

# Bill Bryson Quotes

*People, Thinking, Book, Men, Mean, Travel, Country, America, World, Two,  
Home, Looks, Years, Science, Moving, Coffee, Want, Way, Writing, Earth*

I can't think of anything that excites a greater sense of childlike wonder than to be in a country where you are ignorant of almost everything.

~Bill Bryson

There are only three things that can kill a farmer: lightning, rolling over in a tractor, and old age.

~Bill Bryson

If you can imagine a man having a vasectomy without anesthetic to the sound of frantic sitar-playing, you will have some idea of what popular Turkish music is like.

~Bill Bryson

That's the trouble with losing your mind; by the time it's gone, it's too late to get it back.

~Bill Bryson

Hunters will tell you that a moose is a wily and ferocious forest creature. Nonsense. A moose is a cow drawn by a three-year-old.

~Bill Bryson

Geologists are never at a loss for paperweights.

~Bill Bryson

Of all the things I am not very good at, living in the real world is perhaps the most outstanding.

~Bill Bryson

Physics is really nothing more than a search for ultimate simplicity, but so far all we have is a kind of elegant messiness.

~Bill Bryson

Protons give an atom its identity, electrons its personality.

~Bill Bryson

Why is it, I wondered, that old people are always so self-centered and excitable? But I just smiled benignly and stood back, comforted by the thought that soon they would be dead.

~Bill Bryson

Language is more fashion than science, and matters of usage, spelling and pronunciation tend to wander around like hemlines.

~Bill Bryson

My first rule of travel is never to go to a place that sounds like a medical condition and Critz is clearly an incurable disease involving flaking skin.

~Bill Bryson

We forget just how painfully dim the world was before electricity. A candle, a good candle, provides barely a hundredth of the illumination of a single 100 watt light bulb.

~Bill Bryson

Making English grammar conform to Latin rules is like asking people to play baseball using the rules of football.

~Bill Bryson

Boston's freeway system is insane. It was clearly designed by a person who had spent his childhood crashing toy trains.

~Bill Bryson

Christmas tree stands are the work of the devil and they want you dead.

~Bill Bryson

We used to build civilizations. Now we build shopping malls.

~Bill Bryson

I have long known that it is part of God's plan for me to spend a little time with each of the most stupid people on earth.

~Bill Bryson

I could spend my life arriving each evening in a new city.

~Bill Bryson

In my day, the principal concerns of university students were sex, smoking dope, rioting and learning. Learning was something you did only when the first three weren't available.

~Bill Bryson

English grammar is so complex and confusing for the one very simple reason that its rules and terminology are based on Latin, a language with which it has precious little in common.

~Bill Bryson

There are things you just can't do in life. You can't beat the phone company, you can't make a waiter see you until he's ready to see you, and you can't go home again.

~Bill Bryson

There is always a little more toothpaste in the tube. Think about it.

~Bill Bryson

The tearoom lady called me love. All the shop ladies called me love and most of the men called me mate. I hadn't been here twelve hours and already they loved me.

~Bill Bryson

Perhaps it's my natural pessimism, but it seems that an awfully large part of travel these days is to see things while you still can.

~Bill Bryson

There is no reason why we shouldn't be able to split an infinitive, any more than we should forsake instant coffee and air travel because they weren't available to the Romans.

~Bill Bryson

I love everything about motels. I can't help myself. I still get excited every time I slip a key into a motel room door and fling it open.

~Bill Bryson

More than 300 million people in the world speak English and the rest, it sometimes seems, try to.

~Bill Bryson

I had always thought that once you grew up you could do anything you wanted - stay up all night or eat ice-cream straight out of the container.

~Bill Bryson

The whole of the global economy is based on supplying the cravings of two per cent of the world's population.

~Bill Bryson

Most of what has lived on Earth has left behind no record at all.

~Bill Bryson

Still, I never really mind bad service in a restaurant. It makes me feel better about not leaving a tip.

~Bill Bryson

As the saying goes, it takes all kinds to make the world go around, though perhaps some shouldn't go quite so far around it as others.

~Bill Bryson

The universe is not only queerer than we suppose; it is queerer than we can suppose

~Bill Bryson

In terms of adaptability, humans are pretty amazingly useless.

~Bill Bryson

I still enjoy traveling a lot. I mean, it amazes me that I still get excited in hotel rooms just to see what kind of shampoo they've left me.

~Bill Bryson

Look at a globe and what you are seeing really is a snapshot of the continents as they have been for just one-tenth of 1 per cent of the earth's history.

~Bill Bryson

I see litter as part of a long continuum of anti-social behaviour.

~Bill Bryson

...and it occurred to me, with the forcefulness of a thought experienced in 360 degrees, that that's really what history mostly is: masses of people doing ordinary things.

~Bill Bryson

Strange as it may seem, wrote Richard Feynman, we understand the distribution of matter in the interior of the Sun far better than we understand the interior of the Earth.

~Bill Bryson

As my father always used to tell me, 'You see, son, there's always someone in the world worse off than you.' And I always used to think, 'So?'

~Bill Bryson

When you tell an Inuit a joke, you can see a kind of race going on between his brain and his expression.

~Bill Bryson

After years of patient study (and with cricket there can be no other kind), I have decided that there is nothing wrong with the game that the introduction of golf carts wouldn't fix in a hurry.

~Bill Bryson

Four times I was honked at for having the temerity to proceed through town without the benefit of metal.

~Bill Bryson

The food is excellent. The beer is cold. The sun nearly always shines. There is coffee on every corner. Life doesn't get much better than this.

~Bill Bryson

South Dakota... is like the world's first drive-through sensory deprivation chamber.

~Bill Bryson

The average Southerner has the speech patterns of someone slipping in and out of consciousness. I can change my shoes and socks faster than most people in Mississippi can speak a sentence.

~Bill Bryson

There are three stages in scientific discovery. First, people deny that it is true, then they deny that it is important; finally they credit the wrong person.

~Bill Bryson

Des Moines is like your typical American city; it's just these concentric circles of malls, built outward from the city.

~Bill Bryson

I don't know whether I'm misanthropic. It seems to me I'm constantly

disappointed. I'm very easily disappointed.

~Bill Bryson

Human beings would split the atom and invent television, nylon, and instant coffee before they could figure out the age of their own planet.

~Bill Bryson

Taxonomy is described sometimes as a science and sometimes as an art, but really it's a battleground.

~Bill Bryson

America is a great disappointment to me. As I said in one of my books, other societies create civilisations; we build shopping malls.

~Bill Bryson

I wanted to quit and to do this forever, sleep in a bed and in a tent, see what was over the next hill and never see a hill again. All of this all at once, every moment, on the trail or off.

~Bill Bryson

Energy is liberated matter, matter is energy waiting to happen.

~Bill Bryson

My mother only ever said two things. She said, 'I don't know, dear.' And she said, 'Can I get you a sandwich, honey?'

~Bill Bryson

... it occurred to me that never again would he be seven years, one month and six days old, so we had better catch these moments while we can.

~Bill Bryson

Romans park their cars the way I would park if I had just spilled a beaker of hydrochloric acid on my lap.



~Bill Bryson

What is it about maps? I could look at them all day, earnestly studying the names of towns and villages I have never heard of and will never visit.

~Bill Bryson

For a long time, I'd been vaguely fascinated by the idea that Charles Lindbergh flew the Atlantic and Babe Ruth hit 60 home runs in the same summer.

~Bill Bryson

I love the feeling of being anonymous in a city I've never been before.

~Bill Bryson

Everything seems to be designed for the benefit of the automobile and not the benefit of the human being.

~Bill Bryson

Traveling makes you realize what an immeasurably nice place much of America could be if only people possessed the same instinct for preservation as they do in Europe.

~Bill Bryson

A cough so robust that I tapped into two new seams of phlegm.

~Bill Bryson

He had the sort of face that makes you realize God does have a sense of humor.

~Bill Bryson

The English invented cricket to make other human endeavors look interesting.

~Bill Bryson

It was an especially wonderful time to be a noisy moron.

~Bill Bryson

The remarkable position in which we find ourselves is that we don't actually know what we actually know.

~Bill Bryson

Physicists are atoms' way of thinking about atoms.

~Bill Bryson

There is no such thing, incidentally, as one kudo.

~Bill Bryson

The best that can be said for Norwegian television is that it gives you the sensation of a coma without the worry and inconvenience.

~Bill Bryson

Most big companies don't like you very much, except hotels, airlines and Microsoft, which don't like you at all.

~Bill Bryson

Traveling is more fun - hell, life is more fun - if you can treat it as a series of impulses.

~Bill Bryson

Eating in Sweden is really just a series of heartbreaks.

~Bill Bryson

It's an unnerving thought that we may be the living universe's supreme achievement and its worst nightmare simultaneously.

~Bill Bryson

My first rule of consumerism is never to buy anything you can't make your children carry.

~Bill Bryson

I mused for a few moments on the question of which was worse, to lead a life so boring that you are easily enchanted, or a life so full of stimulus that you are easily bored.

~Bill Bryson

It is a curious feature of our existence that we come from a planet that is very good at promoting life but even better at extinguishing it.

~Bill Bryson

I always wanted to do a baseball book; I love baseball. The problem is that a very large part of my following is in non-baseball playing countries.

~Bill Bryson

18th century scientists, the French in particular, seldom did things simply if an absurdly demanding alternative was available.

~Bill Bryson

I understand cricket - what's going on, the scoring - but I can't understand why.

~Bill Bryson

The taipan is the one to watch out for. It is the most poisonous snake on Earth, with a lunge so swift and a venom so potent that your last mortal utterance is likely to be: "I say, is that a sn--"

~Bill Bryson

The great failure in education, much of the time, is the lack of excitement and stimulus

~Bill Bryson

Taking a scenic route in Southeast Iowa is like talking about a good

Barry Manilow album. You have to make certain allowances.

~Bill Bryson

It sometimes occurs to me that the British have more heritage than is good for them.

~Bill Bryson

A sign in the yard of a church next door said CHRIST IS THE ANSWER. (The question, of course, is: What do you say when you strike your thumb with a hammer?)

~Bill Bryson

I was heading to Nebraska. Now there's a sentence you don't want to say too often if you can possibly help it.

~Bill Bryson

I really enjoy going to a library and spending the day doing research - to me that is the most pleasurable part of writing the science book.

~Bill Bryson

It is always quietly thrilling to find yourself looking at a world you know well but have never seen from such an angle before.

~Bill Bryson

England was full of words I'd never heard before - streaky bacon, short back and sides, Belisha beacon, serviettes, high tea, ice-cream cornet.

~Bill Bryson

Every kid I knew had a father with a little stash of men's magazines which the father thought was secret and which the kid knew all about.

~Bill Bryson

Cheapness is a great virtue.

~Bill Bryson

America is a very seductive place in terms of lifestyle and comfort, but it wasn't for me.

~Bill Bryson

99.99 percent of all species that have ever lived are no longer with us.

~Bill Bryson

You may find that your parents are the most delightful people, but you don't want to live with them.

~Bill Bryson

There is the odd exception, like Albert Einstein, but as a breed, scientists tend not be very good at presenting themselves.

~Bill Bryson

As a rule of thumb, I would submit that if you need to call your floss provider, for any reason, you are probably not ready for this level of oral hygiene.

~Bill Bryson

In three minutes, 98 percent of all the matter there is or will ever be has been produced. We have a universe

~Bill Bryson

It is unthinkable to have a British countryside that doesn't have actual functioning farmers riding tractors, cows in fields, things like that.

~Bill Bryson

In a funny way, nothing makes you feel more like a native of your own country than to live where nearly everyone is not.

~Bill Bryson

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