

# George Berkeley

## Quotes

*Men, Thinking, Mind, Ideas, Mean, Writing, Truth, Philosophical, May, Science, Inspirational, Body, Soul, Real, Lying, God, Math, Might, Imagination, Tree*

All the choir of heaven and furniture of earth - in a word, all those bodies which compose the frame of the world - have not any subsistence without a mind.

~George Berkeley

To be is to be perceived (Esse est percipi)." Or, "If a tree falls in the forest and no one is there to hear it, does it make a sound?"

~George Berkeley

Truth is the cry of all, but the game of few.

~George Berkeley

It is impossible that a man who is false to his friends and neighbours should be true to the public.

~George Berkeley

Few men think, yet all will have opinions.

~George Berkeley

What is mind? No matter. What is matter? Never mind.

~George Berkeley

The world is like a board with holes in it, and the square men have got into the round holes, and the round into the square.

~George Berkeley

I had rather be an oyster than a man, the most stupid and senseless of animals.

~George Berkeley

That thing of hell and eternal punishment is the most absurd, as well as the most disagreeable thought that ever entered into the head of mortal man.

~George Berkeley

A ray of imagination or of wisdom may enlighten the universe, and glow into remotest centuries.

~George Berkeley

So long as I confine my thoughts to my own ideas divested of words, I do not see how I can be easily mistaken.

~George Berkeley

Where the people are well educated, the art of piloting a state is best learned from the writings of Plato.

~George Berkeley

God is a being of transcendent and unlimited perfections: his nature therefore is incomprehensible to finite spirits.

~George Berkeley

Religion is the centre which unites, and the cement which connects the several parts of members of the political body.

~George Berkeley

The most ingenious men are now agreed, that [universities] are only nurseries of prejudice, corruption, barbarism, and pedantry.

~George Berkeley

Every knave is a thorough knave, and a thorough knave is a knave throughout.

~George Berkeley

All men have opinions, but few think.

~George Berkeley

He who says there is no such thing as an honest man, you may be sure is himself a knave.

~George Berkeley

That neither our thoughts, nor passions, nor ideas formed by the imagination, exist without the mind, is what every body will allow.

~George Berkeley

A mind at liberty to reflect on its own observations, if it produce nothing useful to the world, seldom fails of entertainment to itself.

~George Berkeley

There being in the make of an English mind a certain gloom and eagerness, which carries to the sad extreme; religion to fanaticism; free-thinking to atheism; liberty to rebellion.

~George Berkeley

To be is to be perceived

~George Berkeley

Many things, for aught I know, may exist, whereof neither I nor any other man hath or can have any idea or notion whatsoever.

~George Berkeley

[Christianity] neither enjoins the nastiness of the Cynic, nor the insensibility of the Stoic.

~George Berkeley

Our youth we can have but to-day, We may always find time to grow old.

~George Berkeley

In short, if there were external bodies, it is impossible we should ever come to know it; and if there were not, we might have the very same reasons to think there were that we have now.

~George Berkeley

We have first raised a dust and then complain we cannot see.

~George Berkeley

The eye by long use comes to see even in the darkest cavern: and there is no subject so obscure but we may discern some glimpse of truth by long poring on it.

~George Berkeley

To me it seems that liberty and virtue were made for each other. If any man wish to enslave his country, nothing is a fitter preparative than vice; and nothing leads to vice so surely as irreligion.

~George Berkeley

If we admit a thing so extraordinary as the creation of this world, it should seem that we admit something strange, and odd, and new to human apprehension, beyond any other miracle whatsoever.

~George Berkeley

What doubts, what hypotheses, what labyrinths of amusement, what fields of disputation, what an ocean of false learning, may be avoided by that single notion of immaterialism!

~George Berkeley

The same principles which at first view lead to skepticism, pursued to a certain point, bring men back to common sense.

~George Berkeley

From my own being, and from the dependency I find in myself and my ideas, I do, by an act of reason, necessarily infer the existence of a God, and of all created things in the mind of God.

~George Berkeley

Others indeed may talk, and write, and fight about liberty, and make an outward pretence to it but the free-thinker alone is truly free.

~George Berkeley

[Tar water] is of a nature so mild and benign and proportioned to the human constitution, as to warm without heating, to cheer but not inebriate.

~George Berkeley

The fawning courtier and the surly squire often mean the same thing,--each his own interest.

~George Berkeley

Westward the course of empire takes its way; The four first acts already past, A fifth shall close the drama with the day: Time's noblest offspring is the last.

~George Berkeley

Whatever is immediately perceived is an idea: and can any idea exist out of the mind?

~George Berkeley

For my own private satisfaction, I had rather be master of my own time than wear a diadem.

~George Berkeley

To be a good patriot, a man must consider his countrymen as God's creatures, and himself as accountable for his acting towards them.

~George Berkeley

Whose fault is it if poor Ireland still continues poor?

~George Berkeley

The table I write on I say exists ... meaning thereby that if I was in my study I might perceive it, or that some other spirit actually does perceive it.

~George Berkeley

The method of Fluxions is the general key by help whereof the modern mathematicians unlock the secrets of Geometry, and consequently of Nature.

~George Berkeley

I might as well doubt of my own being, as of the being of those things I actually see and feel.

~George Berkeley

But the velocities of the velocities - the second, third, fourth, and fifth velocities, etc. - exceed, if I mistake not, all human understanding.

~George Berkeley

Doth the Reality of sensible things consist in being perceived? or, is it something distinct from their being perceived, and that bears no relation to the mind?

~George Berkeley

Certainly he who can digest a second or third fluxion need not, methinks, be squeamish about any point in divinity.

~George Berkeley

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