

# Alistair Cooke

## Quotes

*Golf, People, Games, Men, America, War, Years, Country, Believe, Food, Land,  
Christian, Beach, Senior, Mind, Children, Hollywood, Two, Music Is, Sports*

A professional is someone who can do his best work when he doesn't feel like it.

~Alistair Cooke

Curiosity is free-wheeling intelligence.

~Alistair Cooke

Curiosity endows the people who have it with a generosity in argument and a serenity in their own mode of life which springs from their cheerful willingness to let life take the form it will.

~Alistair Cooke

They have been playing golf for 800 years and nobody has satisfactorily said why.

~Alistair Cooke

The best thing about Eisenhower's Presidency was his Jeffersonian conviction that there should be as little government and as much golf as possible.

~Alistair Cooke

I believe Hollywood is the most effective and disastrous propaganda factory there has ever been in the history of human beings.

~Alistair Cooke

Texas does not, like any other region, simply have indigenous dishes. It proclaims them. It congratulates you, on your arrival, at having escaped from the slop pails of the other 49 states.

~Alistair Cooke

As always, the British especially shudder at the latest American vulgarity, and then they embrace it with enthusiasm two years later

~Alistair Cooke

People, when they first come to America, whether as travelers or settlers, become aware of a new and agreeable feeling: that the whole country is their oyster.

~Alistair Cooke

The day of judgment is either approaching or it is not. If it is not, there is no cause for adjournment. If it is, I choose to be found doing my duty. I wish therefore that candles may be brought.

~Alistair Cooke

Liberty is the luxury of self-discipline, that those nations historically who have failed to discipline themselves have had discipline imposed by others.

~Alistair Cooke

I prefer radio to TV because the pictures are better.

~Alistair Cooke

Hollywood grew to be the most flourishing factory of popular mythology since the Greeks.

~Alistair Cooke

America is a country in which I see the most persistent idealism and the blindest of cynicism and the race is on between its vitality and its decadence.

~Alistair Cooke

New York is the biggest collection of villages in the world.

~Alistair Cooke

Golf is an open exhibition of overweening ambition, courage deflated by stupidity, skill soured by a whiff of arrogance.

~Alistair Cooke

If computers take over, it will serve us right.

~Alistair Cooke

Every sport pretends to a literature, but people don't believe it of any other sport but their own.

~Alistair Cooke

Washington's birthday is as close to a secular Christmas as any Christian country dare come this side of blasphemy.

~Alistair Cooke

People in America, when listening to radio, like to lean forward. People in Britain like to lean back.

~Alistair Cooke

I have an insane desire to shave a stroke or two off my handicap.

~Alistair Cooke

It's an acting job - acting natural.

~Alistair Cooke

To the goggling unbeliever Texans say, as people always say about their mangier dishes, 'But it's just like chicken, only tenderer.'  
Rattlesnake is, in fact, just like chicken - only tougher.

~Alistair Cooke

Cocktail music is accepted as audible wallpaper.

~Alistair Cooke

In golf, humiliations are the essence of the game.

~Alistair Cooke

Canned music is like audible wallpaper.

~Alistair Cooke

Man has an incurable habit of not fulfilling the prophecies of his fellow men.

~Alistair Cooke

Like a christening, a wedding, a graduation ceremony, a holy war, a revolution even? a fireworks display, a gaudy promise of what life ought to be, not life itself.

~Alistair Cooke

I talk to my typewriter and that is what I've been working on for 40 years-how to write for talking.

~Alistair Cooke

Authors are now marketed like promising movie starlets and must rattle around the nation's television stations to try to assert a salable identity different from that of the other starlets.

~Alistair Cooke

It rose slowly like a gull sensing a reckless blue fish too close to the surface, and then it dived relentlessly for the green, kicked and stopped three feet short of the flag.

~Alistair Cooke

No myth dies harder, and none is more regularly debunked by the facts, than the one about international sports contributing to international friendship.

~Alistair Cooke

It has always been cited as an irrepressible symptom of America's vitality that her people, in fair times and foul, believe in themselves and their institutions.

~Alistair Cooke

The South is one of those kingdoms of the mind, like India or Scotland,

that are neat and understandable only to people who have never been there.

~Alistair Cooke

There is even - as with no other game - a fascinating detective literature, a wry commentary on the human comedy, implicit in the book of rules.

~Alistair Cooke

The Masters is more like a vast Edwardian garden party than a golf tournament.

~Alistair Cooke

[Golfers] are a special kind of moral realist who nips the normal romantic and idealistic yearnings in the bud by proving once or twice a week that life is unconquerable but endurable.

~Alistair Cooke

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