

Great quotes about
creativity,
passion

and other important things



compiled by



thinkit creative * write to sell

“Making the simple complicated is commonplace. Making the complicated simple, *awesomely simple*, that's creativity.”

—Charles Mingus

“Create, and be true to yourself, and depend only on your own good taste.”

—Duke Ellington

“Properly practiced creativity can make one ad do the work of ten.”

—William Bernbach

“The only way to do something interesting is not care if you fail.”

—Charlie Kaufman

“It’s the notes you don’t hear that matter the most.”

—Count Basie

“Nature's imagination is far richer than our own.”

—Freeman Dyson

“Simplicity is about subtracting the obvious and adding the meaningful.”

—John Maeda

“Find some way of saying it without saying it.”

—Duke Ellington

“In conversation, I love saying touché. It's a great way to make someone think they said something clever, even if you don't mean it.”

—Larry David

“A problem is a chance for you to do your best.”

—Duke Ellington

“Mystery is at the heart of creativity.
That, and surprise.”

—Julie Cameron

“Be a yardstick of quality. Some people aren't used to an environment where excellence is expected.”

—Steve Jobs

“We all have the power to give away love, to love other people. And if we do so, we change the kind of person we are, and we change the kind of world we live in.”

—Rabbi Harold Kushner

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

—Naguib Mahfouz

“If it doesn't sell, it isn't creative.”

—David Ogilvy

“Everyone needs money, that's why it's called money.”

—David Mamet

“It don’t mean a thing if it ain’t got
that swing.”

—Duke Ellington

“Quote me as saying I was mis-quoted.”

—Groucho Marx

“You have to practice improvisation, let no one kid you about it.”

—Art Tatum

“Tomorrow is no place to place your better days.”

—Dave Matthews

“Some people golf for business.
I eat lunch for business.”

—Jimmy Molloy

“What's happenin'? I'll tell you what's happenin'. *Everything's* happenin', man...everything's happenin' all the time.”

—Thelonious Monk

“It’s taken me all my life to learn what not to play.”

—Dizzy Gillespie

“Speeches are the vehicle for
philosophy.”

—Peggy Noonan

“We don't receive wisdom; we must discover it for ourselves after a journey that no one can take us or spare us.”

—Marcel Proust

“Don’t give up trying to do what you really want to do. Where there is love and inspiration, I don’t think you can go wrong.”

—Ella Fitzgerald

“There are two kinds of people in this world; those who think there are two kinds of people and those who are smart enough to know better...”

—Tom Robbins

“Things are only impossible until they're not.”

—Gene Roddenberry

“If you can't describe your position in eight words or less, you don't have a position.”

—Seth Godin

“To know what people really think, pay regard to what they do, rather than what they say.”

—René Descartes

“If you reread your work, you will find on rereading that a great deal of repetition can be avoided by rereading and editing.”

—William Safire

“A word to the wise is infuriating.”

—Hunter S. Thompson

“Shakespeare once said: ‘Life is pretty stupid, with lots of hubbub to keep you busy, but really not amounting to much’ ...I'm paraphrasing, of course.”

—Steve Martin

“Do the work you love. Remain a player. And stay mad at the world.”

—Tom Peters

“When you're stuck, take out your favorite line.”

—Tom Waits

“Style is knowing who you are, what you want to say and not giving a damn.”

—Gore Vidal

“Art is making something out of nothing
and selling it.”

—Frank Zappa

“Why are our days numbered and not,
say, lettered?”

—Woody Allen

“If you want the public to hear you once, you have to say what you're saying five or 10 times.”

—Izzy Asper

“You aren't rich until you have something money can't buy.”

—Garth Brooks

“An intellectual says a simple thing in a hard way. An artist says a hard thing in a simple way.”

—Charles Bukowski

“There are always flowers for those who want to see them.”

—Henri Matisse

“The future of work consists of learning a living.”

—Marshall McLuhan

“The best scientist is open to experience and begins with romance — the idea that anything is possible.”

—Ray Bradbury

“The secret way to get in touch with your thoughts is to write them down, and then cut out the confusing parts.”

—William Safire

“Don't become a well-rounded person. Well rounded people are smooth and dull. Become a thoroughly spiky person.”

—Bruce Sterling

“Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm.”

—Winston Churchill

“Read over your compositions and wherever you meet with a passage which you think is particularly fine, strike it out.”

—Samuel Johnson

“Speeches are more important in politics than talking points, as a rule, and are better remembered.”

—Peggy Noonan

“Theft is the lifeblood of all art.”

—Peter Gabriel

“Love is like a snowmobile racing through the tundra. Then it flips over, pinning you underneath. And then at night, the snow weasels come.”

—Matt Groening

“Those are my principles, and if you don't like them...well...I have others.”

—Groucho Marx

“Advertisements contain the only truths to be relied on in a newspaper.”

—Mark Twain

“It is the tension between creativity and skepticism that has produced the most stunning and unexpected findings of science.”

—Carl Sagan

“The best way to have a good idea is to have lots of ideas.

—Linus Pauling

“The best way to get a good idea is to get a lot of ideas.”

—Linus Pauling