

Leadership Quotes

Online Leadership Development Tool-Kit



(I N A L P H A B E T I C A L O R D E R)

A B I L I T Y

- "He is able who thinks he is able."
-Buddha
- "Great ability develops and reveals itself increasingly with every new assignment."
-Baltasar Gracian, The Oracle

A M B I T I O N

- "A person who aims at nothing is sure to hit it."
-Anon
- "We are told never to cross a bridge until we come to it, but this world is owned by men who have 'crossed bridges' in their imagination far ahead of the crowd."
-Anon
- "No bird soars too high if he soars with his own wings."
-William Blake
- "Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars."
-Les Brown
- "You can't build a reputation on what you're going to do."
-Henry Ford

- "To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe."
-Anatole France
- "The best way out is always through."
-Robert Frost
- "The entrepreneur is essentially a visualizer and an actualizer... He can visualize something, and when he visualizes it he sees exactly how to make it happen."
-Robert L. Schwartz
- "The roots of true achievement lie in the will to become the best that you can become."
-Harold Taylor
- "Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great."
-Mark Twain
- "If you can imagine it,
You can achieve it.
If you can dream it,
You can become it."
-William Arthur Ward

ATTITUDE

- "The tears that you spill, the sorrowful, are sweeter than the laughter of snobs and the guffaws of scoffers."
-Kahlil Gibran, "A Handful of Sand on the Shore"
- "No pessimist ever discovered the secret of the stars, or sailed to an uncharted land, or opened a new doorway for the human spirit."
-Helen Keller
- "A will finds a way."
-Orison Swett Marden

- "Every exit is an entry somewhere."
-Tom Stoppard
- "The cynic knows the price of everything and the value of nothing."
-Oscar Wilde, "Lady Windemere's Fan"
- "You can complain because roses have thorns, or you can rejoice because thorns have roses."
-Ziggy

C H A R A C T E R

- "Our character is what we do when we think no one is looking."
-H. Jackson Brown, Jr.
- "To measure the man, measure his heart."
-Malcolm Stevenson Forbes
- "The true test of character is not how much we know how to do, but how we behave when we don't know what to do."
-John Holt
- "Many a man's reputation would not know his character if they met on the street."
-Elbert Hubbard
- "Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved."
-Helen Keller
- "A loving person lives in a loving world. A hostile person lives in a hostile world. Everyone you meet is your mirror."
-Ken Keys
- "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."
-Martin Luther King, Jr.

- "Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."
-Abraham Lincoln
- "Bluntness is a virtue."
-Allison Ling
- "The measure of a man's real character is what he would do if he knew he would never be found out."
-Thomas B. Macaulay
- "When you choose your friends, don't be short-changed by choosing personality over character."
-W. Somerset Maugham

GOALS

- "Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal."
-Henry Ford
- "This one step -- choosing a goal and sticking to it -- changes everything."
-Scott Reed
- "The indispensable first step to getting the things you want out of life is this: decide what you want."
-Ben Stein

HONESTY

- "Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom."
-Thomas Jefferson
- "No legacy is so rich as honesty."
-William Shakespeare
- "Each time you are honest and conduct yourself with honesty, a success force will drive you toward greater success. Each time you lie, even with a little white lie, there are strong forces pushing you toward failure."
-Joseph Sugarman

H O P E

- "Aerodynamically, the bumble bee shouldn't be able to fly, but the bumble bee doesn't know it so it goes on flying anyway."
-Mary Kay Ash
- "Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all."
-Dale Carnegie
- "If you have a lemon, make lemonade."
-Howard Gossage
- "Hope is a state of mind, not of the world. Hope, in this deep and powerful sense, is not the same as joy that things are going well, or willingness to invest in enterprises that are obviously heading for success, but rather an ability to work for something because it is good."
-Vaclav Havel

L E A D E R S H I P

- "A real leader faces the music, even when he doesn't like the tune."
-Anon
- "Good leaders make people feel that they're at the very heart of things, not at the periphery. Everyone feels that he or she makes a difference to the success of the organization. When that happens people feel centered and that gives their work meaning."
-Warren Bennis
- "I am certainly not one of those who need to be prodded. In fact, if anything, I am the prod."
-Sir Winston Churchill

- "Effective leadership is putting first things first. Effective management is discipline, carrying it out."
-Stephen Covey
- "The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality. The last is to say thank you. In between, the leader is a servant."
-Max De Pree, "Leadership Is an Art"
- "Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it."
-Dwight D. Eisenhower
- "In simplest terms, a leader is one who knows where he wants to go, and gets up, and goes."
-John Erksine, The Complete Life
- "One of the tests of leadership is the ability to recognize a problem before it becomes an emergency."
-John Glassgow
- "The very essence of leadership is that you have to have a vision."
-Theodore Hesburgh
- "The difference between a boss and a leader: a boss says, 'Go!' - a leader says, 'Let's go!'"
-E.M. Kelly, Growing Disciples, 1995
- "The leader who exercises power with honor will work from the inside out, starting with himself."
-Blaine Lee, The Power Principle
- "The great leaders are like the best conductors - they reach beyond the notes to reach the magic in the players."
-Blaine Lee, The Power Principle
- "The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men the conviction and the will to carry on."
-Walter Lippmann
- "The genius of a good leader is to leave behind him a situation which common sense, without the grace of genius, can deal with successfully."
-Walter Lippman

- "To command is to serve, nothing more and nothing less."
-Andre Malraux, Man's Hope
- "The ultimate leader is one who is willing to develop people to the point that they eventually surpass him or her in knowledge and ability."
-Fred A. Manske, Jr.
- "Leadership is a combination of strategy and character. If you must be without one, be without the strategy."
-Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf
- "No amount of study or learning will make a man a leader unless he has the natural qualities of one."
-Archibald Wavell, "London Times", February 17, 1941

O P P O R T U N I T Y

- "Opportunities are usually disguised as hard work, so most people don't recognize them."
-Ann Landers
- "The golden opportunity you are seeking is in yourself. It is not in your environment; it is not in luck or chance, or the help of others; it is in yourself alone."
-Orison Swett Marden
- "Most successful men have not achieved their distinction by having some new talent or opportunity presented to them. They have developed the opportunity that was at hand."
-Bruce Marten
- "We are confronted with insurmountable opportunities."
-Pogo
- "The doors we open and close each day decide the lives we live."
-Flora Whittemore

STRENGTH

- "I learned that it is the weak who are cruel, and that gentleness is to be expected only from the strong."
-Leo Rosten
- "We deceive ourselves when we fancy that only weakness needs support. Strength needs it far more."
-Madame Swetchine, The Writings of Madame Swetchine

SUCCESS & FAILURE

- "If you find it in your heart to care for somebody else, you will have succeeded."
-Maya Angelou
- "They never fail who die in a great cause."
-George Gordon Byron
- "The important thing to recognize is that it takes a team, and the team ought to get credit for the wins and the losses. Successes have many fathers, failures have none."
-Philip Caldwell
- "I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is to try to please everyone."
-Bill Cosby
- "To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; to leave the world a little better; whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is the meaning of success."
-Ralph Waldo Emerson
- "The majority of men meet with failure because of their lack of persistence in creating new plans to take the place of those which fail."
-Napoleon Hill

- "Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly."
-Robert Francis Kennedy
- "It's not failure, but low aim is crime."
-Lowell
- "Success is that old ABC -- ability, breaks, and courage."
-Charles Luckman
- "You may be disappointed if you fail, but you are doomed if you don't try."
-Beverly Sills
- "The only time you don't fail is the last time you try anything -- and it works."
-William Strong
- "Men are born to succeed, not to fail."
-Henry David Thoreau
- "Defeat is not the worst of failures. Not to have tried is the true failure."
-George E. Woodberry