

In Their Own Words: How Words Change Your World

Every word was once a poem.

Emerson

Speech is power: to persuade, to convert, to compel.

Emerson

Vocabulary-building is the greatest educational success story of our times.

Rudolf Flesch

People who talk well usually go places.

Bruce Barton

Words are the means to nearly all we are or hope to be on this planet.

Ward S. Miller

It is not of so much consequence what you say, as how you say it. Memorable sentences are memorable on account of some single irradiating word.

Alexander Smith

How very commonly we hear it remarked that such and such thoughts are beyond the compass of words. I do not believe that any thought, properly so called, is out of the reach of language. For my own part, I have never had a thought which I could not set down in words, with ever more distinctness than that with which I conceived it.

Edgar Allan Poe, Marginalia

The very future of mankind may depend upon the rectification of word-habits.

S.I. Hayakawa

The gift of using words best comes from knowing words as intimately as you know your own family.

Lloyd Edwin Smith

Almost invariably men and women in high positions have better vocabularies than those immediately under them.

Daniel P. Eginton

Words, when well chosen, have so great a force in them that a description often gives us more lively ideas than the sight of the things themselves.

Joseph Addison

The choice of the right words wonderfully attracts and charms readers.

Longinus

Words animate the ideas in our brain, the ideas which they clothe.

Balzac

Style is the use of the right word in the right place.

John A. Symonds

Men are more influenced by words than by the facts of surrounding reality.

Ivan P. Pavlov

Complex human thought is impossible without words.

Stuart Chase

The art of those who govern...consists above all in the science of employing words.

Gustave Le Bon

Without knowing the force of words, it is impossible to know men.

Confucius

Speak clearly, if you speak at all; carve every word before you let it fall.

Oliver Wendell Holmes

The finest words in the world are only vain sounds, if you cannot comprehend them.

Anatole France

Language is a city to the building of which every human being brought a stone.

Emerson

Spoken language is merely a series of squeaks.

Alfred North Whitehead

Language is the harmony of the human mind, and at once contains the trophies of its past and the weapons of its future conquests.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge

It is with words as with sunbeams—the more they are condensed, the deeper they burn.

Robert Southey

The limits of my language mean the limits of my world.

Ludwig Wittgenstein