

Robert Benchley

Quotes

*Men, Funny, People, Thinking, Children, Humor, Writing, Dog, Comedy,
Humorous, Two, Class, Party, New York, Witty, Inspirational, Suicide, Years,
Would Be, Way*

We call ourselves a free nation, and yet we let ourselves be told what cabs we can and can't take by a man at a hotel door, simply because he has a drum major's uniform on.

~Robert Benchley

Why don't you get out of that wet coat and into a dry martini?

~Robert Benchley

The free-lance writer is a man who is paid per piece or per word or perhaps.

~Robert Benchley

You might think that after thousands of years of coming up too soon and getting frozen, the crocus family would have had a little sense knocked into it.

~Robert Benchley

Anyone can do any amount of work, provided it isn't the work he is supposed be doing at that moment.

~Robert Benchley

In America there are two classes of travel - first class, and with children.

~Robert Benchley

Defining and analyzing humor is a pastime of humorless people.

~Robert Benchley

A boy can learn a lot from a dog: obedience, loyalty, and the importance of turning around three times before lying down.

~Robert Benchley

There is no such place as Budapest. Perhaps you are thinking of Bucharest, and there is no such place as Bucharest, either.

~Robert Benchley

Dachshunds are ideal dogs for small children, as they are already stretched and pulled to such a length that the child cannot do much harm one way or the other.

~Robert Benchley

A dog teaches a boy fidelity, perseverance, and to turn around three times before lying down.

~Robert Benchley

It took me fifteen years to discover I had no talent for writing, but I couldn't give it up because by that time I was too famous.

~Robert Benchley

Tell us your phobias and we will tell you what you are afraid of

~Robert Benchley

Who said time machines haven't been built yet? They already exist. They're called books

~Robert Benchley

An ardent supporter of the hometown team should go to a game prepared to take offense, no matter what happens.

~Robert Benchley

Drawing on my fine command of the English language, I said nothing.

~Robert Benchley

I have tried to know absolutely nothing about a great many things, and I have succeeded fairly well.

~Robert Benchley

The pencil sharpener is about as far as I have ever got in operating a

complicated piece of machinery with any success.

~Robert Benchley

England and America should scrap cricket and baseball and come up with a new game that they both can play. Like baseball, for example.

~Robert Benchley

There may be said to be two classes of people in the world; those who constantly divide the people of the world into two classes and those who do not.

~Robert Benchley

Most of the arguments to which I am party fall somewhat short of being impressive, owing to the fact that neither I nor my opponent knows what we are talking about.

~Robert Benchley

Except for an occasional heart attack I feel as young as I ever did.

~Robert Benchley

The Great Arizona Desert is full of the bleaching bones of people who waited for me to start something.

~Robert Benchley

Nothing makes a man feel older than to hear a band coming up the street and not to have the impulse to rush downstairs and out on to the sidewalk.

~Robert Benchley

Even nowadays a man can't step up and kill a woman without feeling just a bit unchivalrous.

~Robert Benchley

It was one of those plays in which all of the actors unfortunately

enunciated very clearly.

~Robert Benchley

There is probably no more obnoxious class of citizen, taken end for end, than the returning vacationist.

~Robert Benchley

Every boy should have two things: a dog and a mother who lets him have one

~Robert Benchley

Central Park is the grandiose symbol of the front yard each child in New York hasn't got.

~Robert Benchley

A real hangover is nothing to try out family remedies on. The only cure for a real hangover is death.

~Robert Benchley

A great many people have come up to me and asked how I manage to get so much work done and still keep looking so dissipated.

~Robert Benchley

The ideal age for a boy to own a dog is between forty-five and fifty.

~Robert Benchley

Drinking makes such fools of people, and people are such fools to begin with that it's compounding a felony.

~Robert Benchley

I know I'm drinking myself to a slow death, but then I'm in no hurry.

~Robert Benchley

The only cure for a real hangover is death.

~Robert Benchley

There seems to be no lengths to which humorless people will not go to analyze humor. It seems to worry them.

~Robert Benchley

In preparing the soil for planting, you will need several tools. Dynamite would be a beautiful thing to use, but it would have a tendency to get the dirt into the front-hall and track up the stairs.

~Robert Benchley

Anyone who tries to keep track of what is happening in China is going to end up by wearing all the skin of his left ear from twirling around on it.

~Robert Benchley

At fifteen one is first beginning to realize that everything isn't money and power in this world, and is casting about for joys that do not turn to dross in one's hands.

~Robert Benchley

The surest way to make a monkey of a man is to quote him.

~Robert Benchley

I am more the inspirational type of speller. I work on hunches rather than mere facts, and the result is sometimes open to criticism by purists.

~Robert Benchley

In a house where there are small children the bathroom soon takes on the appearance of the Old Curiosity Shop.

~Robert Benchley

The biggest obstacle to professional writing is the necessity for

changing a typewriter ribbon.

~Robert Benchley

Next to a shot of some good, habit-forming narcotic, there is nothing like travelling alone as a 'builder-upper.

~Robert Benchley

If you think that you have caught a cold, call in a good doctor. Call in three good doctors and play bridge.

~Robert Benchley

I have been told by hospital authorities that more copies of my works are left behind by departing patients than those of any other author.

~Robert Benchley

Great literature must spring from an upheaval in the author's soul. If that upheaval is not present then it must come from the works of any other author which happens to be handy and easily adapted.

~Robert Benchley

For a nation which has an almost evil reputation for bustle, bustle, bustle, and rush, rush, rush, we spend an enormous amount of time standing around in line in front of windows, just waiting.

~Robert Benchley

The most common of all antagonisms arises from a man's taking a seat beside you on the train, a seat to which he is completely entitled.

~Robert Benchley

There are several ways to apportion the family income, all of them unsatisfactory.

~Robert Benchley

One of the chief duties of the fan is to engage in arguments with the

man behind him. This department of the game has been allowed to run down fearfully.

~Robert Benchley

Streets flooded. Please advise.

~Robert Benchley

Anyone will be glad to admit that he knows nothing about beagling, or the Chinese stock market, or ballistics, but there is not a man or woman alive who does not claim to know how to cure hiccoughs.

~Robert Benchley

After an author has been dead for some time, it becomes increasingly difficult for his publishers to get out a new book by him each year.

~Robert Benchley

The art of cursing people seems to have lost its tang since the old days when a good malediction took four deep breaths to deliver and sent the outfielders scurrying toward the fence to field.

~Robert Benchley

A man may take care of a furnace for twenty-five years and still forget to duck his head when he starts going down the cellar stairs.

~Robert Benchley

If you look at eggs, you will see that each one is almost round but not quite ... Nature's way of distinguishing eggs from large golf balls.

~Robert Benchley

Birds which are the same color as the foliage in which they nest are less likely to be disturbed by other birds who want to drop in and chat, and therefore last longer.

~Robert Benchley

I do most of my work sitting down; that's where I shine.

~Robert Benchley

Anything can happen, but it usually doesn't.

~Robert Benchley

All laughter is a muscular rigidity spasmodically relieved by involuntary twitching.

~Robert Benchley

It is one of the most discouraging experiences I have ever had, not forgetting the time when I winked at the Queen Mother in London once.

~Robert Benchley

The surest way to make a monkey of a man is to quote him. That remark in itself wouldn't make any sense if quoted as it stands.

~Robert Benchley

I haven't been abroad in so long that I almost speak English without an accent now.

~Robert Benchley

I once heard a woman laugh at that most tragic moment in all drama, the off-stage shot in "The Wild Duck," and I afterward had her killed, so there will be no more of that out of her.

~Robert Benchley

There is no doubt that every healthy, normal boy...should own a dog at some time in his life, preferably between the ages of forty-five and fifty.

~Robert Benchley

It has always seemed to me that the most difficult part of building a bridge would be the start.

~Robert Benchley

I can't bring myself to say, 'Well, I guess I'll be toddling along.' It isn't that I can't toddle. It's just that I can't guess I'll toddle.

~Robert Benchley

One cubic foot less of space and it would have constituted adultery.

~Robert Benchley

Work is a form of nervousness.

~Robert Benchley

It is rather to be chosen than great riches, unless I have omitted something from the quotation.

~Robert Benchley

Streets full of water. Please Advise.

~Robert Benchley

If Shakespeare were alive today and writing comedy for the movies, he would be the head-liner for the Mack Sennett studios.

~Robert Benchley

There seems to be a common strain of miserliness in the American people when it comes to throwing away toothpaste tubes which have a little left in the bottom.

~Robert Benchley

There is a note in the front of the volume saying that no public reading may be given without first getting the author's permission. It ought to be made much more difficult to do than that.

~Robert Benchley

A freelance is one who gets paid by the word -- per piece or perhaps.

~Robert Benchley

She sleeps alone at last.

~Robert Benchley

You want to go easy on the suicide stuff - first thing you know, you'll ruin your health.

~Robert Benchley

You won't find one fish in a million that has enough sense to come in when it rains.

~Robert Benchley

There are two ways to travel, first class or with children.

~Robert Benchley

I don't trust a bank that would lend money to such a poor risk.

~Robert Benchley

Infants need the most sleep, and, what is more, get it. Stunning them with a soft, padded hammer is the best way to insure their getting it at the right times.

~Robert Benchley

If only those old walls could talk...how boring they would be.

~Robert Benchley

The wise man thinks once before he speaks twice.

~Robert Benchley

Charlemagne either died or was born or did something with the Holy Roman Empire in 800.

~Robert Benchley

New York - The city where the people from Oshkosh look at the people from Dubuque in the next theater seats and say "These New Yorkers

don't dress any better than we do.

~Robert Benchley

Traveling with children corresponds roughly to traveling third class in Bulgaria.

~Robert Benchley

Sheer madness is, of course, the highest possible brow in humor.

~Robert Benchley

This is a test. It is only a test. Had it been an actual job, you would have received raises, promotions, and other signs of appreciation.

~Robert Benchley

We are constantly being surprised that people did things well before we were born.

~Robert Benchley

In Milwaukee last month a man died laughing over one of his own jokes. That's what makes it so tough for us outsiders. We have to fight home competition.

~Robert Benchley

But compared with the task of selecting a piece of French pastry held by an impatient waiter a move in chess is like reaching for a salary check in its demand on the contemplative faculties.

~Robert Benchley

I never liked bananas much anyway. Two-thirds of the way down even one banana I am willing to concede defeat smilingly and give the rest to the nearest monkey.

~Robert Benchley

I once heard of a murderer who propped his two victims up against a

chess board in sporting attitudes and was able to get as far as Seattle before his crime was discovered.

~Robert Benchley

Next to an old-fashioned church social, or possibly a monster bridge party, there is no buzz which can equal the sibilant buzz of a matinée.

~Robert Benchley

Breaking the ice in the pitcher seems to be a feature of the early lives of all great men.

~Robert Benchley

One of the easiest forms of pretense to break down is the pretense of enthusiasm for exotic foods. Just bring on the exotic foods.

~Robert Benchley

If Mr. Einstein doesn't like the natural laws of the universe, let him go back to where he came from.

~Robert Benchley

If there is a streak of ham anywhere in an actor, Shakespeare will bring it out.

~Robert Benchley

There is probably no moment more appalling than that in which the tongue comes suddenly upon the ragged edge of a space from which the old familiar filling has disappeared.

~Robert Benchley

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