

Joshua Foer Quotes

Memories, Book, Memorable, Motivation, Inspiration, Creativity, Two, Art, Thinking, Remember, Mean, Ideas, Meaningful, Kissing, Short Life, Party, Skills, Writing, Eye, Way

If you want to live a memorable life, you have to be the kind of person who remembers to remember.

~Joshua Foer

Our lives are the sum of our memories. How much are we willing to lose from our already short lives by not paying attention?

~Joshua Foer

Memory is like a spiderweb that catches new information. The more it catches, the bigger it grows. And the bigger it grows, the more it catches.

~Joshua Foer

What makes things memorable is that they are meaningful, significant, colorful.

~Joshua Foer

The more we remember, the better we are at processing the world. And the better we are at processing the world, the more we can remember about it.

~Joshua Foer

...who we are and what we do it is fundamentally a function of what we remember.

~Joshua Foer

To the extent that experience is the sum of our memories and wisdom the sum of experience, having a better memory would mean knowing not only more about the world, but also more about myself.

~Joshua Foer

As bad as we are at remembering names and phone numbers and word-for-word instructions from our colleagues, we have really exceptional visual and spatial memories.

~Joshua Foer

Invented languages have often been created in tandem with entire invented universes, and most conlangers come to their craft by way of fantasy and science fiction.

~Joshua Foer

Memory training is not just for the sake of performing party tricks; it's about nurturing something profoundly and essentially human.

~Joshua Foer

Monotony collapses time. Novelty unfolds it.

~Joshua Foer

The way to get better at a skill is to force yourself to practice just beyond your limits.

~Joshua Foer

I met with amnesiacs and savants, educators and scientists, to try to understand what memory is, why it works, why it sometimes doesn't, and what its potential might be.

~Joshua Foer

It is forgetting, not remembering, that is the essence of what makes us human. To make sense of the world, we must filter it. "To think," Borges writes, "is to forget.

~Joshua Foer

We've outsourced our memories to digital devices, and the result is that we no longer trust our memories. We see every small forgotten thing as evidence that they're failing us.

~Joshua Foer

Someday in the distant cyborg future, when our internal and external

memories fully merge, we may come to possess infinite knowledge. But that's not the same thing as wisdom.

~Joshua Foer

Experts step outside their comfort zone and study themselves failing.

~Joshua Foer

When we first hear [a] word, we start putting these associational hooks into it that make it easier to fish it back out at some later date.

~Joshua Foer

Once upon a time, this idea of having a trained, disciplined, cultivated memory was not nearly so alien as it would seem to us to be today.

~Joshua Foer

Part of being creative is not being super-duper focused.

~Joshua Foer

Sequencing - the careful striptease by which you reveal information to the reader - matters in an article, but it is absolutely essential to a book.

~Joshua Foer

Languages are something of a mess. They evolve over centuries through an unplanned, democratic process that leaves them teeming with irregularities, quirks, and words like 'knight.'

~Joshua Foer

To improve, we must watch ourselves fail, and learn from our mistakes.

~Joshua Foer

A meaningful relationship between two people cannot sustain itself only in the present tense.

~Joshua Foer

Evolution has programmed our brains to find two things particularly interesting, and therefore memorable: jokes and sex - and especially, it seems, jokes about sex.

~Joshua Foer

Our culture is an edifice built of externalized memories.

~Joshua Foer

One trick, known as the journey method or 'memory palace,' is to conjure up a familiar space in the mind's eye, and then populate it with images of whatever it is you want to remember.

~Joshua Foer

Jonah Lehrer is one of the most talented explainers of science that we've got. What a pleasure it is to follow his investigation of creativity and its sources. *Imagine* is his best book yet.

~Joshua Foer

Kissing could have begun as a way of sniffing out who's who. From a whiff to a kiss was just a short trip across the face.

~Joshua Foer

Since at least the Middle Ages, philosophers and philologists have dreamed of curing natural languages of their flaws by constructing entirely new idioms according to orderly, logical principles.

~Joshua Foer

Life seems to speed up as we get older because life gets less memorable as we get older.

~Joshua Foer

When you want to get good at something, how you spend your time

practicing is far more important than the amount of time you spend.

~Joshua Foer

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