

# Peter Ustinov

## Quotes

*Men, Children, Love, People, Laughter, Peace, Thinking, Funny, World, Night,  
Work, War, Age, Life, Two, Humor, Education, Mean, Learning, Democracy*

If Botticelli were alive today he'd be working for Vogue.

~Peter Ustinov

The social sciences were for all those who had not yet decided what to do with their lives, and for all those whose premature frustrations led them into the sterile alleys of confrontation.

~Peter Ustinov

Comedy is simply a funny way of being serious.

~Peter Ustinov

Monica Seles: I'd hate to be next door to her on her wedding night.

~Peter Ustinov

Flogging. The only solution to every problem. I warrant even the culprit himself doesn't know! It was just... his... turn!

~Peter Ustinov

I imagine hell like this: Italian punctuality, German humour and English wine.

~Peter Ustinov

Love is an act of endless forgiveness, a tender look which becomes a habit.

~Peter Ustinov

Beliefs are what divide people. Doubt unites them.

~Peter Ustinov

Terrorism is the war of the poor, and war is the terrorism of the rich.

~Peter Ustinov

If the world should blow itself up, the last audible voice would be that of an expert saying it can't be done.

~Peter Ustinov

If you're going to be a prisoner of your own mind, the least you can do is make sure it's well furnished.

~Peter Ustinov

Parents are the bones on which children cut their teeth.

~Peter Ustinov

Intelligent or not, we all make mistakes and perhaps the intelligent mistakes are the worst, because so much careful thought has gone into them.

~Peter Ustinov

Playwrights are like men who have been dining for a month in an Indian restaurant. After eating curry night after night, they deny the existence of asparagus.

~Peter Ustinov

We used to have lots of questions to which there were no answers. Now, with the computer, there are lots of answers to which we haven't thought up questions.

~Peter Ustinov

In America, through pressure of conformity, there is freedom of choice, but nothing to choose from.

~Peter Ustinov

At my age, I'm often asked if I'm frightened of death and my reply is always, I can't remember being frightened of birth.

~Peter Ustinov

To live like a poor man is only fun when you are rich.

~Peter Ustinov

To be gentle, tolerant, wise and reasonable requires a goodly portion of toughness.

~Peter Ustinov

What is education but a process by which a person begins to learn how to learn?

~Peter Ustinov

The habit of religion is oppressive, an easy way out of thought.

~Peter Ustinov

Sex is a conversation carried out by other means. If you get on well out of bed, half the problems of bed are solved.

~Peter Ustinov

I am an optimist, unrepentant and militant. After all, in order not to be a fool an optimist must know how sad a place the world can be. It is only the pessimist who finds this out anew every day.

~Peter Ustinov

Life is unfair but remember sometimes it is unfair in your favour.

~Peter Ustinov

The stupidity of a stupid man is mercifully intimate and reticent, while the stupidity of an intellectual is cried from the rooftops.

~Peter Ustinov

Artificial glamor-false eyelashes, that sort of thing-usually is put on to hide a vacuum. The most beautiful face can only look vacuous if it masks an empty head.

~Peter Ustinov

I am convinced that it is of primordial importance to learn more every year than the year before. After all, what is education but a process by

which a person begins to learn how to learn.

~Peter Ustinov

The point of living, and of being an optimist, is to be foolish enough to believe the best is yet to come.

~Peter Ustinov

The older I get, the more people listen to me - even though I say the same as always.

~Peter Ustinov

When I was small, I would refuse to drink when I ate fish because I thought the fish would reconstitute itself in my stomach

~Peter Ustinov

Love is an act of endless forgiveness. It means forget inconvenient duties, then forgive yourself for forgetting. By rigid practice and stern determination, it comes easy.

~Peter Ustinov

A diplomat these days is nothing but a head waiter who's allowed to sit down occasionally.

~Peter Ustinov

Men think about women. Women think about what men think about them

~Peter Ustinov

By increasing the size of the keyhole, today's playwrights are in danger of doing away with the door.

~Peter Ustinov

Once we are destined to live out our lives in the prison of our mind, our duty is to furnish it well.

~Peter Ustinov

I'm convinced there's a small room in the attic of the Foreign Office where future diplomats are taught to stammer.

~Peter Ustinov

British education is probably the best in the world, if you can survive it. If you can't there is nothing left for you but the diplomatic corps.

~Peter Ustinov

Generals are fascinating cases of arrested development - after all, at five all of us wanted to be generals.

~Peter Ustinov

Laughter... the most civilized music in the world.

~Peter Ustinov

Life was cheap in the Middle Ages. It has become cheaper since. It is only in specific battles for specific lives that our culture is put to the test, and with it our humanity.

~Peter Ustinov

Did you know that the worldwide food shortage that threatens up to five hundred million children could be alleviated at the cost of only one day, only one day, of modern warfare.

~Peter Ustinov

As I grow older I find that though I think I'm saying the same things as I always did, people listen to me more.

~Peter Ustinov

At the age of four with paper hats and wooden swords we're all Generals. Only some of us never grow out of it.

~Peter Ustinov

People who reach the top of the tree are only those who haven't got the qualifications to detain them at the bottom.

~Peter Ustinov

Her virtue was that she said what she thought, her vice that what she thought didn't amount to much.

~Peter Ustinov

Children are the only form of immortality that we can be sure of.

~Peter Ustinov

And here is the lesson I learned in the army. If you want to do a thing badly, you have to work at it as though you want to do it well.

~Peter Ustinov

It is our responsibilities, not ourselves, that we should take seriously.

~Peter Ustinov

The French and the British are such good enemies that they can't resist being friends.

~Peter Ustinov

Unfortunately, a superabundance of dreams is paid for by a growing potential for nightmares

~Peter Ustinov

The stupidity of a stupid man is exercised in a restricted field; the stupidity of an intelligent man has a much wider diffusion, and a far greater effect, aided as it is by the element of surprise.

~Peter Ustinov

Basically I'm a very serious person, but I think the form it takes with me is comedy. I see the amusing side of all potentially pompous situations.

~Peter Ustinov

I have three daughters and I find as a result I played King Lear almost without rehearsal.

~Peter Ustinov

Did you know that every two hours the nations of this world spend as much on armaments as they spend on the children of this world every year?

~Peter Ustinov

Courage is often lack of insight, whereas cowardice in many cases is based on good information.

~Peter Ustinov

Contrary to general belief, I do not believe that friends are necessarily the people you like best, they are merely the people who got there first.

~Peter Ustinov

I have four children which is not bad considering I'm not a Catholic.

~Peter Ustinov

Critics search for ages for the wrong word, which, to give them credit, they eventually find.

~Peter Ustinov

Acting on television is like being asked by the captain to entertain the passengers while the ship goes down.

~Peter Ustinov

I am just a man, not fit to do the work of God... or the Devil.

~Peter Ustinov

There are experts in little things but there are no experts in big things. There are experts in this fact and that fact but there are no moral experts.



~Peter Ustinov

A twinge of conscience is a glimpse of God.

~Peter Ustinov

I was irrevocably betrothed to laughter.

~Peter Ustinov

The only reason I made a commercial for American Express was to pay for my American Express bill.

~Peter Ustinov

The truth is really an ambition which is beyond us.

~Peter Ustinov

The great thing about history is that it is adaptable.

~Peter Ustinov

This is a free country, madam. We have a right to share your privacy in a public place.

~Peter Ustinov

Laughter would be bereaved if snobbery died.

~Peter Ustinov

I can never forgive God for having invented the French

~Peter Ustinov

I was irrevocably betrothed to laughter, the sound of which has always seemed to me the most civilised music in the world.

~Peter Ustinov

Toronto is a kind of New York operated by the Swiss.

~Peter Ustinov

Sex is a conversation carried out by another means.

~Peter Ustinov

I don't know why I have these dreams. I've never wanted to be Pope. In fact, I have a greater affinity to Martin Luther.

~Peter Ustinov

Please keep off the grass.

~Peter Ustinov

People are annoyed with the Chinese for not respecting more human rights. But with a population that size it's very difficult to have the same attitude to human rights.

~Peter Ustinov

I hate being moved. I hate that man who came in. So self-righteous, so cruel. He made fun of me, that's why I cried. You never did that. You led me into temptation by your - politeness.

~Peter Ustinov

In my day, there were things that were done, and things that were not done, and there was even a way of doing things that were not done.

~Peter Ustinov

The young need old men. They need men who are not ashamed of age, not pathetic imitations of themselves. ... Parents are the bones on which children sharpen their teeth.

~Peter Ustinov

Corruption is nature's way of restoring our faith in democracy.

~Peter Ustinov

Pavarotti is not vain, but conscious of being unique.

~Peter Ustinov

I have Russian, German, Spanish, Italian, French and Ethiopian blood in my veins.

~Peter Ustinov

It is youth that has discovered love as a weapon.

~Peter Ustinov

I think that first nights should come near the end of a play's run-as indeed, they often do.

~Peter Ustinov

If history teaches us one thing, than that history teaches us nothing.

~Peter Ustinov

That weakness in human nature which goes by the name of strength.

~Peter Ustinov

Because they have been in love they have survived everything that life could throw at them, even their own failures.

~Peter Ustinov

Books, I don't know what you see in them. I can understand a person reading them, but I can't for the life of me see why people have to write them.

~Peter Ustinov

I'm Rally of Unionist Separist Extremes, sometimes known as the R.U.S.E. € It's the party at present in power.

~Peter Ustinov

It's wrong to flog a man. It's against his being a man.

~Peter Ustinov

I am an international citizen conceived in Russia, born in England,

working in Hollywood, living in Switzerland, and touring the World.

~Peter Ustinov

Sometimes I wish I could just fall in love. Then, at least you know who your opponent is.

~Peter Ustinov

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