

# Eric Idle

## Quotes

*Thinking, Years, Writing, People, Comedy, Python, Trying, Want, Three, Hate, Pay, Circus, Giving, Animal, Groups, Turns, Audience, Moving, Boys, Believe*

I believe in the separation of church and planet.

~Eric Idle

Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will make me go in a corner and cry by myself for hours.

~Eric Idle

A lot has been said about politics; some of it complimentary, but most of it accurate

~Eric Idle

Learn to trust yourself. That's very vital. ... Just stand with yourself. Remember, in his lifetime, Van Gogh sold only two paintings. I personally sold even fewer.

~Eric Idle

Life doesn't make any sense, and we all pretend it does. Comedy's job is to point out that it doesn't make sense, and that it doesn't make much difference anyway.

~Eric Idle

Life is a comedy when watching and a tragedy when experiencing. I try and share anything I have.

~Eric Idle

Life took over 4 billion years to evolve into you, and you've about 70 more years to enjoy it. Don't just pursue happiness, catch it.

~Eric Idle

Never do things for money. It's always the things you do for love that turn out to pay the best.

~Eric Idle

Life has a very simple plot: first you're here and then you're not.

~Eric Idle

I've got soggy thighs. It must be dinner time.

~Eric Idle

Of the sparkling wines, the most famous is Perth Pink. This is a bottle with a message in, and the message is "beware". This is not a wine for drinking; this is a wine for laying down and avoiding.

~Eric Idle

Even if you've written something for print, I think it's good to try [it] out on someone because it changes. You can think it's hilarious and they can tell you it's not.

~Eric Idle

No day of my life passes without someone saying the words 'Monty Python' to me. It's not bad.

~Eric Idle

John Cleese once told me he'd do anything for money. So I offered him a pound to shut up, and he took it.

~Eric Idle

I got used to dealing with groups of boys and getting on with life in unpleasant circumstances and being smart and funny and subversive at the expense of authority.

~Eric Idle

If anything can survive the probe of humour it is clearly of value, and conversely all groups who claim immunity from laughter are claiming special privileges which should not be granted.

~Eric Idle

At least in America, you have freedom of speech, which is a good thing.

It's just a question of whether you're allowed to use it on 'Fox News'.

~Eric Idle

Know what I mean? Eh, eh, Nudge nudge, Say no more?

~Eric Idle

Elvis saved my life when I was 13 or 14. He saved all our lives.

~Eric Idle

The Minister of Transport issued this appeal to motorists: Can anyone give him a lift to Leicester?

~Eric Idle

A nod's as good as a wink to a blind bat!

~Eric Idle

I think you often learn from failure. Success just teaches you how great you were, but in fact it's knowing what will fail that will help you to make the right choices.

~Eric Idle

People can tell the truth much more freely when they're apparently lying.

~Eric Idle

I like the idea of being out there regularly with an audience and with a funny gang of people. That's what I grew up with - doing television, doing shows every week.

~Eric Idle

They're a typical Hollywood audience. All the kids are on drugs and all the adults are on roller skates.

~Eric Idle

I think the special thing about Python is that it's a writers' commune. The writers are in charge. The writers decide what the material is.

~Eric Idle

What's brown and sounds like a bell? DUNG!

~Eric Idle

The dreadful thing about getting older is you cry at the drop of a hat.

~Eric Idle

Talent is always more interesting - ambition is not interesting. If you have talent, you have to find ways of expressing it, but you may not be a success in the world's terms.

~Eric Idle

At Cambridge, you have to kiss the vice-chancellor's fingers. But I missed out on that, 'cause I was doing a matinee. I don't want to kiss a strange man's fingers anyway.

~Eric Idle

Don't want to turn into mini-me.

~Eric Idle

Executives do not on the whole do well with comedy. They can't understand it, they can't read it, they can't spot it.

~Eric Idle

I pay taxes in three countries, but can't vote in any of them.

~Eric Idle

Subversion is what I do.

~Eric Idle

We destroy icons - that's what we do.

~Eric Idle

I listen to the audience and try and bounce with them. All audiences are different. But they are all homo sapiens.

~Eric Idle

I will jump on anybody's private plane at the drop of a hat. I'm an old-fashioned lower-middle-class boy.

~Eric Idle

If the studios paid the artists, how would they ever be able to afford the executives?

~Eric Idle

People who are interested in money are really uninteresting people. They look like Donald Trump.

~Eric Idle

Nobody gets irony anymore, as we are now living in the post-ironic age. Once George Bush gets a library, our irony is dead.

~Eric Idle

I got locked into a tradition [at Cambridge] of doing comedy.

~Eric Idle

You could write a joke in the pub at lunchtime and watch it performed on television that evening.

~Eric Idle

I'm not careful with my money at all these days. I buy people a lot of dinners!

~Eric Idle

I used to have a house in London, but couldn't face 20 more years of St

John's Wood in the rain.

~Eric Idle

I never pay any attention to figures.

~Eric Idle

When, in 1966, I progressed to The Frost Report, I was paid ten guineas a minute. I was guaranteed three minutes a week, so this was good money.

~Eric Idle

I didn't want to be big Mr. Ego walking around.

~Eric Idle

I don't like animation. I hate animation, actually.

~Eric Idle

I liked doing live things, and with the Circus we had a live audience.

~Eric Idle

I don't necessarily know much about comedy, I don't spend a lot of time watching it. Mainly because all my life for about 50 years I've had comedy.

~Eric Idle

Everybody has their own free choice to do what they want.

~Eric Idle

I'm not really a celebrity; I'm just vestigially left over from doing stuff from before.

~Eric Idle

I think comedy's often the little and the large, isn't it?

~Eric Idle

Filming a pirate film is always good fun, with ships and indecent clothing.

~Eric Idle

Reading Alan Zweibel makes me laugh out loud. And yet it is not a particularly funny name.

~Eric Idle

I get to be the first doctor in the family [because of the honorary degree they're giving me].

~Eric Idle

There's no gap between the writer and the performer, which is what I think makes [Monty] Python unique. Five or six people who write Python and five or six who act it. That's what makes it unique.

~Eric Idle

I just believe in a huge universe of billions of miles.

~Eric Idle

Writers tend to suffer from back problems because they spend their time bent over a desk.

~Eric Idle

Pattycake, pattycake, baker's man; good morning, madam, I'm a psychiatrist

~Eric Idle

You get interviewed when you're out promoting something.

~Eric Idle

I hate movies. They're so boring. So tedious.

~Eric Idle



I try to not to be a celebrity as much as possible.

~Eric Idle

I don't invest in the stock market, but I have pension funds - some in America and the UK.

~Eric Idle

If you're famous, you have to [be overly generous], otherwise people say, "Eric Idle came in and only left me \$4." I always tip more than people expect.

~Eric Idle

My wife, Tania, is very big on dogs, so I'm always paying out to animal charities.

~Eric Idle

I used to collect Persian rugs and real estate - you should be able to walk on and live in your money. I had to give up the rugs because I'm allergic to mould.

~Eric Idle

When I was 23 I started writing for I'm Sorry I'll Read That Again and was paid three guineas for every minute's airtime.

~Eric Idle

My first professional job was appearing in a disastrous theatre production of Oh, What a Lovely War in Leicester Rep, shortly after leaving Cambridge.

~Eric Idle

There's animals like us existing and thinking and giving interviews on Australian television.

~Eric Idle

The idea that we evolved with these thoughts is actually very fascinating - to me.

~Eric Idle

I've always found bad films more enjoyable than good ones.

~Eric Idle

Americans like to think 'Python' is how English people really are. There is an element of truth to that.

~Eric Idle

I won't read scripts because I have a limited amount of time. Why should I help other people do lame stuff when I can just go out and put on lame stuff of my own?

~Eric Idle

To me, the musical is best when it's a musical comedy. So if you have a very, very funny show, and very good, funny songs, that's what the musical does best.

~Eric Idle

I never think in terms of target audience. I try to write what makes me laugh, so I'm the target audience. I guess I just hope there's another person in America like me.

~Eric Idle

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