

Samuel Johnson Quotes

*Men, Writing, Mind, May, Thinking, Book, Happiness, Art, Life, Pain, Evil, Wise,
People, Littles, Eye, Giving, Desire, Country, Law, Long*

Cucumber should be well sliced, dressed with pepper and vinegar, and then thrown out.

~Samuel Johnson

The true measure of a man is how he treats someone who can do him absolutely no good.

~Samuel Johnson

Curiosity is one of the most permanent and certain characteristics of a vigorous intellect.

~Samuel Johnson

Kindness is in our power, even when fondness is not.

~Samuel Johnson

When a man knows he is to be hanged in a fortnight, it concentrates his mind wonderfully.

~Samuel Johnson

Classical quotation is the parole of literary men all over the world.

~Samuel Johnson

A man who uses a great many words to express his meaning is like a bad marksman who, instead of aiming a single stone at an object, takes up a handful and throws at it in hopes he may hit.

~Samuel Johnson

There are minds so impatient of inferiority that their gratitude is a species of revenge, and they return benefits, not because recompense is a pleasure, but because obligation is a pain.

~Samuel Johnson

When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life; for there is in London all that life can afford.

~Samuel Johnson

He who has so little knowledge of human nature as to seek happiness by changing anything but his own disposition will waste his life in fruitless efforts.

~Samuel Johnson

Exert your talents, and distinguish yourself, and don't think of retiring from the world, until the world will be sorry that you retire.

~Samuel Johnson

He is not only dull himself, but the cause of dulness in others.

~Samuel Johnson

When once the forms of civility are violated, there remains little hope of return to kindness or decency.

~Samuel Johnson

Every man is, or hopes to be, an idler.

~Samuel Johnson

I am always sorry when any language is lost, because languages are the pedigrees of nations.

~Samuel Johnson

I should as soon think of contradicting a bishop

~Samuel Johnson

Dictionaries are like watches, the worst is better than none and the best cannot be expected to go quite true.

~Samuel Johnson

Exercise is labor without weariness.

~Samuel Johnson

The true art of memory is the art of attention.

~Samuel Johnson

If the man who turnips cries, Cry not when his father dies, 'Tis proof that he had rather Have a turnip than his father.

~Samuel Johnson

The future is purchased by the present.

~Samuel Johnson

Oratory is the power of beating down your adversary's arguments and putting better in their place.

~Samuel Johnson

We may have uneasy feelings for seeing a creature in distress without pity; for we have not pity unless we wish to relieve them.

~Samuel Johnson

When emulation leads us to strive for self-elevation by merit alone, and not by belittling another, then it is one of the grandest possible incentives to action.

~Samuel Johnson

The excellence of aphorisms consists not so much in the expression of some rare or abstruse sentiment, as in the comprehension of some useful truth in a few words.

~Samuel Johnson

He that embarks on the voyage of life will always wish to advance rather by the impulse of the wind than the strokes of the oar; and many fold in their passage; while they lie waiting for the gale.

~Samuel Johnson

The resolution of the combat is seldom equal to the vehemence of the

charge.

~Samuel Johnson

I have no more pleasure in hearing a man attempting wit and failing, than in seeing a man trying to leap over a ditch and tumbling into it

~Samuel Johnson

Where there is emulation, there will be vanity; where there is vanity, there will be folly.

~Samuel Johnson

Why, sir, Sherry is dull, naturally dull; but it must have taken him a great deal of pains to become what we now see him. Such an excess of stupidity, Sir, is not in Nature.

~Samuel Johnson

Unintelligible language is a lantern without a light.

~Samuel Johnson

Curiosity is, in great and generous minds, the first passion and the last.

~Samuel Johnson

It is better to suffer wrong than to do it.

~Samuel Johnson

If in an actor there appears an utter vacancy of meaning, a frigid equality, a stupid languor, a torpid apathy, the greatest kindness that can be shown him is a speedy sentence of expulsion.

~Samuel Johnson

A mere literary man is a dull man; a man who is solely a man of business is a selfish man; but when literature and commerce are united, they make a respectable man.

~Samuel Johnson

No money is better spent than what is laid out for domestic satisfaction. A man is pleased that his wife is dressed as well as other people, and the wife is pleased that she is dressed.

~Samuel Johnson

The habit of looking on the bright side of every event is worth more than a thousand pounds a year.

~Samuel Johnson

A man who exposes himself when he is intoxicated, has not the art of getting drunk.

~Samuel Johnson

I hate mankind, for I think myself one of the best of them, and I know how bad I am.

~Samuel Johnson

Whoever commits a fraud is guilty not only of the particular injury to him who he deceives, but of the diminution of that confidence which constitutes not only the ease but the existence of society.

~Samuel Johnson

Fraud and falsehood only dread examination. Truth invites it.

~Samuel Johnson

No man can taste the fruits of autumn while he is delighting his scent with the flowers of spring.

~Samuel Johnson

Our aspirations are our possibilities.

~Samuel Johnson

Life has no pleasure higher or nobler than that of friendship.

~Samuel Johnson

A wise man will make haste to forgive, because he knows the true value of time, and will not suffer it to pass away in unnecessary pain.

~Samuel Johnson

It matters not how a man dies, but how he lives. The act of dying is not of importance, it lasts so short a time.

~Samuel Johnson

Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, and knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful.

~Samuel Johnson

No money is better spent than what is laid out for domestic satisfaction.

~Samuel Johnson

Revenge is an act of passion; vengeance of justice. Injuries are revenged; crimes are avenged.

~Samuel Johnson

Whoever thinks of going to bed before twelve o'clock is a scoundrel.

~Samuel Johnson

My dear friend, clear your mind of can't.

~Samuel Johnson

Patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel.

~Samuel Johnson

To keep your secret is wisdom; but to expect others to keep it is folly.

~Samuel Johnson

Every other author may aspire to praise; the lexicographer can only hope to escape reproach.

~Samuel Johnson

A man used to vicissitudes is not easily dejected.

~Samuel Johnson

Life affords no higher pleasure than that of surmounting difficulties.

~Samuel Johnson

Books like friends, should be few and well-chosen.

~Samuel Johnson

Knock the 't' off the 'can't.'

~Samuel Johnson

If a man does not make new acquaintances as he advances through life, he will soon find himself left alone. A man, sir, should keep his friendship in a constant repair.

~Samuel Johnson

Lexicographer: a writer of dictionaries, a harmless drudge, that busies himself in tracing the original, and detailing the signification of words.

~Samuel Johnson

Distance has the same effect on the mind as on the eye.

~Samuel Johnson

He that will enjoy the brightness of sunshine, must quit the coolness of the shade.

~Samuel Johnson

No government power can be abused long. Mankind will not bear it.... There is a remedy in human nature against tyranny, that will keep us safe under every form of government.

~Samuel Johnson

It is the just doom of laziness and gluttony to be inactive without ease and drowsy without tranquility.

~Samuel Johnson

Nature has given women so much power that the law has very wisely given them little.

~Samuel Johnson

Prejudice, not being founded on reason, cannot be removed by argument.

~Samuel Johnson

Knowledge is of two kinds. We know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information upon it.

~Samuel Johnson

A lexicographer, a writer of dictionaries, a harmless drudge.

~Samuel Johnson

Every old man complains of the growing depravity of the world, of the petulance and insolence of the rising generation.

~Samuel Johnson

Languages are the pedigree of nations.

~Samuel Johnson

The use of traveling is to regulate imagination by reality.

~Samuel Johnson

It is better to suffer wrong than to do it, and happier to be sometimes cheated than not to trust.

~Samuel Johnson

If you are idle, be not solitary; if you are solitary be not idle.

~Samuel Johnson

Slander is the revenge of a coward, and dissimulation of his defense.

~Samuel Johnson

Nothing will ever be attempted if all possible objections must first be overcome.

~Samuel Johnson

Studious to please, yet not ashamed to fail.

~Samuel Johnson

One of the disadvantages of wine is that it makes a man mistake words for thoughts.

~Samuel Johnson

The world is like a grand staircase, some are going up and some are going down.

~Samuel Johnson

Dishonor waits on perfidy. A man should blush to think a falsehood; it is the crime of cowards.

~Samuel Johnson

There can be no friendship without confidence, and no confidence without integrity.

~Samuel Johnson

I deny the lawfulness of telling a lie to a sick man for fear of alarming him; you have no business with consequences, you are to tell the truth.

~Samuel Johnson

Courage is the greatest of all virtues, because if you haven't courage, you may not have an opportunity to use any of the others.

~Samuel Johnson

From thee, great God, we spring, to thee we tend,- Path, motive, guide, original, and end.

~Samuel Johnson

What we hope ever to do with ease, we must learn first to do with diligence.

~Samuel Johnson

Love is the wisdom of the fool and the folly of the wise.

~Samuel Johnson

Men know that women are an overmatch for them, and therefore they choose the weakest or the most ignorant. If they did not think so, they never could be afraid of women knowing as much as themselves.

~Samuel Johnson

Combinations of wickedness would overwhelm the world, by the advantage which licentious principles afford, did not those who have long practised perfidy grow faithless to each other.

~Samuel Johnson

Your aspirations are your possibilities.

~Samuel Johnson

When any calamity is suffered, the first thing to be remembered is, how much has been escaped.

~Samuel Johnson

A man who both spends and saves money is the happiest man, because he has both enjoyments.

~Samuel Johnson

He who waits to do a great deal of good at once will never do anything.

~Samuel Johnson

To preserve health is a moral and religious duty: for health is the basis of all social virtues; and we can be useful no longer than while we are well.

~Samuel Johnson

Never trust your tongue when your heart is bitter.

~Samuel Johnson

To prevent evil is the great end of government, the end for which vigilance and severity are properly employed.

~Samuel Johnson

In misery's darkest cavern known, His useful care was ever nigh
Where hopeless anguish pour'd his groan, And lonely want retir'd to die.

~Samuel Johnson

Each person's work is always a portrait of himself.

~Samuel Johnson

When speculation has done its worst, two and two still make four.

~Samuel Johnson

Language is the dress of thought.

~Samuel Johnson

The feeling of friendship is like that of being comfortably filled with roast beef; love, like being enlivened with champagne.

~Samuel Johnson

Gratitude is a fruit of great cultivation; you do not find it among gross people.

~Samuel Johnson

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