

# Lily Tomlin Quotes

*Funny, People, Thinking, Inspirational, Mean, Cynical, Ifs, Sex, Matter, Trying,  
Love, Fun, Humorous, Life, Reason, Inspiring, Laughing, Culture, Life Is,  
Believe*

The road to success is always under construction.

~Lily Tomlin

I like a teacher who gives you something to take home to think about besides homework.

~Lily Tomlin

The trouble with the rat race is that even if you win, you're still a rat.

~Lily Tomlin

Why is it that when we talk to God we're said to be praying but when God talks to us we're schizophrenic?

~Lily Tomlin

There's so much plastic in this culture that vinyl leopard skin is becoming an endangered synthetic.

~Lily Tomlin

For fast-acting relief try slowing down.

~Lily Tomlin

If truth is beauty, how come no one has their hair done in the library?

~Lily Tomlin

I always wanted to be somebody, but now I realize I should have been more specific.

~Lily Tomlin

Ninety eight percent of the adults in this country are decent, hardworking, honest Americans. It's the other lousy two percent that get all the publicity. But then, we elected them.

~Lily Tomlin

If you read a lot of books you are considered well read. But if you watch

a lot of TV, you're not considered well viewed.

~Lily Tomlin

I always wondered why somebody doesn't do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody.

~Lily Tomlin

Instead of working for the survival of the fittest, we should be working for the survival of the wittiest - then we can all die laughing.

~Lily Tomlin

Maybe if people started to listen, history would stop repeating itself.

~Lily Tomlin

We have reason to believe that man first walked upright to free his hands for masturbation.

~Lily Tomlin

Wouldn't it be great if we all grew up to be what we wanted to be? The world would be full of nurses, firemen, and ballerinas.

~Lily Tomlin

What goes up must come down. But don't expect it to come down where you can find it.

~Lily Tomlin

If I had known what it would be like to have it all - I might have been willing to settle for less.

~Lily Tomlin

The best mind-altering drug is the truth.

~Lily Tomlin

Man invented language to satisfy his deep need to complain.

~Lily Tomlin

The start to a better world is the belief that it is possible.

~Lily Tomlin

You are what you think ... geez, that's frightening.

~Lily Tomlin

Reality is the leading cause of stress among those in touch with it.

~Lily Tomlin

When I am happy I feel like crying, but when I am sad I don't feel like laughing. I think it is better to be happy; then you get two feelings for the price of one.

~Lily Tomlin

I can handle reality in small doses, but as a lifestyle, it's much too confining.

~Lily Tomlin

Success is a ladder that cannot be climbed with your hands in your pocket - The road to success is always under construction

~Lily Tomlin

After all, in private, we're all misfits

~Lily Tomlin

Don't be afraid of missing opportunities. Behind every failure is an opportunity somebody wishes they had missed.

~Lily Tomlin

The formula for water is H<sub>2</sub>O. Is the formula for an ice cube H<sub>2</sub>O squared?

~Lily Tomlin

We are all in this together, by ourselves.

~Lily Tomlin

Sometimes I feel like a figment of my own imagination.

~Lily Tomlin

Reality is nothing but a collective hunch.

~Lily Tomlin

If love is the answer, could you please rephrase the question?

~Lily Tomlin

I feel some part of me can wake up and be very existential and the next day wake up and be sort of in love with the universe.

~Lily Tomlin

The phone company handles 84 billion calls a year-everything from kings, queens, and presidents to the scum of the earth.

~Lily Tomlin

No matter how cynical you become, it's never enough to keep up.

~Lily Tomlin

We are people with lives, not consumers with lifestyles.

~Lily Tomlin

Sometimes I worry about being a success in a mediocre world.

~Lily Tomlin

Well, if I can be of any help at all, you are in worse trouble than I thought.

~Lily Tomlin

If trying harder doesn't work, try softer.

~Lily Tomlin

Being a New Yorker is never having to say you are sorry.

~Lily Tomlin

When we speak to God, we call it prayer; when God speaks back, we call it psychosis!

~Lily Tomlin

To me, "sexual freedom" means freedom from having to have sex.

~Lily Tomlin

Remember we're all in this alone.

~Lily Tomlin

Things are going to get a lot worse before they get worse.

~Lily Tomlin

You know being relevant or coming up with something interesting, funny to say about what's current is just as hard as it might ever be depending on the serendipity of it all.

~Lily Tomlin

What if it's boring - or if it's not boring, it might be too revealing, or worse, it might be too revealing and still be boring.

~Lily Tomlin

I personally think we developed language because of our deep need to complain.

~Lily Tomlin

We don't care. We don't have to. We're the phone company.

~Lily Tomlin

Even when I'm being funny, I'm deadly serious.

~Lily Tomlin

If you have a dog or a cat, you know how developed they can be. How sensitive, how aware. They suffer. We all do.

~Lily Tomlin

Creating characters is just another way to express a type and put that type to use.

~Lily Tomlin

There's nothing sadder than getting to the end of your life and saying, 'I didn't do it right'.

~Lily Tomlin

If beauty is truth, why don't women go to the library to have their hair done?

~Lily Tomlin

I worry that the person who thought up Muzak may be thinking up something else.

~Lily Tomlin

Why isn't there a special name for the tops of your feet?

~Lily Tomlin

When we talk to god, it's prayer. When god talks to us, it's schizophrenia.

~Lily Tomlin

I guess if people couldn't profit from war I don't think there would be war.

~Lily Tomlin

Having a real public outlet is how you imprint something for yourself. It's just a matter of timing. It's like you've marked your territory.

~Lily Tomlin

Exercise is for people who can't handle drugs or alcohol.

~Lily Tomlin

Truth is, I've always been selling out. The difference is that in the past, I looked like I had integrity because there were no buyers.

~Lily Tomlin

The larger picture is really to swing people's awareness of what really is moral.

~Lily Tomlin

Does your mind feel more and more like teflon? Nothing sticks to it?

~Lily Tomlin

Reality is nothing more than a collective hunch.

~Lily Tomlin

It's a more ridiculing, divisive humor today.

~Lily Tomlin

When I've had a meltdown, people will say to me, "Well, you failed to keep your sense of humor."

~Lily Tomlin

I worry about kids today - because of the sexual revolution, they're going to grow up and never know what "dirty" means.

~Lily Tomlin

Did you know, in the entire universe, we are the only intelligent life forms thought to have a Miss Universe contest?



~Lily Tomlin

What I appreciate is acknowledging to the audience that I think they have brains.

~Lily Tomlin

I try to be cynical, but it's so hard to keep up.

~Lily Tomlin

In the depths of the night, fear grips my heart. It paralyzes my mind. But most of all, I feel very, very alone

~Lily Tomlin

Language was invented because of the deep human need to complain.

~Lily Tomlin

There will be sex after death, we just won't be able to feel it.

~Lily Tomlin

I think life is perverse. It can be beautiful, but it won't.

~Lily Tomlin

If life is so meaningless, then why are we always bringing it up?

~Lily Tomlin

I still believe that sex is dirty. It's just that now I wouldn't have it any other way.

~Lily Tomlin

I bought a box of animal crackers, but there was nothing inside. They'd eaten each other.

~Lily Tomlin

We're giving jobs to people who would otherwise be out of work if we

weren't exploiting cheap labor.

~Lily Tomlin

Thank God kids never mean well

~Lily Tomlin

I guess that's one of the reasons that you do it - work all the time - because it's sort of a high to find something that really works.

~Lily Tomlin

I especially love 'Web Therapy' and I did 'Eastbound and Down' too. I had a lot of fun doing that.

~Lily Tomlin

No matter how cynical I get, I can't keep up.

~Lily Tomlin

I mean yes to act out something or take chances in the performance is one thing. But in terms of a camera, whatever's captured is captured so that's a little more daunting.

~Lily Tomlin

I was always empathetic with animals. It's a terrible and self-involved point of view that we do something because someone else is exploitable.

~Lily Tomlin

You can't expect insights, even the big ones, to make you suddenly understand everything. But I figure: Hey it's a step in the right direction if they leave you confused in a deeper way.

~Lily Tomlin

I wanted to be a stage actress. I wanted to be a New York actress and have a community with other actors. I didn't want to get famous; I

always thought getting famous was a drag on you.

~Lily Tomlin

I wonder what it would be like if we all became what we wanted to be when we grew up? I mean, imagine a world filled with nothing but firemen, cowboys, nurses and ballerinas.

~Lily Tomlin

9 to 5 made people aware of equal pay for equal work. It hasn't really happened, but it has come closer.

~Lily Tomlin

But there are too many people that make so much money at the cost of lives of other humans and for no reason but to make the money.

~Lily Tomlin

Did you know, throughout the cosmos they found intelligent life forms that play to play? We are the only ones that play to win. Explains why we have more than our share of losers.

~Lily Tomlin

I was always drawn to more the social-expression-of-culture types.

~Lily Tomlin

People hire me to create some kind of archetype or some culture type, or something. I guess they accept whatever I come up with.

~Lily Tomlin

Lady, I do not make up things. That is lies. Lies are not true. But the truth could be made up if yo know how. And that's the truth.

~Lily Tomlin

If you can't be direct, why be?

~Lily Tomlin

Infinity is just time on an ego trip.

~Lily Tomlin

Every day I read the newspapers, and no matter how cynical I get, it's impossible to keep up.

~Lily Tomlin

Growing up in Michigan was fine...until I realized where I was.

~Lily Tomlin

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