

Judith Martin

Quotes

*People, Women, Children, Thinking, Law, Rude, Honesty, Believe, Inspirational,
Mean, Etiquette, Missing, Principles, Men, Writing, Doe, Years, Jobs, Way,
Ideas*

Most people who work at home find they do not have the benefit of receptionists who serve as personal guards

~Judith Martin

If it's against state law, it's generally considered a breach of Etiquette.

~Judith Martin

Adorable children are considered to be the general property of the human race. Rude children belong to their mothers.

~Judith Martin

It's far more impressive when others discover your good qualities without your help.

~Judith Martin

The family dinner table is the cornerstone of civilization and those who 'graze' from refrigerators or in front of the television sets are doomed to remain in a state of savagery.

~Judith Martin

Ideological differences are no excuse for rudeness.

~Judith Martin

We are born charming fresh and spontaneous and must be civilized before we are fit to participate in society.

~Judith Martin

If you can't be kind, at least be vague.

~Judith Martin

When virtues are pointed out first, flaws seem less insurmountable.

~Judith Martin

Email is very informal, a memo. But I find that not signing off or not

having a salutation bothers me.

~Judith Martin

Society cannot exist without etiquette ... It never has, and until our own century, everybody knew that.

~Judith Martin

We are all born rude. No infant has ever appeared yet with the grace to understand how inconsiderate it is to disturb others in the middle of the night.

~Judith Martin

You don't want to look too chic at a Washington party or people will think you don't have a job worth losing.

~Judith Martin

It is one of Miss Manners's great discoveries that one needn't contradict others in order to set them straight.

~Judith Martin

Honesty has come to mean the privilege of insulting you to your face without expecting redress.

~Judith Martin

If you put together all the ingredients that naturally attract children - sex, violence, revenge, spectacle and vigorous noise - what you have is grand opera.

~Judith Martin

Dishonesty is not the only alternative to honesty. There is also the highly underrated virtue of shutting up.

~Judith Martin

Honesty is a virtue, but not the only one. If you're in a courtroom you

need the whole truth and nothing but the truth; in the living room, sometimes you need anything but. Often.

~Judith Martin

We already know that anonymous letters are despicable. In etiquette, as well as in law, hiring a hit man to do the job does not relieve you of responsibility.

~Judith Martin

Protocol is etiquette with a government expense account.

~Judith Martin

You glance at an e-mail. You give more attention to a real letter.

~Judith Martin

Greece is a good place for rebirths.

~Judith Martin

When someone has tried to please you, it is rude, as well as disheartening, to respond by announcing that the effort was a failure.

~Judith Martin

When people start hurling insults at you, you know their minds are closed and there's no point in debating. You disengage yourself as quickly as possible from the situation.

~Judith Martin

There are three social classes in America: upper middle class, middle class, and lower middle class.

~Judith Martin

Life is full of wonderful passions that come and go over the years, but the only one that will never let you down is reading.

~Judith Martin

Manners require showing consideration of all human beings, not just the ones to whom one is close.

~Judith Martin

When a society abandons its ideals just because most people can't live up to them, behavior gets very ugly indeed.

~Judith Martin

The underlying principles of manners- respect, fairness, and congeniality.

~Judith Martin

The one prediction that never comes true is, 'You'll thank me for telling you this.'

~Judith Martin

Chaperons, even in their days of glory, were almost never able to enforce morality; what they did was to force immorality to be discreet. This is no small contribution.

~Judith Martin

A small wedding is not necessarily one to which very few people are invited. It is one to which the person you are addressing is not invited.

~Judith Martin

A general rule of etiquette is that one apologizes for the unfortunate occurrence, but the unthinkable is unmentionable.

~Judith Martin

The simple idea that everyone needs a reasonable amount of challenging work in his or her life, and also a personal life, complete with noncompetitive leisure, has never really taken hold.

~Judith Martin

Chaperons don't enforce morality; they force immorality to be discreet.

~Judith Martin

Hypocrisy is not generally a social sin, but a virtue.

~Judith Martin

The invention of the teenager was a mistake. Once you identify a period of life in which people get to stay out late but don't have to pay taxes - naturally, no one wants to live any other way.

~Judith Martin

Parents should conduct their arguments in quiet, respectful tones, but in a foreign language. You'd be surprised what an inducement that is to the education of children.

~Judith Martin

You do not have to do everything disagreeable that you have a right to do

~Judith Martin

You should resolve not to seek public approval of your private business, when you are not also prepared to accept public disapproval.

~Judith Martin

There is nothing like a good friend to help you out when you are not in trouble.

~Judith Martin

Allowing an unimportant mistake to pass without comment is a wonderful social grace.

~Judith Martin

Part of the skill of saying no is to shut up afterward and not babble on, offering material for an argument.

~Judith Martin

When you're in love, you put up with things that, when you're out of love you cite.

~Judith Martin

The stress of making small talk with in-laws is called being part of a family.

~Judith Martin

everyone old enough to have a secret is entitled to have some place to keep it.

~Judith Martin

It is, indeed, a trial to maintain the virtue of humility when one can't help being right.

~Judith Martin

Fairness does not consist so much of everybody's doing the same thing, but of everybody's being willing to do something that others don't want to do.

~Judith Martin

The etiquette question that troubles so many fastidious people New Year's Day is: How am I ever going to face those people again?

~Judith Martin

What is Thanksgiving without a nutty relative?

~Judith Martin

There are always proper responses, even to rude questions.

~Judith Martin

Why bring children into a world where no one writes letters?

~Judith Martin

Try not to annoy your relatives unnecessarily.

~Judith Martin

Only a person who considers himself too good for you is good enough.

~Judith Martin

Sometimes we do things a certain way just because that is the way we do things.

~Judith Martin

The most conventional statements are both true and welcome.

~Judith Martin

For email, the old postcard rule applies. Nobody else is supposed to read your postcards, but you'd be a fool if you wrote anything private on one.

~Judith Martin

Learn graceful ways of saying no and of pointing out that this pressure to do something is not in line with most people's wishes.

~Judith Martin

A young lady is a female child who has just done something dreadful.

~Judith Martin

Many people mistakenly think a new technology cancels out an old one.

~Judith Martin

Everybody's an art critic.

~Judith Martin

People think, mistakenly, that etiquette means you have to suppress your differences. On the contrary, etiquette is what enables you to deal with them; it gives you a set of rules.

~Judith Martin

Yes, etiquette is hypocritical. Yes, it does inhibit children - if you're lucky. But the idea that it's elitist and irrelevant is like saying language is elitist and irrelevant.

~Judith Martin

We are all entitled to our little harmless habits, but we are not entitled to demand approval for them.

~Judith Martin

The way one was brought up isn't an excuse for rude behavior.

~Judith Martin

Being listened to should be sufficiently gratifying in itself, whether or not the advice is followed.

~Judith Martin

[after the death of a loved one] It is when there is nothing more to be done that the reality of the loss often hits with full force.

~Judith Martin

Whamming someone smaller than oneself in order to teach that person civilized behavior is not within Miss Manners' concept of propriety, much less logic.

~Judith Martin

Generosity and gratitude are inseparably linked.

~Judith Martin

the obligation to express gratitude deepens with procrastination. The

longer you wait, the more effusive must be the thanks.

~Judith Martin

Smart people duck when they hear the dread announcement 'I'm going to be perfectly honest with you.

~Judith Martin

What we have come to, through a combination of popular psychology and expanding technology, is a presumption that all our thoughts and feelings are worth uttering.

~Judith Martin

There is no etiquette rule that decrees one must give out personal information to anyone who asks.

~Judith Martin

People who put slipcovers, doilies, plastic protectors, and cellophane on everything good that they own rarely live to see an occasion so good that all these covers are removed.

~Judith Martin

A lot of men got upset at the feminist movement because they had all the toys and we wanted some.

~Judith Martin

People will say, 'Seventy isn't old, it's middle-aged,' and I think, middle of what - 140?

~Judith Martin

Charming villains have always had a decided social advantage over well-meaning people who chew with their mouths open.

~Judith Martin

Nowadays people consider it a disgrace to admit that they are not

stressed.

~Judith Martin

Knowing that others have gone through similar tragedies may be a help, but it should be remembered that every tragedy is not only commonplace but also unique.

~Judith Martin

Washington knows that it is not safe to kick people who are down until you find out what their next stop will be.

~Judith Martin

When you consider how epidemic boredom is in our time, you have to concede that entertaining is a healing art.

~Judith Martin

Nowadays, you form your beliefs to fit your behavior, not the other way around.

~Judith Martin

It is said that dispensing advice is easy. What is difficult is getting anyone to listen to it.

~Judith Martin

A wedding invitation is sent by people who have been saying, "Do we have to ask them?" to people whose first response is, "How much do you think we have to spend on them?"

~Judith Martin

Appearing to pay attention when someone is speaking is one of the cornerstones of real social interaction.

~Judith Martin

The more skillful the performance of false cheer, the more pleasing the

effect is upon one's public and on that private audience to whom one owes even more.

~Judith Martin

If written directions alone would suffice, libraries wouldn't need to have the rest of the universities attached.

~Judith Martin

Question- Should I loan a small amount of money to a friend? Answer- If you are sure that you can, if necessary, spare both.

~Judith Martin

You think death is any better an excuse for desertion than any other?

~Judith Martin

Meanwhile, the empty forms of social behavior survive inappropriately in business situations. We all know that when a business sends its customers 'friendly reminders,' it really means business.

~Judith Martin

When politeness is used to show up other people, it is reclassified as rudeness. Thus it is technically impossible to be too polite.

~Judith Martin

Miss Manners herself, while never rude, is given to pulling a fast pinch in the way of a handshake on those who believe in kissing on, not even the first date, but the first sighting.

~Judith Martin

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