



Quotes on Speaking and Listening

The reason why God gave us two ears and one mouth is, so that we may listen more and talk less.

— Diogenes.

Conversation is an exchange of knowledge, argument is an exchange of ignorance

— Author Unknown

A good listener truly wants to know the speaker

— John Powell

Ya know, I ain't use to talking to a closed door.

— Sylvester Stallone as Rocky

Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them.

— James Baldwin

We need a definite purpose, a specific reason for listening, other wise we don't pay attention and don't really hear or understand.

— Robert Montgomery

A wise old owl, sat on an oak,
The more he saw, the less he spoke
The less he spoke, the more he heard
Why aren't we like that wise old bird ?
--Anonymous

The art of listening needs it highest development in listening to oneself; our most important task is to develop an ear that can really hear what we're saying.

— Sidney Harris, columnist

The reason you don't understand me Edith is because I'm talkin' to you in English and you're listening in dingbat!

— Archie Bunker

Never rise to speak till you have something to say; and when you have said it, cease.

— Witherspoon

You cannot truly listen to anyone and do anything else at the same time.
— M. Scott Peck

If speaking is silver, then listening is gold.
— Turkish Proverb

I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.
— Voltaire.

The key to success is to get out into the store and listen to what the associates have to say. It's terribly important for everyone to get involved. Our best ideas come from clerks and stockboys.
— Sam Walton

Listening is an attitude of the heart, a genuine desire to be with another which both attracts and heals.
— J. Isham

You're not listening... well, your heart is not.
— Merlin in Excalibur

Wise men talk because they have something to say: fools because they have to say something
— Plato

The funny thing about human beings is that we tend to respect the intelligence of, and eventually to like, those who listen attentively to our ideas even if they continue to disagree with us.
— S. I. Hayakawa

The best salespeople are great listeners— that's how you find out what the buyer wants.
— Spencer Johnson and Larry Wilson

Easy listening exists only on the radio.
— David Barkan

The best way to persuade people is with your ears— by listening to them.
— Dean Rusk

The more perfect the understanding between men, the less need of words.
— Emerson.

Man's inability to communicate is a result of his failure to listen effectively, skillfully, and with understanding to another person.
— Carl Rogers

As friends, we don't see eye to eye, but then we don't hear ear to ear either.
— Buster Keaton

The greatest compliment that was ever paid me was when one asked me what I thought, and attended to my answer.
— Henry David Thoreau

It is a common experience that a problem difficult at night is resolved in the morning after a committee of sleep has worked on it.
— John Steinbeck

I think the one lesson I have learned is that there is no substitute for paying attention.
— Diane Sawyer

Instead of listening to that is being said to them, most people are already listening to what they are going to say.
— Author Unknown

The way to stay fresh is you never stop traveling, you never stop listening. You never stop asking people what they think.
— Rene McPherson

Tell me and I'll forget. Show me and I'll remember. Involve me and I'll understand.
— Confucius

Now a man cannot listen to another while he will have all the talk and discourse to himself.
— C.H. Spurgeon

A good listener is not only popular everywhere, but after a while he knows something.
— Wilson Mizner

Small talk deserves small talk responses.
— Thomas G. Banville

It is insight into human nature that is the key to the communicator's skill. For whereas the writer is concerned with what he puts into his writing, the communicator is concerned with what the reader gets out of it.
— William Bernbach

It is all right to hold a conversation but you should let go of it now and then.

— Richard Armour

Asking the right questions takes as much skill as giving the right answers.

— Robert Half

It is the province of knowledge to speak And it is the privilege of wisdom to listen.

— Oliver Wendell Holmes

If the person you are talking to doesn't appear to be listening, be patient. It may simply be that he has a small piece of fluff in his ear.

— Winnie the Pooh

An essential part of true listening is the discipline of bracketing, the temporary giving up or setting aside of one's own prejudices, frames of reference and desires so as to experience as far as possible the speaker's world from the inside, step in inside his or her shoes. This unification of speaker and listener is actually an extension and enlargement of ourselves, and new knowledge is always gained from this. Moreover, since true listening involves bracketing, a setting aside of the self, it also temporarily involves a total acceptance of the other. Sensing this acceptance, the speaker will feel less and less vulnerable and more and more inclined to open up the inner recesses of his or her mind to the listener. As this happens, speaker and listener begin to appreciate each other more and more, and the duet dance of love is begun again.

— M. Scott Peck

Listening is a magnetic and strange thing, a creative force. The friends who listen to us are the ones we move toward. When we are listened to, it creates us, makes us unfold and expand.

— Karl Menninger

So when you are listening to somebody, completely, attentively, then you are listening not only to the words, but also to the feeling of what is being conveyed, to the whole of it, not part of it.

— Jiddu Krishnamurti

The truth isn't the truth until people believe you, and they can't believe you if they don't know what you're saying, and they can't know what you're saying if they don't listen to you, and they won't listen to you if you're not interesting, and you won't be interesting unless you say things imaginatively, originally, freshly.

— William Bernbach

The greatest problem in communication is the illusion that it has been accomplished.

— George Bernard Shaw

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

— Margaret Miller

You can tell whether a man is clever by his answers. You can tell whether a man is wise by his questions.

— Naguib Mahfouz

Man's inability to communicate is a result of his failure to listen effectively, skillfully, and with understanding to another person.

— Carl Rogers

When your work speaks for itself, don't interrupt.

— Henry Kaiser

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

— Peter F. Drucker

You can make more friends in two months by becoming really interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you.

— Dale Carnegie

Listening to another individual is like Michelangelo's description of sculpting: I chip away at a block of stone to reveal the work of art already inside.

— Peter deLisser

You can't fake listening. It shows.

— Raquel Welch

Every person I work with knows something better than me. My job is to listen long enough to find it and use it.

— Jack Nichols

No one ever listened themselves out of a job.
— Calvin Coolidge

Few people... have had much training in listening. Living in a competitive culture, most of us are most of the time chiefly concerned with getting our own view across, and we tend to find other people's speeches a tedious interruption of the our of our own ideas.
— S.I. Hayakawa

One of the hardest things to do in life is to listen without intent to reply.
— Richard Armour

If anything goes bad, I did it. If anything goes semi-good, we did it. If anything goes really good, then you did it. That's all it takes to get people to win football games for you.
— Paul William "Bear" Bryant

Tact is the ability to describe others as they see themselves.
— Abraham Lincoln

The spoken word belongs half to him who speaks, and half to him who listens.
— French Proverb

The greatest gift you can give another is the purity of your attention.
— Richard Moss

There is only one rule to become a good speaker: learn how to listen.
— Author Unknown

They may forget what you said, but they will never forget how you made them feel.
— Carl W. Buechner