

301 Graduation Quotes To Inspire You For Life

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A life well led a life of happiness and plenty of success.

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INTRODUCTION

This book is a compilation of graduation quotes that inspire you to go forth and live your life to the fullest. It's one of the most comprehensive lists anywhere in one source. The list is made up of quotes from people who have gone before us—their wisdom outstretches over the years to inspire us.

There are quotes from different famous figures that came from different backgrounds. My list of quotes includes education-specific quotes, as well as quotes about living your life to the fullest and how to live your life as you start your new journey after graduation.

I made this compilation for you to enjoy for the rest of your life. It's a gift you can have to motivate you everyday of your life or give to your loved ones in years to come. I dearly hope you find it an inspiration to live a better and fuller life because that would really be my dearest dream.

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PRESIDENTS AND PRIME MINISTERS

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

26th President of the United States of America

1858-1919

- A man who has never gone to school may steal from a freight car; but if he has a university education, he may steal the whole railroad.
- Believe you can and you're halfway there.
- Far better is it to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure ... than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much, because they live in a gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat.
- Great thoughts speak only to the thoughtful mind, but great actions speak to all mankind.
- I am a part of everything that I have read.

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- I am only an average man but, by George, I work harder at it than the average man.
- I don't pity any man who does hard work worth doing. I admire him. I pity the creature who does not work, at whichever end of the social scale he may regard himself as being.
- If you could kick the person in the pants responsible for most of your trouble, you wouldn't sit for a month.
- It is hard to fail, but it is worse never to have tried to succeed.
- It is only through labour and painful effort, by grim energy and resolute courage, that we move on to better things.
- Never throughout history has a man who lived a life of ease left a name worth remembering.
- Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you care.
- The boy who is going to make a great man must not make up his mind merely to overcome a thousand obstacles, but to win in spite of a thousand repulses and defeats.

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- The most important single ingredient in the formula of success is knowing how to get along with people.
- The only man who makes no mistakes is the man who never does anything.
- The only time you really live fully is from thirty to sixty. The young are slaves to dreams; the old servants of regrets. Only the middle-aged have all their five senses in the keeping of their wits.
- To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society.
- When you are asked if you can do a job, tell 'em, 'Certainly I can!' Then get busy and find out how to do it.
- When you play, play hard; when you work, don't play at all.
- With self-discipline most anything is possible.
- It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; because there is not effort without error and shortcomings; but who does actually strive to do the deed; who knows the great enthusiasm, the great devotion, who spends himself in a worthy cause, who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement and who at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly. So that his place

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shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.

- I care not what others think of what I do, but I care very much about what I think of what I do! That is character!"
- Character, in the long run, is the decisive factor in the life of an individual and of nations alike.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

16th president of the United States of America, well known for freeing the slaves through the civil war

1809-1865

- Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any one thing.
- And in the end it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.
- Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt.

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- Be sure you put your feet in the right place, then stand firm.
- Books serve to show a man that those original thoughts of his aren't very new at all.
- Don't worry when you are not recognized, but strive to be worthy of recognition.
- Every man is said to have his peculiar ambition. Whether it be true or not, I can say for one that I have no other so great as that of being truly esteemed of my fellow men, by rendering myself worthy of their esteem.
- I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live by the light that I have. I must stand with anybody that stands right, and stand with him while he is right, and part with him when he goes wrong.
- I do not think much of a man who is not wiser today than he was yesterday.
- I do the very best I know how—the very best I can; and I mean to keep on doing so until the end.
- I walk slowly, but I never walk backward.
- I will prepare and some day my chance will come.

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- Most folks are as happy as they make up their minds to be.
- Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.
- My great concern is not whether you have failed, but whether you are content with your failure.
- That some achieve great success, is proof to all that others can achieve it as well.
- The things I want to know are in books; my best friend is the man who'll get me a book I ain't read.
- The way for a young man to rise is to improve himself in every way he can, never suspecting that anybody wishes to hinder him.
- Things may come to those who wait, but only the things left by those who hustle.
-
- I am a success today because I had a friend who believed in me and I didn't have the heart to let him down

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- You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.
- I am not concerned that you have fallen, I am concerned that you arise.
- You can have anything you want—if you want it badly enough. You can be anything you want to be, do anything you set out to accomplish if you hold to that desire with singleness of purpose.

BENJAMIN DISRAELI

British statesman, served as prime minister twice

1804-1881

- The secret of success is constancy of purpose.
- Success is the child of audacity.
- To be conscious that you are ignorant of the facts is a great step to knowledge.
- There is no education like adversity.

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- The more extensive a man's knowledge of what has been done, the greater will be his power of knowing what to do.
- As a general rule, the most successful man in life is the man who has the best information.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

6th president of the United States

1767-1848

- If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.
- To furnish the means of acquiring knowledge is...the greatest benefit that can be conferred upon mankind. It prolongs life itself and enlarges the sphere of existence.
- Courage and perseverance have a magical talisman, before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish into air.

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INVENTORS

THOMAS EDISON

American inventor most famous for inventing the light bulb

1847-1931

- I never did a day's work in my life. It was all fun.
- Genius is one per cent inspiration, ninety-nine per cent perspiration.
- A genius is just a talented person who does his homework.
- Good fortune is what happens when opportunity meets with planning.
- The three great essentials to achieve anything worth while are, first, hard work; second, stick-to-itiveness; third, common sense.
- Nearly every man who develops an idea works it up to the point where it looks impossible, and then he gets discouraged. That's not the place to become discouraged.

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- Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.
- Being busy does not always mean real work. The object of all work is production or accomplishment and to either of these ends there must be forethought, system, planning, intelligence, and honest purpose, as well as perspiration. Seeming to do is not doing.
- The first requisite for success is the ability to apply your physical and mental energies to one problem incessantly without growing weary.
- Be courageous! Have faith! Go Forward!
- I am more of a sponge than an inventor. I absorb ideas from every source. My principal business is giving commercial value to the brilliant but misdirected ideas of others.
- Thinking is hard work.
- As a cure for worrying, work is better than whiskey.
- The only time I become discouraged is when I think of all the things I like to do and the little time I have in which to do them

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- I have more respect for the fellow with a single idea who gets there than for the fellow with a thousand ideas who does nothing.
- I find my greatest pleasure, and so my reward, in the work that precedes what the world calls success.
- What you are will show in what you do.
- The value of an idea lies in the using of it.
- The chief function of the body is to carry the brain around.
- It is astonishing what an effort it seems to be for many people to put their brains definitely and systematically to work.

LEONARDO DA VINCI

Painter, inventor and scientist—to name but a few of his vocations

1452-1519

- A well-spent day brings happy sleep.
- All our knowledge has its origins in our perceptions.

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- As every divided kingdom falls, so every mind divided between many studies confounds and saps itself.
- He who wishes to be rich in a day will be hanged in a year.
- I have been impressed with the urgency of doing. Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Being willing is not enough; we must do.
- I love those who can smile in trouble, who can gather strength from distress, and grow brave by reflection. 'Tis the business of little minds to shrink, but they whose heart is firm, and whose conscience approves their conduct, will pursue their principles unto death.
- Iron rusts from disuse; water loses its purity from stagnation... even so does inaction sap the vigour of the mind.
- It had long since come to my attention that people of accomplishment rarely sat back and let things happen to them. They went out and happened to things.
- Learning never exhausts the mind.
- Where there is shouting, there is no true knowledge.

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- Time stays long enough for anyone who will use it.
- You can have no dominion greater or less than that over yourself.
- The noblest pleasure is the joy of understanding.
- While I thought that I was learning how to live, I have been learning how to die.
- Learning acquired in youth arrests the evil of old age; and if you understand that old age has wisdom for its food, you will so conduct yourself in youth that your old age will not lack for nourishment.
- The acquisition of any knowledge is always of use to the intellect, because it may thus drive out useless things and retain the good. For nothing can be loved or hated unless it is first known.
- Life well spent is long
- Those who are in love with practice without knowledge are like the sailor who gets into a ship without rudder or compass and who never can be certain whether he is going.
- Obstacles cannot crush me. Every obstacle yields to stern resolve. He who is fixed to a star does not change his mind
- All our knowledge has its origin in our perceptions.

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- Wisdom is the daughter of experience
- As a day well spent procures a happy sleep, so a life well employed procures a happy death
- Some there are who are nothing else than a passage for food and augmentors of excrement and fillers of privies, because through them no other things in the world, nor any good effects are produced, since nothing but full privies results from them
- You can have no dominion greater or less than that over yourself.
- He who thinks little, errs much.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Scientist, author, inventor, activist and statesmen he's known as one of the founding fathers of the USA

1706-1790

- An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.
- Experience is the best teacher, but a fool will learn from no other.
- Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning.

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- I didn't fail the test, I just found 100 ways to do it wrong.
- If a man empties his purse into his head, no man can take it away from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.
- To succeed, jump as quickly at opportunities as you do at conclusions.
- Being ignorant is not so much a shame, as being unwilling to learn.
- Hide not your talents. They for use were made. What's a sundial in the shade?
- Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.

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BUSINESSPEOPLE

ANDREW CARNEGIE

Scottish-born American businessman, industrialist and philanthropist

1835-1919

- Aim for the highest.
- As I grow older, I pay less attention to what men say. I just watch what they do.
- Concentrate your energies, your thoughts and your capital. The wise man puts all his eggs in one basket and watches the basket.
- Concentration is my motto—first honesty, then industry, then concentration.
- Do your duty and a little more and the future will take care of itself.
- Immense power is acquired by assuring yourself in your secret reveries that you were born to control affairs.

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- No person will make a great business who wants to do it all himself or get all the credit.
- People who are unable to motivate themselves must be content with mediocrity, no matter how impressive their other talents.
- The average person puts only 25% of his energy and ability into his work. The world takes off its hat to those who put in more than 50% of their capacity, and stands on its head for those few and far between souls who devote 100%
- The man who acquires the ability to take full possession of his own mind may take possession of anything else to which he is justly entitled.
- The men who have succeeded are men who have chosen one line and stuck to it.
- There is little success where there is little laughter.
- Think of yourself as on the threshold of unparalleled success. A whole, clear, glorious life lies before you. Achieve! Achieve!
- No man can become rich without himself enriching others.

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- The secret of success lies not in doing your own work, but in recognizing the right man to do it.
- This, then, is held to be the duty of the man of wealth: First, to set an example of modest, unostentatious living, shunning display or extravagance; to provide moderately for the legitimate wants of those dependent upon him; and, after doing so, to consider all surplus revenues which come to him simply as trust funds, which he is called upon to administer, and strictly bound as a matter of duty to administer in the manner which, in his judgment, is best calculated to produce the most beneficial results for the community /the man of wealth thus becoming the mere trustee and agent for his poorer brethren, bringing to their service his superior wisdom, experience and ability to administer, doing for them better than they would or could do for themselves.
- Every act you have ever performed since the day you were born was performed because you wanted something.

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AUTHORS

Ralph Waldo Emerson

American poet and philosopher

1803-1882

- Do not follow where the path may lead. Go, instead, where there is no path and leave a trail.
- What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.
- Make the most of yourself, for that is all there is of you.
- Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined.
- To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe.
- The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.

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- You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. You are the guy who'll decide where to go.
- Hitch your wagon to a star.
- The things taught in schools and colleges are not an education, but the means of education.
- Whatever course you decide upon, there is always someone to tell you that you are wrong. There are always difficulties arising which tempt you to believe that your critics are right. To map out a course of action and follow it to an end requires courage.
- To map out a course of action and follow it to an end requires courage.
- Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow."
- To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children ... to leave the world a better place ... to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded."
- What lies behind you and what lies in front of you, pales in comparison to what lies inside of you.

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- Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.
- The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.
- Do not be too timid and squeamish about your actions. All life is an experiment. The more experiments you make the better.
- Shallow men believe in luck, believe in circumstances...Strong men believe in cause and effect
- Do not believe that you can possibly escape the reward of your action
- A man is made by the books he read
- Finish every day and be done with it. For manners and for wise living it is a vice to remember. You have done what you could; some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in; forget them as soon as you can. To-morrow is a new day; you shall begin it well and serenely, and with too high a spirit to be cumbered with your old nonsens
- I no more remember the books I have read than the meals I have eaten, but they have made me.

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- To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment
- This world belongs to the energetic
- Great men are they who see that spiritual is stronger than any material force, that thoughts rule the world. No hope so bright but is the beginning of its own fulfilment.
- Shall I tell you the secret of the true scholar? It is this: Every man I meet is my master in some point, and in that I learn of him.
- Wit makes its own welcome, and levels all distinctions. No dignity, no learning, no force of character, can make any stand against good wit.
- There are many things of which a wise man might wish to be ignorant
- Some men's words I remember so well that I must often use them to express my thought. Yes, because I perceive that we have heard the same truth, but they have heard it better.

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OSCAR WILDE

Irish playwright novelist, poet and author

1854-1900

- Education is an admirable thing, but it is well to remember from time to time that nothing worth knowing can be taught.
- A man who does not think for himself does not think at all.
- I put all my genius into my life; I put only my talent into my works.
- Genius lasts longer than beauty.
- There is no sin except stupidity.
- Life is far too important to be taken seriously.
- Ignorance is like a delicate exotic fruit; touch it and the bloom is gone.

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- Even you are not rich enough, Sir Robert, to buy back your past. No man is.
- Sooner or later we have all to pay for what we do.
- Nine tenths of education is encouragement.
- To know is nothing at all; to imagine is everything
- I prefer the folly of enthusiasm to the wisdom of indifference.
- Existence would be intolerable if we were never to dream.
- Nine tenths of education is encouragement.

ANATOLE FRANCE

French author

1844-1924

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- To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe.
- An education isn't how much you have committed to memory, or even how much you know. It's being able to differentiate between what you know and what you don't.
- It is by acts and not by ideas that people live.
- An education which does not cultivate the will is an education that depraves the mind.
- The future is a convenient place for dreams.
- Ignorance and error are necessary to life, like bread and water.

BESSIE ANDERSON STANLEY

- To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children ... to leave the world a better place ... to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded."

HENRY DAVID THOREAU

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American author and philosopher

1817-1862

- Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined.
- If one advances confidently in the direction of one's dreams, and endeavors to live the life which one has imagined, one will meet with a success unexpected in common hours.
- Do not lose hold of your dreams or aspirations. For if you do, you may still exist but you have ceased to live.
- It is what a man thinks of himself that really determines his fate.
- It is only when we forget all our learning that we begin to know.
- Live the life you've dreamed.
- Live your beliefs and you can turn the world around.
- There is no more fatal blunderer than he who consumes the greater part of his life getting his living.

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- A truly good book teaches me better than to read it. I must soon lay it down, and commence living on its hint. What I began by reading, I must finish by acting.
- Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it.
- Have no mean hours, but be grateful for every hour, and accept what it brings. The reality will make any sincere record respectable
- I came into this world, not chiefly to make this a good place to live in, but to live in it, be it good or bad.
- Dreams are the touchstones of our characters.

Robert Louis Stevenson

Scottish poet, author and travel writer

1850-1894

- Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.
- An aim in life is the only fortune worth finding.

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- To be what we are, and to become what we are capable of becoming is the only end of life.
- Books are good enough in their own way, but they are a mighty bloodless substitute for life.
- Everyone who got where he is has had to begin where he was.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

German writer

1749-1832

- Dream no small dreams for they have no power to move the hearts of men.
- If I accept you as you are, I will make you worse; however if I treat you as though you are what you are capable of becoming, I help you become that.
- Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do.
- All the knowledge I possess everyone else can acquire, but my heart is exclusively my own.

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- Doubt grows with knowledge.
- Nothing is more terrible than ignorance in action.
- As soon as you trust yourself, you will know how to live.
- Correction does much, but encouragement does more.
- Everybody wants to be somebody; nobody wants to grow.
- Only when we know little do we know anything; doubt grows with knowledge.
- The best genius is that which absorbs and assimilates everything without doing the least violence to its fundamental destiny — that which we call character — but rather improving it and enhancing it as far as possible.
- The intelligent man finds almost everything ridiculous, the sensible man hardly anything
- The man is born with a talent which he has meant to use finds his greatest happiness in using it.
- To be pleased with one's limits is a wretched state.

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SAMUEL JOHNSON

Poet and essayist

1709-1784

- Knowledge is of two kinds: we know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information upon it.
- My dear friend, clear your mind of can't.
- When making your choice in life, do not neglect to live.

WILLIAM BLAKE

- He who desires, but acts not, breeds pestilence
- Great things are done when men and mountains meet.

MARK TWAIN

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American writer, lecturer and humorist

1835-1910

- I can teach anybody how to get what they want out of life. The problem is that I can't find anybody who can tell me what they want.
- It ain't what you don't know that gets you into trouble. It's what you know for sure that just ain't so.
- Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.
- The secret of getting ahead is getting started. The secret of getting started is breaking your complex overwhelming tasks into small manageable tasks, and then starting on the first one.
- To succeed in life, you need two things: ignorance and confidence.

HESIOD

Greek poet

~700BC

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- Before the gates of excellence the high gods have placed sweat; long is the road thereto and rough and steep at first; but when the heights are reached, then there is ease, then there is ease, though grievously hard in the winning.
- Work is no disgrace: it is idleness which is a disgrace.

MICHAEL DE MONTAIGNE

French author

1533-1592

- We can be knowledgeable with other men's knowledge, but we cannot be wise with other men's wisdom.
- Traveling through the world produces a marvelous clarity in the judgment of men. We are all of us confined and enclosed within ourselves, and see no farther than the end of our nose. This great world is a mirror where we must see ourselves in order to know ourselves. There are so many different tempers, so many different points of view, judgments, opinions, laws and customs to teach us to judge wisely on our own, and to teach our judgment to recognize its imperfection and natural weakness.

SAMUEL SMILES

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Scottish reformer and author

1812-1904

- It is a mistake to suppose that men succeed through success; they much oftener succeed through failures. Precept, study, advice, and example could never have taught them so well as failure has done.
- Progress, of the best kind, is comparatively slow. Great results cannot be achieved at once; and we must be satisfied to advance in life as we walk, step by step.
- Men who are resolved to find a way for themselves will always find opportunities enough; and if they do not find them, they will make them.
- The very greatest things—great thoughts, discoveries, inventions—have usually been nurtured in hardship, often pondered over in sorrow, and at length established with difficulty.
- We often discover what will do, by finding out what will not do; and probably he who never made a mistake never made a discovery.
- Practical wisdom is only to be learned in the school of experience. Precepts and instruction are useful so far as they go, but, without the discipline of real life, they remain of the nature of theory only.

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- Lost wealth may be replaced by industry, lost knowledge by study, lost health by temperance or medicine; but lost time is gone forever.
- It is not ease but effort, not facility but difficult, that makes man. There is perhaps no station in life in which difficulties do not have to be encountered and overcome before any decided means of success can be achieved.
- 'Where there is a will there is a way' is an old true saying. He who resolves upon doing a thing, by that very resolution often scales the barriers to it, and secures its achievement. To think we are able, is almost to be so to determine upon attainment is frequently attainment itself.
- Knowledge conquered by labor becomes a possession—a property entirely our own.
- Men must necessarily be the active agents of their own well-being and well-doing ... they themselves must in the very nature of things be their own best helpers.
- The apprenticeship of difficulty is one which the greatest of men have had to serve.
- A man who devotes himself to this pursuit, body and soul, can scarcely fail to become rich. Very little brains will do...

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LOUISA MAY ALCOTT

American novelist

1832-1888

- Life is my college. May I graduate well, and earn some honors.
- Have regular hours for work and play; make each day both useful and pleasant, and prove that you understand the worth of time by employing it well. Then youth will be delightful, old age will bring few regrets, and life will become a beautiful success.
- It takes people a long time to learn the difference between talent and genius, especially ambitious young men and women.
- We all have our own life to pursue, our own kind of dream to be weaving, and we all have the power. To make wishes come true, as long as we keep believing.
- Far away in the sunshine are my highest aspirations. I may not reach them, but I can look up and see their beauty, believe in them, and try to follow where they lead.

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PHILOSOPHER QUOTES

ARISTOTLE

Greek philosopher

384 BC-322 BC

- The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet.
- You will never do anything in this world without courage. It is the greatest quality of the mind next to honour.
- Learning is not child's play; we cannot learn without pain.
- First, have a definite, clear practical ideal; a goal, an objective. Second, have the necessary means to achieve your ends; wisdom, money, materials, and methods. Third, adjust all your means to that end.
- The energy of the mind is the essence of life.
- We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.

301 Graduation Quotes To Inspire

- The educated differ from the uneducated as much as the living from the dead.
- Excellence is an art won by training and habituation. We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but we rather have those because we have acted rightly. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.
- Those that know, do. Those that understand, teach.
- It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.

JOHN LOCKE

British philosopher

1632-1704

- No man's knowledge here can go beyond his experience.
- Reading furnishes the mind only with materials of knowledge; it is thinking that makes what we read ours.

301 Graduation Quotes To Inspire

- The improvement of understanding is for two ends: first, our own increase of knowledge; secondly, to enable us to deliver that knowledge to others.
- The only fence against the world is a thorough knowledge of it.
- All wealth is the product of labour.

PLATO

Greek philosopher

428/427–348/347 BC

- If a man neglects education, he walks lame to the end of his life.
- Opinion is the medium between knowledge and ignorance.
- Thinking: The talking of the soul with itself.
- The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future in life.

301 Graduation Quotes To Inspire

- Human behavior flows from three main sources: desire, emotion, and knowledge.

SOCRATES

Greek philosopher

469–399 BC

- True knowledge exists in knowing that you know nothing.
- The unexamined life is not worth living.
- Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel.
- There is only one good, knowledge, and one evil, ignorance.
- True wisdom comes to each of us when we realize how little we understand about life, ourselves, and the world around us.
- Employ your time in improving yourself by other men's writings so that you shall come easily by what others have labored hard for.

301 Graduation Quotes To Inspire

MARCUS TILLIUS CICERO

Roman philosopher and statesman

106-43BC

- To live is to think.
- I am not ashamed to confess I am ignorant of what I do not know.
- A room without books is like a body without a soul.
- Natural ability without education has more often attained to glory and virtue than education without natural ability.
- To be ignorant of what happened before you were born is to be ever a child. For what is man's lifetime unless the memory of past events is woven with those of earlier times?"

EPICETETUS

Greek philosopher

301 Graduation Quotes To Inspire

55–135

- It is impossible for a man to learn what he thinks he already knows.
- Only the educated are free.
- One that desires to excel should endeavor in those things that are in themselves most excellent.
- To accuse others for one's own misfortunes is a sign of want of education. To accuse oneself shows that one's education has begun. To accuse neither oneself nor others shows that one's education is complete.

ELBERT HUBBARD

American writer and philosopher

1856-1915

- It does not take much strength to do things, but it requires great strength to decide on what to do.
- The recipe for perpetual ignorance is: be satisfied with your opinions and content with your knowledge.

301 Graduation Quotes To Inspire

- Know what you want to do, hold the thought firmly, and do every day what should be done, and every sunset will see you that much nearer the goal.
- A little more persistence, a little more effort, and what seemed hopeless failure may turn to glorious success.

LEO NIKOLAEVICH TOLSTOY

Russian writer and philosopher

1828-1910

- Freethinkers are those who are willing to use their minds without prejudice and without fearing to understand things that clash with their own customs, privileges, or beliefs. This state of mind is not common, but it is essential for right thinking.
- The only thing that we know is that we know nothing and that is the highest flight of human wisdom.
- The vocation of every man and woman is to serve other people.
- Joy can be real only if people look upon their life as a service, and have a definite object in life outside themselves and their personal happiness.

RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL LEADERS

BUDDHA

Founder of Buddhism

~563-~483 BC

- Let us rise up and be thankful, for if we didn't learn a lot today, at least we learned a little, and if we didn't learn a little, at least we didn't get sick, and if we got sick, at least we didn't die; so, let us all be thankful.
- All that we are is the result of what we have thought. The mind is everything. What we think we become.
- Believe nothing, no matter where you read it, or who said it, no matter if I have said it, unless it agrees with your own reason and your own common sense.
- An idea that is developed and put into action is more important than an idea that exists only as an idea.
- However many holy words you read, however many you speak, what good will they do you If you do not act on upon them?"

301 Graduation Quotes To Inspire

- The whole secret of existence is to have no fear. Never fear what will become of you, depend on no one. Only the moment you reject all help are you freed.
- Your work is to discover your work and then with all your heart to give yourself to it.
- Do not believe in anything simply because you have heard it. Do not believe in anything simply because it is spoken and rumored by many. Do not believe in anything simply because it is found written in your religious books. Do not believe in anything merely on the authority of your teachers and elders. Do not believe in traditions because they have been handed down for many generations. But after observation and analysis, when you find that anything agrees with reason and is conducive to the good and benefit of one and all, then accept it and live up to it.

Charles H Spurgeon

English reformed minister

1834-1892

- Wisdom is the right use of knowledge. To know is not to be wise. Many men know a great deal, and are all the greater fools for it. There is no fool so great a fool as a knowing fool. But to know how to use knowledge is to have wisdom.

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

Spiritual leader and leader of the Vedanta and yoga philosophies

1863-1902

- Take up one idea. Make that one idea your life—think of it, dream of it, live on that idea. Let the brain, muscles, nerves, every part of your body, be full of that idea, and just leave every other idea alone. This is the way to success, that is way great spiritual giants are produced.
- We are responsible for what we are, and whatever we wish ourselves to be, we have the power to make ourselves. If what we are now has been the result of our own past actions, it certainly follows that whatever we wish to be in future can be produced by our present actions; so we have to know how to act.
- The goal of mankind is knowledge ... Now this knowledge is inherent in man. No knowledge comes from outside: it is all inside. What we say a man 'knows', should, in strict psychological language, be what he 'discovers' or 'unveils'; what man 'learns' is really what he discovers by taking the cover off his own soul, which is a mine of infinite knowledge.
- If you think about disaster, you will get it. Brood about death and you hasten your demise. Think positively and masterfully, with confidence and faith, and life becomes more secure, more fraught with action, richer in achievement and experience."

301 Graduation Quotes To Inspire

- If faith in ourselves had been more extensively taught and practiced, I am sure a very large portion of the evils and miseries that we have would have vanished.

BENJAMIN JOWETT

English theologian, scholar and classicist

1817-1893

- We cannot seek or attain health, wealth, learning, justice or kindness in general. Action is always specific, concrete, individualized, unique.
- There is a serious defect in the thinking of someone who wants—more than anything else—to become rich. As long as they don't have the money, it'll seem like a worthwhile goal. Once they do, they'll understand how important other things are - and have always been.
- To teach a man how he may learn to grow independently, and for himself, is perhaps the greatest service that one man can do another.
- You've got to be success minded. You've got to feel that things are coming your way when you're out selling; otherwise, you won't be able to sell anything.

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ACTIVISTS

ROBERT PURVIS

African-American abolitionist

1810-1898

- A graduation ceremony is an event where the commencement speaker tells thousands of students dressed in identical caps and gowns that 'individuality' is the key to success.

SUSAN B ANTHONY

American civil rights activist and female activist

1820-1906

- Sooner or later we all discover that the important moments in life are not the advertised ones, not the birthdays, the graduations, the weddings, not the great goals achieved. The real milestones are less prepossessing. They come to the door of memory unannounced, stray dogs that amble in, sniff around a bit and simply never leave. Our lives are measured by these.
- Failure is impossible.

301 Graduation Quotes To Inspire

- The rank and file are not philosophers, they are not educated to think for themselves, but simply to accept, unquestioned, whatever comes.
- I don't want to die as long as I can work; the minute I cannot, I want to go.

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SCIENTISTS

BLAISE PASCAL

French philosopher, mathematician and physicist

1623-1662

- Small minds are concerned with the extraordinary, great minds with the ordinary.

MARIE CURIE

Physicist and chemist, well known for discovering radiation

1867-1934

- Life is not easy for any of us. But what of that? We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves. We must believe that we are gifted for something and that this thing must be attained.
- Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.
- You cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individuals. To that end, each of us must work for our own improvement and, at the same time, share a general responsibility for all humanity, our particular duty being to aid those to whom we think we can be most useful.
- Humanity needs practical men, who get the most out of their work, and, without forgetting the general good, safeguard their own interests. But humanity also needs dreamers, for whom the disinterested development of an enterprise is so captivating that it becomes impossible for them to devote their care to their own material profit.

301 Graduation Quotes To Inspire

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

Pioneer of modern day nursing

1820-1910

I attribute my success to this—I never gave or took any excuse.

How very little can be done under the spirit of fear.

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CONCLUSION

I hope you were inspired by these quotes the way I have been. I also hope they will continue to inspire you in your future when you need some inspiration. For more quotes and sayings resources that can inspire you look at the resources section below. As well as check out my free quotes website:

www.inspirational-quotes-change-lives.com/

To your bright future.

Wadzanai Nenzou

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