

The word of man is the most durable of all material.

**Arthur Schopenhauer**

When we have the courage to speak out - to break our silence - we inspire the rest of the "moderates" in our communities to speak up and voice their views.

**Sharon Schuster**

I am telling you to be a slow-speaking person.

**Seneca**

I understand a fury in your words,  
But not the words.

**William Shakespeare**

My words fly up, my thoughts remain below:  
Words without thoughts never to heaven go.

**William Shakespeare**

They have been at a great feast of languages, and stolen the scraps.

**William Shakespeare**

The English have no respect for their language, and will not teach their children to speak it.

**George Bernard Shaw**

England and America are two countries divided by a common language.

**George Bernard Shaw**

The trouble with her is that she lacks the power of conversation but not the power of speech.

**George Bernard Shaw**

One way to prevent conversation from being boring is to say the wrong thing.

**Frank Sheed**

Isn't it surprising how many things, if not said immediately, seem not worth saying ten minutes from now?

**Arnot L. Sheppard, Jr.**

Don't speak unless you can improve on the silence.

**Spanish Proverb**

Man does not live by words alone, despite the fact that sometimes he has to eat them.

**Adlai Stevenson**

Words calculated to catch everyone may catch no one.

**Adlai E. Stevenson Jr.**

The quality of our thoughts is bordered on all sides by our facility with language.

**J. Michael Straczynski**

Argument is the worst sort of conversation.

**Jonathan Swift**

Let a fool hold his tongue and he will pass for a sage.

**Pubilius Syrus**

The great thing about human language is that it prevents us from sticking to the matter at hand.

**Lewis Thomas**

You can communicate without motivating, but it impossible to motivate without communicating.

**John Thompson**

In describing today's accelerating changes, the media fire blips of unrelated information at us. Experts bury us under mountains of narrowly specialized monographs. Popular forecasters present lists of unrelated trends, without any model to show us their interconnections or the forces likely to reverse them. As a result, change itself comes to be seen as anarchic, even lunatic.

**Alvin Toffler**

The first duty of love is to listen

**Paul Tillich**

Our language has wisely sensed the two sides of being alone. It has created the word, loneliness to express the pain of being alone. And it has created the word, solitude to express the glory of being alone

**Paul Tillich**

Man invented language to satisfy his deep need to complain.

**Lily Tomlin**

Language is the amber in which a thousand precious and subtle thoughts have been safely embedded and preserved. It has arrested ten thousand lightning flashes of genius, which, unless thus fixed and arrested, might have been as bright, but would have also been as quickly passing and perishing, as the lightning.

**Richard Chevenix Trench**

Well-timed silence hath more eloquence than speech.

**Martin Farquhar Tupper**



The difference between the right word and almost the right word is the difference between lightning and a lightning bug.

**Mark Twain**

Only presidents, editors and people with tapeworm have the right to use the editorial 'we'.

**Mark Twain**

The universal principle of etymology in all languages: words are carried over from bodies and from the properties of bodies to express the things of the mind and spirit. The order of ideas must follow the order of things.

**Giambattista Vico**

As societies grow decadent, the language grows decadent, too. Words are used to disguise, not to illuminate, action: you liberate a city by destroying it. Words are to confuse, so that at election time people will solemnly vote against their own interests

**Gore Vidal**

People have to talk about something just to keep their voice boxes in working order so they'll have good voice boxes in case there's ever anything really meaningful to say.

**Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.**

I personally think we developed language because of our deep inner need to complain.

**Jane Wagner**

When you speak, ask questions. Don't lecture.

**Denis Waitley**

We don't just borrow words; on occasion, English has pursued other languages down alleyways to beat them unconscious and rifle their pockets for new vocabulary.

**Booker T. Washington**

Calvin: Sometimes when I'm talking, my words can't keep up with my thoughts. I wonder why we think faster than we speak.

Hobbes: Probably so we can think twice.

**Bill Watterson**

Numbers constitute the only universal language.

**Nathanael West**

Keep the other person's well-being in mind when you feel an attack of soul-purging truth coming on.

**Betty White**

There is no such thing as conversation. It is an illusion. There are intersecting monologues, that is all.

**Rebecca West**

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

**James McNeill Whistler**

English usage is sometimes more than mere taste, judgment and education -- sometimes it's sheer luck, like getting across the street.

**E. B. White**

Viewed freely, the English language is the accretion and growth of every dialect, race, and range of time, and is both the free and compacted composition of all.

**Walt Whitman**

Language shapes the way we think, and determines what we can think about.

**Benjamin Lee Whorf**

As advertising blather becomes the nation's normal idiom, language becomes printed noise.

**George F. Will**

Poetry is the language of feeling.

**W. Winter**

If you wouldn't write it and sign it, don't say it.

**Earl Wilson**

If I am to speak ten minutes, I need a week for preparation; if fifteen minutes, three days; if half an hour, two days; if an hour, I am ready now.

**Woodrow Wilson**

The limits of my language means the limits of my world.

**Ludwig Wittgenstein**

If we spoke a different language, we would perceive a somewhat different world.

**Ludwig Wittgenstein**

Think like a wise man but communicate in the language of the people.

**William Butler Yeats**

<http://www.developingteachers.com/quotes/q1.htm>

## Quotations about Language

We should have a great fewer disputes in the world if words were taken for what they are, the signs of our ideas only, and not for things themselves. ~**John Locke**

Language forces us to perceive the world as man presents it to us. ~**Julia Penelope**

The quantity of consonants in the English language is constant. If omitted in one place, they turn up in another. When a Bostonian "pahks" his "cah," the lost r's migrate southwest, causing a Texan to "warsh" his car and invest in "erl wells." ~**Author Unknown**

English is a funny language; that explains why we park our car on the driveway and drive our car on the parkway. ~**Author Unknown**

The reaction to any word may be, in an individual, either a mob-reaction or an individual reaction. It is up to the individual to ask himself: Is my reaction individual, or am I merely reacting from my mob-self? When it comes to the so-called obscene words, I should say that hardly one person in a million escapes mob-reaction. ~**D.H. Lawrence**

Lymph, v.: to walk with a lisp. ~**From a Washington Post reader submission word contest**

One man's frankness is another man's vulgarity. ~**Kevin Smith**

No one means all he says, and yet very few say all they mean, for words are slippery and thought is viscous. ~**Henry Brooks Adams**, *The Education of Henry Adams*, 1907

I personally believe we developed language because of our deep inner need to complain. ~**Jane Wagner**

Euphemisms are unpleasant truths wearing diplomatic cologne. ~**Quentin Crisp**

Slang is a language that rolls up its sleeves, spits on its hands and goes to work. ~**Carl Sandburg**, *New York Times*, 13 February 1959

It's a strange world of language in which skating on thin ice can get you into hot water. ~**Franklin P. Jones**

In certain trying circumstances, urgent circumstances, desperate circumstances, profanity furnishes a relief denied even to prayer. ~**Mark Twain**

At no time is freedom of speech more precious than when a man hits his thumb with a hammer. ~**Marshall Lumsden**

What words say does not last. The words last. Because words are always the same, and what they say is never the same. ~**Antonio Porchia**, *Voces*, 1943, translated from Spanish by W.S. Merwin

Language is the blood of the soul into which thoughts run and out of which they grow. ~**Oliver Wendell Holmes**

We have too many high sounding words and too few actions that correspond with them. ~**Abigail Adams**

Man is a creature who lives not upon bread alone, but primarily by catchwords. ~**Robert Louis Stevenson**

A good catchword can obscure analysis for fifty years. ~**Wendell L. Willkie**

Our major obligation is not to mistake slogans for solutions. ~**Edward R. Murrow**

If you can speak three languages you're trilingual. If you can speak two languages you're bilingual. If you can speak only one language you're an American. ~**Author Unknown**

I like the word "indolence." It makes my laziness seem classy. ~**Bern Williams**

Dictionaries are like watches; the worst is better than none, and the best cannot be expected to go quite true. ~**Samuel Johnson**

Words signify man's refusal to accept the world as it is. ~**Walter Kaufmann**

The English language is nobody's special property. It is the property of the imagination: it is the property of the language itself. ~**Derek Walcott**

Language is the dress of thought. ~**Samuel Johnson**

Thanks to words, we have been able to rise above the brutes; and thanks to words, we have often sunk to the level of the demons. ~**Aldous Huxley**

The great thing about human language is that it prevents us from sticking to the matter at hand. ~**Lewis Thomas**

Language is the most imperfect and expensive means yet discovered for communicating thought. ~**William James**

Be not the slave of Words. ~**Thomas Carlyle**, *Sartor Resartus*, Book I, chapter 8

The great enemy of clear language is insincerity. When there is a gap between one's real and one's declared aims, one turns as if it were instinctively to long words and exhausted idioms, like a cuttlefish squirting out ink. ~**George Orwell**

Language is the means of getting an idea from my brain into yours without surgery. ~**Mark Amidon**

Any man who does not make himself proficient in at least two languages other than his own is a fool. ~**Martin H. Fischer**

It is a safe rule to apply that, when a mathematical or philosophical author writes with a misty profundity, he is talking nonsense. ~**Alfred North Whitehead**

He who does not know foreign languages does not know anything about his own. ~**Johann Wolfgang von Goethe**, *Kunst and Alterthum*

A definition is the enclosing a wilderness of idea within a wall of words. ~**Samuel Butler** (1835-1902), *Note-Books*

I would never use a long word where a short one would answer the purpose. I know there are professors in this country who 'ligate' arteries. Other surgeons only tie them, and it stops the bleeding just as well. ~**Oliver Wendell Holmes**

Our language is funny - a fat chance and slim chance are the same thing. ~**J. Gustav White**

Words want to be free! ~**Author Unknown**

Sarcasm I now see to be, in general, the language of the Devil; for which reason I have, long since, as good as renounced it. ~**Thomas Carlyle**, *Sartor Resartus*, Book II, chapter 4

Oaths are but words, and words but wind. ~**Samuel Butler** (1612-1680), *Hudribas*

There is a certain age at which a child looks at you in all earnestness and delivers a long, pleased speech in all the true inflections of spoken English, but with not one recognizable syllable. There is no way you can tell the child that if language had been a melody, he had mastered it and done well, but that since it was in fact a sense, he had botched it utterly. ~**Annie Dillard**, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*

Whenever ideas fail, men invent words. ~**Martin H. Fischer**

Words, like Nature, half reveal

And half conceal the Soul within.

~**Alfred, Lord Tennyson**, "Im memoriam A.H.H.," 1850

Learning preserves the errors of the past, as well as its wisdom. For this reason, dictionaries are public dangers, although they are necessities. ~**Alfred North Whitehead**

Every American child should grow up knowing a second language, preferably English. ~**Mignon McLaughlin**, *The Neurotic's Notebook*, 1960

Swearing was invented as a compromise between running away and fighting. ~**Peter Finley Dunne**, *Mr. Dooley's Opinions*, 1900

The existing phrasebooks are inadequate. They are well enough as far as they go, but when you fall down and skin your leg they don't tell you what to say. ~**Mark Twain**

Language is by its very nature a communal thing; that is, it expresses never the exact thing but a compromise - that which is common to you, me, and everybody. ~**Thomas Earnest Hulme**, *Speculations*, 1923

Let's not become so worried about not offending anybody that we lose the ability to distinguish between respect and paranoia. ~**Larry King**, about political correctness, *How to Talk to Anyone, Anytime, Anywhere: The Secrets of Good Communication*

The PC [political correctness] movement exists not in order to improve the well-being of those whose oppression it purports to combat. Rather, its purpose is to wrap its proponents in a kind of verbal comfort-blanket. Beneath its complacent cosiness and nauseating sanctimony, the intrepid shock-troops of 'populist authoritarianism' pretend that suppressing the language of prejudice is the same as eliminating prejudice itself. Smug and self-satisfied, having assuaged whatever guilt they may have felt through their attacks on the 'non-PC', they ignore the real inequalities, ignominies and powerlessness of those whom they pretend to champion. They are instead complacently content at their 'victory' in contorting the language of 'acceptable' discourse in the classroom, in the textbook and in the mass media. ~**Erik Kowal**, as posted on [The Wordwizard Portal](#)

The Ancient Mariner would not have taken so well if it had been called The Old Sailor. ~**Samuel Butler**

A different language is a different vision of life. ~**Federico Fellini**

"Children, don't speak so coarsely," said Mr. Webster, who had a vague notion that some supervision should be exercised over his daughters' speech, and that a line should be drawn, but never knew quite when to draw it. He had allowed his daughters to use his library without restraint, and nothing is more fatal to maidenly delicacy of speech than the run of a good library. ~**Robertson Davies**, *Tempest Tost*

Conversation is the slowest form of human communication. ~**Author Unknown**

Learn a new language and get a new soul. ~**Czech Proverb**

But if thought corrupts language, language can also corrupt thought. ~**George Orwell**

The word "good" has many meanings. For example, if a man were to shoot his grandmother at a range of five hundred yards, I should call him a good shot, but not necessarily a good man. ~**G.K. Chesterton**

<http://www.quotegarden.com/language.html>

# Quotations by Subject

## Quotations by Subject: Language

<http://www.quotationspage.com/subjects/language/>

This site has 30 language quotes which have links to further information about each one – useful for providing a context etc. You can either click on the quote itself to locate other sites, or on the author's name to search for a profile. I have copied them into this Word document – you can access the internet sites through this page, or you can use the link above to access the actual Webpage...

1. We have too many high sounding words, and too few actions that correspond with them. [Abigail Adams \(1744 - 1818\)](#), *letter to John Adams, 1774*
2. He can compress the most words into the smallest ideas of any man I ever met. [Abraham Lincoln \(1809 - 1865\)](#)
3. Words calculated to catch everyone may catch no one. [Adlai E. Stevenson Jr. \(1900 - 1965\)](#), *speech to Democratic National Convention, Chicago, Illinois, July 21, 1952*
4. Words are the physicians of the mind diseased. [Aeschylus \(525 BC - 456 BC\)](#), *Prometheus Bound*
5. He can compress the most words into the smallest ideas of any man I ever met. [Abraham Lincoln \(1809 - 1865\)](#)
6. Words calculated to catch everyone may catch no one. [Adlai E. Stevenson Jr. \(1900 - 1965\)](#), *speech to Democratic National Convention, Chicago, Illinois, July 21, 1952*
7. Words are the physicians of the mind diseased. [Aeschylus \(525 BC - 456 BC\)](#), *Prometheus Bound*
8. Language is the source of misunderstandings. [Antoine de Saint-Exupery \(1900 - 1944\)](#)
9. Let thy speech be short, comprehending much in a few words. [Aprocrypha](#)
10. High thoughts must have high language. [Aristophanes \(450 BC - 388 BC\)](#), *Frogs, 405 B.C.*
11. Grasp the subject, the words will follow. [Cato the Elder \(234 BC - 149 BC\)](#)
12. Use soft words and hard arguments. [English Proverb](#)
13. The great enemy of clear language is insincerity. When there is a gap between one's real and one's declared aims, one turns as it were instinctively to long words and exhausted idioms, like a cuttlefish spurting out ink. [George Orwell \(1903 - 1950\)](#), *"Politics and the English Language", 1946*
14. A man thinks that by mouthing hard words he understands hard things. [Herman Melville \(1819 - 1891\)](#)
15. For me, words are a form of action, capable of influencing change. [Ingrid Bengis](#)
16. When ideas fail, words come in very handy. [Johann Wolfgang von Goethe \(1749 - 1832\)](#)
17. Deeds, not words shall speak me. [John Fletcher \(1579 - 1625\)](#)
18. Words ought to be a little wild for they are the assaults of thought on the unthinking. [John Maynard Keynes \(1883 - 1946\)](#)
19. The great thing about human language is that it prevents us from sticking to the matter at hand. [Lewis Thomas \(1913 - 1993\)](#)
20. Man invented language to satisfy his deep need to complain. [Lily Tomlin \(1939 - \)](#)
21. We have really everything in common with America nowadays except, of course, language. [Oscar Wilde \(1854 - 1900\)](#), *The Canterville Ghost, 1882*
22. Words have a longer life than deeds. [Pindar \(522 BC - 443 BC\)](#), *Nemean Odes*

23. Language exerts hidden power, like a moon on the tides. [Rita Mae Brown](#), *Starting From Scratch*, 1988
24. Drawing on my fine command of the English language, I said nothing. [Robert Benchley](#) (1889 - 1945)
25. No one has a finer command of language than the person who keeps his mouth shut. [Sam Rayburn](#) (1882 - 1961)
26. Do not accustom yourself to use big words for little matters. [Samuel Johnson](#) (1709 - 1784)
27. Works of imagination should be written in very plain language; the more purely imaginative they are the more necessary it is to be plain. [Samuel Taylor Coleridge](#) (1772 - 1834)
28. Broadly speaking, the short words are the best, and the old words best of all. [Sir Winston Churchill](#) (1874 - 1965)
29. Think like a wise man but communicate in the language of the people. [William Butler Yeats](#) (1865 - 1939)
30. Speak properly, and in as few words as you can, but always plainly; for the end of speech is not ostentation, but to be understood. [William Penn](#) (1644 - 1718)
31. I understand a fury in your words,  
But not the words. [William Shakespeare](#) (1564 - 1616), *"Othello"*, Act 4 scene 2
32. My words fly up, my thoughts remain below:  
Words without thoughts never to heaven go. [William Shakespeare](#) (1564 - 1616), *"Hamlet"*, Act 3 scene 3
33. They have been at a great feast of languages, and stolen the scraps. [William Shakespeare](#) (1564 - 1616), *"Love's Labour's Lost"*, Act 5 scene 1

# NCTE Doublespeak Award

## Overview

The NCTE Doublespeak Award, established in 1974 and given by the NCTE Committee on Public Doublespeak, is an ironic tribute to public speakers who have perpetuated language that is grossly deceptive, evasive, euphemistic, confusing, or self-centred.

<http://www.ncte.org/about/awards/council/jrnl/106868.htm>

### **2005 Philip A. Cooney, Chief of Staff for the White House Council on Environmental Quality**

"In his editing of scientific reports, Philip Cooney exemplifies a commitment to doublespeak, the subtle art of massaging language to deflect the public's attention from the truth," says Dennis Baron, chair of the NCTE Committee on Public Doublespeak.

By using well-placed modifiers and hedges, the nomination says, Cooney supported the Bush administration's inaction and undermined international attempts to improve global warming. Although extreme weather, glacier melting, and ecological changes serve to document the reality of global warming and have hindered his attempts to claim otherwise, Cooney "nonetheless has been effective in slowing down human corrective action." The nomination also notes that after Cooney resigned ("a day after his work was made public"), he was immediately hired by Exxon Mobil.

### **2004 The Bush Administration**

President George W. Bush, for the second year in a row, has set a high standard for his team by the inspired invention of the phrase "weapons of mass destruction-related program activities" (1) to describe what has yet to be seen. Further he has made clear the principle of democratic discussion: "[A]s you know, these are open forums, you're able to come and listen to what I have to say." (2) Bush also won for his creative use of language in public statements regarding the reasons why the United States needed to pursue war against Iraq—for unsubstantiated statements, for the lack of evidentiary support, and for the purported manipulation of intelligence data.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's description of the widespread torture at Abu Ghraib as "the excesses of human nature that humanity suffers" (3) was brilliantly mind-befuddling. The Secretary is well served by a Pentagon that erased terms like the Vietnam era "body bag" which became "human remains pouches" during the Gulf War and is now known as "transfer tubes," (4) the transfer of which are to be kept from media sight.

The Justice Department also deserves mention for its ingenious contributions to the cause of helping us not confront the shame of our government fostering torture. Jay S. Bybee, head of the Office of Legal Counsel, advised that, in order to be considered torture, the pain inflicted on a prisoner "must be equivalent in intensity to the pain accompanying serious physical injury, such as organ failure, impairment of bodily function, or even death." Leaving aside the problem of how to quantitatively measure human pain in this way, the memo advised that international laws against torture "may be unconstitutional if applied to interrogation" conducted against suspected terrorists. (5)

1. George W. Bush, State of the Union Address. Washington, DC, January 20, 2004.  
<http://usgovinfo.about.com/library/weekly/aasou2004.htm>.

2. George W. Bush, press conference. Washington, DC, October 28, 2003.  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/10/20031028-2.html>.

3. Defense Department Town Hall Meeting, transcript of remarks by Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld. Pentagon, Washington, DC, May 11, 2004. <http://www.dod.gov/speeches/2004/sp20040601-secdef0442.html>.

4. William Rivers Pitt, "Without Honor," truthout, November 10, 2003. [http://www.truthout.org/docs\\_03/111003A.shtml](http://www.truthout.org/docs_03/111003A.shtml).

5. Mike Allen and Dana Priest, "Memo on Torture Draws Focus to Bush," (The Washington Post), June 9, 2004.

### **2003 President George W. Bush**

When he announced the award, Rudolph Sharpe, speaking of behalf of the NCTE Committee on Public Doublespeak, referred to quotes from “Missing Weapons Of Mass Destruction: Is Lying About The Reason For War An Impeachable Offense?” by John W. Dean (FindLaw.com, June 6, 2003) as evidence that Bush is deserving of the award.

“The unequivocal statements made by Bush regarding the reasons that the ‘United States needed to pursue the most radical actions any nation can take-acts of war against another nation,’ remain unsubstantiated. Weapons inspectors continue to search for ‘thousands of tons of chemical agents,’ ‘a growing fleet of manned and unmanned aerial vehicles,’ and ‘tons of sarin, mustard, and VX nerve agent.’ That ‘Iraq continues to possess and conceal some of the most lethal weapons ever devised’ is still a statement of questionable veracity,” said Sharpe. He added, “As former presidential counsel John Dean has suggested, ‘Presidential statements, particularly on matters of national security, are held to an expectation of the highest standard of truthfulness.’”

### **2002 The New York State Regents**

The Doublespeak Award was given to the New York State Regents, in whose English examination last year reading passages were silently edited to remove anything that might cause “any student to feel ill at ease when taking the test.” For example, a passage from the work of Isaac Bashevis Singer about Jewish life in Europe was excised to remove all references to Judaism, changing “most Jewish women” to “most women.”

### **2001 The Defense Department**

The Defense Department won the award for its creative use of language in public pronouncements regarding the Missile Defense System under development. The winning nomination explained that “Department of Defense spokespersons had to resort to considerable linguistic ingenuity to defend the test performance of its system that is supposed to erect a shield against intercontinental missiles. Several tests last year failed, but the Pentagon, with perfect Orwellian form, simply redefined ‘success’ and ‘failure.’”

### **2000 The Tobacco Industry**

For its media blitzes portraying tobacco companies as the benefactors of children, abused women, and disaster victims-“abusing language in pursuit of their right to sell a deadly drug.”

The World Health Organization’s recent international condemnation of tobacco companies, which claimed the companies are secretly trying to counter attempts to reduce smoking and warned that tobacco companies might attempt to undermine work on a new global anti-smoking accord, also contributed to the industry’s winning this award.

Tobacco companies’ attempts to make their legally mandated participation in smoking-cessation programs appear virtuous make the industry a still more deserving recipient of the award, according to the selection committee.

### **1999 National Rifle Association**

The nomination offered excerpts from two speeches to show the NRA’s “artful twisting of language to blur issues, the invocation of patriotism, reverence, love of freedom, and the opposing use of dread words to color the opposition.”

In one of the speeches, NRA President Charlton Heston said: “The majesty of the Second Amendment, that our Founders so divinely captured and crafted into your birthright, guarantees that no government despot, no renegade faction of armed forces, no roving gangs of criminals, no breakdown of law and order, no massive anarchy, no force of evil or crime or oppression from within or from without, can ever rob you of the liberties that define your Americanism. . . . Let me be absolutely clear. The Founding Fathers guaranteed this freedom because they knew no tyranny can ever arise among a people endowed with the right to keep and bear arms. That’s why you and your descendants need never fear fascism, state-run faith, refugee camps, brainwashing, ethnic cleansing, or especially, submission to the wanton will of criminals.



### **1998 Justice Clarence Thomas**

For using hypocritical, loaded, and inexact language to mislead the public about his real nature and intentions. A New York Times article (July 30, 1998) by Neil Lewis reported that Justice Thomas called critics of his conservative opinions "illiterate" and suggested they were racist in a speech he delivered to the annual convention of the National Bar Association in Memphis on July 29. Actually, Justice Thomas' critics believe he is guilty of hypocrisy for claiming he is the target of discrimination by both blacks and whites and for speaking out against affirmative action, when he has personally benefited from the practice.

Jack E. White wrote that Thomas "owes his meteoric rise exclusively to the patronage of conservative white Republicans with little interest in racial equality." In the Time article from August 10, 1998, White also referred to a remark by retired federal judge A. Leon Higginbotham Jr., that Thomas "has done more to turn back the clock of racial progress than has perhaps any other African American public official."

### **1997 President Bill Clinton, Trent Lott, and Newt Gingrich**

For engaging in bipartisan deceit in which the balanced-budget agreement was portrayed as a "great victory for all Americans" that "put America's fiscal house in order again," even though the agreement actually ensures the growth of the budget deficit. As Newsweek economics columnist Robert Samuelson pointed out, the tax cuts and new spending included in the so-called balanced budget agreement will lead to increases in the budget deficit over the next three years; achieving the balanced budget project to occur in 2002 requires Congress to make spending cuts in the future.

In his August 11, 1997, article, Samuelson noted that a balanced budget could have been achieved in fiscal 1998 with modest spending cuts. The balanced-budget deal shows, he said, "an enormous contempt for the public's intelligence and integrity."

### **1996 Joe Klein**

For statements after his authorship of the novel Primary Colors was revealed, "at the very least compromised standards of journalism." Klein emphatically denied he was the author to CBS, one of his employers, and to The New York Times. He later explained in Newsweek that he chose the ethics of book publishing over the ethics of journalism. In the July 29 issue, Klein refers to his statements as "little white lies" and chides his critics for "chattering and battering and pontificating on the air about what I did."

"No committee member faulted Klein the novelist," NCTE Committee on Public Doublespeak Chair Keith Gilyard said, "but Klein the journalist." Noting that Klein criticized the Clintons for "lawyering, fudging, misdirection, obfuscation, and generally slouchy behavior in response to difficult questions" in a January 22, 1996, article in Newsweek, Gilyard said, "Klein used loaded language to attack others for the same type of behavior that he practices. As one of the Doublespeak Committee members put it, Klein is guilty of 'utter hypocrisy.'"

### **1995 Newt Gingrich**

For fundamental contradictions in his book To Renew America and for his role as a key author of the Republican Contract with America, which uses glittering, euphemistic titles to mask the true purpose of its acts.

Time magazine writer Robert Wright pointed out in his article "Newt the Blameless" that Gingrich states in his book that "true" Americans don't look for someone to blame when confronted with a problem, then goes on "to survey America's problems and blame them on various people . . . The 'bureaucrats' have helped destroy the family . . . the liberal 'elites' (in a 'calculated effort') have helped 'discredit this civilization,' sapping faith in American values." In the Republican Contract with America, "The Personal Responsibility Act" calls for significant cuts to and restrictions on welfare benefits. "The Job Creation and Wage Enhancement Act" has no direct provisions either for creating jobs or enhancing wages; rather it consists of capital gains tax cuts and the dismantling of federal health, safety, and environmental regulations.

### **1994 Rush Limbaugh**

For distorting the truth on nearly 1,000 media outlets nationwide. The liberal watchdog group Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting issued a report in June which documented dozens of verbal and written statements from Limbaugh which it says were inaccurate.

For example, FAIR quoted Limbaugh as saying that long lines at gas pumps in the 1970s "were a direct result of the foreign oil powers playing tough because they didn't fear Jimmy Carter." However, FAIR pointed out that the first and most serious lines occurred in late 1973 and early 1974, "during the administration of Limbaugh hero Richard Nixon." FAIR's report concluded that Limbaugh's broadcasts and publications amounted to a "reign of error."

### **1993 Department of Defense**

For using deceptive language that cost the country almost 350 billion dollars for the largest military buildup in American history. The General Accounting Office (GAO), the investigative agency for Congress, issued a report that concluded that "military officials misled Congress about the cost, the performance, and the necessity of the most expensive weapons systems built in the 1980s."

For example, the Air Force, responding to a charge that it deliberately falsified information in a report before Congress on the B1-B bomber, said it did not lie, but "inadvertently disclosed incorrect information." The Pentagon denied that in developing the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), or "Star Wars" project, it had rigged a crucial test on which further funding depended. Although officials admitted that a target missile was artificially heated to make it appear ten times bigger to a heat-seeking interceptor missile, they contended the target missile was "enhanced," not "rigged." The progress of the program and the sophistication of the tests, as well as their success rates, were also exaggerated in reports to Congress.

### **1992 President George Bush**

At the end of the war in the Persian Gulf, President Bush expressed the hope that "out of all this [the war] there will be less proliferation of all different types of weapons." He also said that "it would be tragic if the nations of the Middle East and the Persian Gulf were now . . . to embark on a new arms race." Since those remarks, the Department of Defense has reversed a 25-year-old policy and now spends millions of dollars of taxpayers' money to support arms trade shows around the world in an attempt to sell more U.S. arms to as many countries as possible. With this help from the Defense Department, U.S. weapons manufacturers have exported a record-breaking \$23 billion worth of weaponry to foreign governments, a 64 percent increase over the previous year. Most of the increased sales went to countries in the Middle East. As Newsweek magazine observed, "While preaching restraint, the United States has agreed to ship \$13 billion worth of weapons to the troubled region [the Middle East] since the end of the gulf conflict, making [the United States] the Middle East's biggest arms merchant."

In his acceptance speech at the Republican convention, President Bush disguised his attempt to divert public funds for private schools by saying "I say every parent and child should have a real choice of schools-public, private, or religious." The key word here is "choice." In one sense, parents now have such a choice, if they have enough money. The Bush plan offers \$1,000 as a voucher to parents-still far from enough money to send a child to a private school, except for those who now send their children to private schools. Thus the Bush plan would take money from the poor to help the rich support private schools, a plan he calls "a real choice." President Bush's manipulation of genuine discontent with bad schools and of a genuine desire of all parents to provide the best for their children is an outstanding example of public doublespeak.

Finally, during the presidential election campaign, President George Bush charged that as Governor of Arkansas Bill Clinton raised taxes and fees 128 times. But as The Wall Street Journal and others pointed out, this figure was exceptionally distorted because it included a number of separate provisions of the same tax increases and many routine fee increases. Indeed, The Wall Street Journal noted that the same methods of counting taxes applied to the Federal Government under Presidents Reagan and Bush would produce a figure of 327 tax increases and 250 tariff increases. However, officials of the Bush campaign continued to use the misleading figure. Said one official of the Bush campaign: "What does it really matter whether the number is 128 or 58 or whatever? That's not important. . . . The 128 figure is just an illustration of the real issue, that's all."

### **1991 U.S. Department of Defense**

For language its spokespersons in Washington and in the military used to gloss over realities of the war in the Persian Gulf. Massive bombing attacks were called "efforts"; warplanes were called "weapons systems" or "force packages"; a bombing mission was called "visiting a site."

William Lutz, chair of the NCTE Committee on Public Doublespeak said that buildings and human beings that were the targets of bombing were called "hard" and "soft targets." During their "visits," Lutz said, these "weapons systems" "degraded," "neutralized," "attrited," "suppressed," "eliminated," "cleansed," "sanitized," "impacted," "decapitated," or "took out" targets.

### **1990 President George Bush**

For using public language to waffle and obscure his intentions on various issues: taxes, maternity and caregiving leave for mothers, preservation of wetlands, high-level exchanges with Chinese officials following the Tiananmen Square massacre, and the U.S. invasion of Panama

Examples: (1-a) "No new taxes." (1-b) "tax revenue increases." (2-a) "We . . . need to assure that women do not have to worry about getting their jobs back after having a child or caring for a child during a serious illness." (2-b) veto of the Parental and Medical Leave bill: White House statement: the President "has always been opposed to the federal government mandating what every business in this country should do."

(3) Doublespeak to avoid the term "invasion" with reference to Panama: "Operation Just Cause"; "directed our armed forces to protect the lives of American citizens in Panama"; "deployed forces" to Panama; conducted "efforts to support the democratic processes in Panama"; assured "the integrity of the Panama Canal", etc.



<http://www.weaselwords.com.au/index3.htm>

### **Sydnovate**

The commercial arm of the [University of Sydney](#).

A conflation of Sydney, Innovate and Ova.

From Tom Goodfellow who says 'Ugly, meaningless and confusing. Well done!'

**'On what he was saying last night it's a bit confused. It's not clear to me what he was saying last night. The truth about Labor's industrial relations system is it's all about *going forward*.'**

Julia Gillard making everything clearer after the Paul Keating interview.

**'Please cc Promotions Group on a go forward.Thx, Laura'**

In an email received by M Rowe.

'This presentation will share with you what donorCentrics™ is, explaining this *benchmarking* service that *facilitates peer organisation comparison* of donor *lifecycle behaviour* and fundraising *program performance*, and provides a *forum for cross-organisational collaboration* and the *sharing of best practices* in fundraising.'

From an email invitation to a webcast on a new analysis service for fundraisers. Thanks to Rosemary Swift

**'Ongoing parallel qualitative work indicates that explicit consideration of personal values attached to potential outcomes challenges women's perceptions of the optimal decision and this may influence their resolve to achieve a vaginal birth.'**

[University of Bristol](#). Thanks Stuart Prescott

**'...it has been through a rescheduling process from the previously planned point in time to a later point in time...'**

Heard in a meeting - thanks Robert.

'We've put in place more *rigorous risk management processes* and improved our internal compliance *processes* in a range of areas. We've also continued to make steps to improve the disclosure and *stakeholder engagement regimes*. And most importantly for me, we've filled most *key roles* and the new *leadership team* is *shaping* the business *going forward*.'

Gordon Davis, AWB CEO on [ABC 'World Today'](#). Thanks Rory Delaney

'The result appears to be a fragmented and uncoordinated approach that would efficiently be *implemented* by the *heterodyning* of these areas' *outputs* through a *strategic planning document*.'  
From a classified document - thanks to anonymous.

'Collective Cognition in Action: Accumulation, Interaction, Examination, and Accommodation in the Development and Operation of Group Efficacy Beliefs in the Workplace.'  
Title from a recent paper by Gibson & Earley from the *Academy of Management Review*. Thanks to Neal Waddell who points out: ' It announces "Action" and yet reduces eight verbs to nominalisations.'

'... for macro-economic purposes, it's probably reasonably safe to assume that we are already at full employment - or, at least, very close to the *NAIRU: the non-accelerating in flation rate of unemployment*.'  
Secretary to the Treasury - Melbourne Age - quoted by Ross Gittins. Thanks to Ben Wadham

'It is important to recognize that NIMS *implementation* will not end in FY 2007. The NIMS is a *dynamic* system, and the doctrine as well as the *implementation* requirements will continue to *evolve* as our prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery *capabilities* improve and our *homeland security landscape* changes. It is critical NIMS *baseline* training becomes an *integral* part of the organization's training program. *Organizational changes* as a result of new *hires*, promotions or *mission changes* amplify this training requirement. Additionally NIMS *processes* will still have to be *exercised* in future years.'  
[FEMA](#), United States

'**Successful retailers will embrace new communication and marketing models to respond to market segment preferences and ensure in-store customer experiences provide a differentiated value proposition relative to alternative emerging retail channels.**'  
Rodney Baurycza, Telstar marketing manager, from Retailbiz.com.au newsletter May 2007- "Time is Ticking". Thanks Gregory Johnson

'I am confident that *implementing* this *integrated, strategic management framework* will ensure that ABC TV can continue to provide to our audiences a range of high *quality*, Australian content across all our *platforms*.'  
Kim Dalton, ABC Television (thanks Sadie)  
What, we might ask, does such a framework (or such platforms) have to do with television shows?