

# Dick Cavett Quotes

*People, Thinking, Brain, Writing, Years, Television, Men, Book, Stars, Long,  
Shows, Feels, Intellectual, Dream, Gun, Giving, Trying, Mean, Funny, Mind*

There's so much comedy on television. Does that cause comedy in the streets?

~Dick Cavett

If your parents never had children, chances are... neither will you.

~Dick Cavett

As long as people will accept crap, it will be financially profitable to dispense it.

~Dick Cavett

Censorship feeds the dirty mind more than the four-letter word itself.

~Dick Cavett

It's a rare person who wants to hear what he doesn't want to hear.

~Dick Cavett

I don't see the future as bright, language-wise. I see it as a glass half empty - and evaporating quickly.

~Dick Cavett

I eat at this German-Chinese restaurant and the food is delicious. The only problem is that an hour later you're hungry for power.

~Dick Cavett

I don't feel old. I feel like a young man that has something wrong with him.

~Dick Cavett

Obviously those who burn to be professional jesters mean that they want to be successful comedians. And those are always an elite, microscopic portion of the population. But oh, how they try.

~Dick Cavett

My IQ is somewhere between Spiro Agnew's and Albert Einstein's.

~Dick Cavett

Just think of all the billions of coincidences that don't happen.

~Dick Cavett

Great humorists are great insulters.

~Dick Cavett

There should be three days a week when no one is allowed to say: 'What's your sign?' Violators would have their copies of Kahlil Gibran confiscated.

~Dick Cavett

Why anyone, by dying, should thereby be declared beyond criticism, innocent of wrongdoing, suddenly filled with virtue and above reproach escapes me.

~Dick Cavett

To label me an intellectual is a misunderstanding of what that is.

~Dick Cavett

Japanese is sort of a hobby of mine, and I can get around Japan with ease.

~Dick Cavett

Depression - it falls into that small category of things like combat that, if you haven't been in it, you can say you can imagine it all you like. But it's truly different.

~Dick Cavett

It takes a certain amount of guts to go to your class reunions.

~Dick Cavett

While other kids were out playing and doing healthy things, I read an ancient judo book with a neck hold that was fatal to so many people they finally dropped it from judo.

~Dick Cavett

Every so often, there is an article saying the old kind of talk show isn't possible now. In the oldest kind of talk show, you only had the choice of that or two other channels!

~Dick Cavett

The Nixon administration kept a nasty eye on our show... Cops would come by - often just in time to see the act they wanted to see.

~Dick Cavett

Greatly talented performers don't know - often spectacularly - what's best for them, don't know what their talents really are, and don't know what's just plain wrong for them.

~Dick Cavett

Show people tend to treat their finances like their dentistry. They assume the man handling it knows what he is doing.

~Dick Cavett

Every student of comedy should see Dame Edna at least twice.

~Dick Cavett

The trick to writing for people is, you have to be able to turn them on in your head. And know how they'd word something or how they'd inflect it.

~Dick Cavett

It's a tribute to the human brain that anyone is able to function out there on television in a talk situation that is entirely artificial.

~Dick Cavett

Music bypasses the brain and goes straight to the heart. I wish my life had more of it.

~Dick Cavett

It's not always easy to identify your own voice. It comes with time.

~Dick Cavett

Every time I nostalgically try to regain my liking of John McCain, he reaches into his sleaze bag and pulls out something malodorous.

~Dick Cavett

Running my show is really like an actor being in repertory but where, in one day in one performance, you do scenes from a drama, a farce, a low comedy and a tragedy.

~Dick Cavett

I have a disturbing problem with losing things. My vulnerability to loss-distress could properly be labeled not only inordinate, but neurotic.

~Dick Cavett

Comedians are sometimes resentful of their writers. Probably because it's hard for giant egos to admit you need anyone but yourself to be what you are.

~Dick Cavett

Once I left out what I then considered my best line because there was a suspected column rat in the house.

~Dick Cavett

I don't think anyone ever gets over the surprise of how differently one audience's reaction is from another.

~Dick Cavett

I have a long list of things that make me mad.

~Dick Cavett

I'll be happy if I can just stay out of Nebraska.

~Dick Cavett

It's lamented that the youth get their news from Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert. It's lamentable that they get more from them than from the news.

~Dick Cavett

Sloppy language leads to sloppy thought, and sloppy thought to sloppy legislation.

~Dick Cavett

Years have passed since I have set foot in a comedy club. If the comic is doing badly it's painful, and if the comic is doing brilliantly, it's extremely painful.

~Dick Cavett

I have yet to see one of those Comedy Central shows with multiple standup comics that doesn't include someone the size of the Hindenburg.

~Dick Cavett

Perhaps the saddest irony of depression is that suicide happens when the patient gets a little better and can again function sufficiently.

~Dick Cavett

Unpleasant reading on the subject of anger tells us that there's not really anything wrong with it. In limited amounts. It can even be a good thing. A pressure valve.

~Dick Cavett

I always wanted to live in a haunted house.

~Dick Cavett

My dream was maybe someday, one night I can be a guest on a talk show, and then I will have achieved everything I want.

~Dick Cavett

Radio, which was a much better medium than television will ever be, was easy and pleasant to listen to. Your mind filled automatically with images.

~Dick Cavett

Commercials are not the only exposure that obesity gets on TV. It is by no means a rarity on the wonderful Judge Judy's show when both plaintiff and accused all but literally fill the screen.

~Dick Cavett

The greatest benefit of depression is the fact that when I have talked about it, every so often someone comes up and says, you saved my dad's life.

~Dick Cavett

I think we live in an age of increasing mediocrity.

~Dick Cavett

I'm the only talk show host, I think, if there's such a category in, what's called, the book of records, to have a guest die while we were taping the show, yeah.

~Dick Cavett

The information superhighway? That sounds like a place that's long and boring and kills 50,000 people a year.

~Dick Cavett

You would have to be naive to think you can appear on television and not have the material edited in some way.

~Dick Cavett

Every time someone says, 'You know, we really ought to get together,' if I were really honest, I would ask 'Why?'

~Dick Cavett

The brain process that results in a joke materializing where no joke was before remains a mystery. I'm not aware of any scholarly, scientific or neurological studies on the subject.

~Dick Cavett

Teaching is an art and a profession requiring years of training.

~Dick Cavett

If I were running a campaign, I'd urge taking the mountain of money reportedly squandered on pizza, coffee and bagels and spending it more wisely - on a talented young comedy writer.

~Dick Cavett

In relative youth, we assume we'll remember everything. Someone should urge the young to think otherwise.

~Dick Cavett

I am always shocked that there are still a handful of defenders of the dubious practice of abstinence, surely the worst idea since chocolate-covered ants.

~Dick Cavett

Can you picture yourself at the age 60 doing what you do now?

~Dick Cavett

Home schooling as an idea is on a par with home dentistry.

~Dick Cavett

Anything seen on TV is, in a subtle and sinister sense, thereby endorsed.

~Dick Cavett

Chris Matthews can't start any sentence without 'Let me ask you this... ' And I love Chris Matthews! But almost everybody in journalism does it. Who's stopping you? Just say it!

~Dick Cavett

When I'm doing an appearance somewhere and taking questions from the audience, I can always count on: 'Tell about the guy who died on your show!'

~Dick Cavett

I think I'd be pretty easy to write for.

~Dick Cavett

I did standup while still working for Johnny Carson in the mid-'60s, thus gaining the advantage of at least getting laughs from him about how I hadn't the night before.

~Dick Cavett

There are online forms you can fill out to send to your lawmakers, demanding that nothing - nothing at all or in any way - be done about any guns whatever, anywhere.

~Dick Cavett

I would not ever try to be a show intellectual, which I was accused of doing a while on ABC. I thought you were supposed to read the guests' books.

~Dick Cavett

You have to be on TV a surprisingly long time before you're stopped on the street. Then, when you are, you get a lot of, 'Hey, you're great! What's your name again?'

~Dick Cavett

William F. Buckley was a man who had a great capacity for fun and for amusing himself by amazing others.

~Dick Cavett

The sudden death at 51 of James Gandolfini is intolerable.

~Dick Cavett

A conversation does not have to be scintillating in order to be memorable. I once met a president of the United States, and his second sentence to me was about knees.

~Dick Cavett

It was at a vividly bad time in Norman Mailer's life that I met him, and a sort of water-treading time in mine. He had stabbed his wife, and I was a copy boy at Time magazine.

~Dick Cavett

I've actually gotten so I don't associate television with entertainment very much.

~Dick Cavett

Therapists need to give a depressed patient support and direction.

~Dick Cavett

By the time I was in the fourth grade, I sounded exactly like my father on the phone.

~Dick Cavett

History is not reassuring on the subject of the longevity of seemingly

lasting great nations, is it?

~Dick Cavett

I find most 'sacred music' pretty dismal.

~Dick Cavett

I haven't ever found any great writing on that wonderful and often unappreciated art form, the insult.

~Dick Cavett

To call New York's traffic at holiday time a nightmare is to understate.

~Dick Cavett

I'm not the guy with the enormous comedy nose or the big feet or the bad posture or the whatever; a physical comic has certain things.

~Dick Cavett

The emotions in all true anxiety dreams are next to unbearable.

~Dick Cavett

I like when the ice gets thin, the going gets rough, the guests get edgy.

~Dick Cavett

Every comic can report a few 'gift from the gods' moments.

~Dick Cavett

A grown man, weeping, is a tough thing to see.

~Dick Cavett

You can, after all, reduce the reasons for watching TV to but two: to be lulled, and to be stimulated. Some people do one sometimes, the other sometimes. Some people do all of one or all of the other.

~Dick Cavett

Its fun for me to go on other folks talk shows. When youve endured the ups and downs and tensions and pitfalls of hosting, being a guest is a piece of angel food.

~Dick Cavett

Meryl Streep belongs on anybody's list of greats.

~Dick Cavett

I get a kick out of people saying I was funny.

~Dick Cavett

An effective speaker can do more damage or more good in a well-stated minute than an angry klutz could do in half an hour.

~Dick Cavett

Does anything show the complexity of the miraculous brain more than that weird curiosity, the sleep-protection dream?

~Dick Cavett

I feel like I've been watching Irwin Corey forever. I saw him in the 1950s, and I thought he was old then.

~Dick Cavett

It was well after college that I learned about depression. I got my first job for Jack Paar. I realized I was sleeping 14 hours a day and just living for the Paar show.

~Dick Cavett

I hate Danny Kaye movies.

~Dick Cavett

I know what it feels like to be a gun lover.

~Dick Cavett

I live a sensible life. You know, I don't take on too much.

~Dick Cavett

I'm not all that enthralled by show business, and I'm not that much of a highbrow.

~Dick Cavett

It's no fun being a specimen.

~Dick Cavett

A biggest mistake I made when I started doing a talk show was I thought you had to read the books.

~Dick Cavett

Lawyers work hard and, like us, they're human, many of them.

~Dick Cavett

I'm not freakishly short. I had, on my show, used shortness as a joke subject; it didn't really bother me.

~Dick Cavett

Electronic devices dislike me. There is never a day when something isn't ailing.

~Dick Cavett

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