

# Oxford Dictionary of Humorous Quotations

## Third Edition

Celebrate ten years of Ned Sherrin at the helm of humour, in his glorious personal selection of quotations in the latest edition of the bestselling *Oxford Dictionary of Humorous Quotations*, published by Oxford University Press on 8 September 2005.

From witty one liners (Ian Chappell on cricket: 'The last positive thing England did for cricket was to invent it') to the punchlines of sparkling anecdotes ('I never seem to meet a good estate agent' said John Gielgud to Margaret Thatcher when congratulating her on 10 Downing Street), from classic writers of yesterday (Philip Larkin on middle age: '20 to 40 is the fillet steak of life. After that it's all short cuts') to the humorists of today (Jo Brand on her appearance 'I know I looked awful because my mother called and said I looked lovely' and Graham Norton on shopping: 'If it's shiny, I buy it').

Amongst those setting the armchair on a roar is up-to-date Alan Bennett on history: 'History is a commentary on the various and continuing incapacities of men. What is history? History is women following behind with buckets.' Alistair Campbell's unconsciously hilarious 'We don't do God' is paired with Monty Python's more artful: 'He's not the Messiah, he's a very naughty boy.'

Acting, which Patrick Troughton defined as 'shouting in the evening' is close to Ned Sherrin's heart; but Katherine Hepburn dismissed it as 'the most minor of gifts and not a very high-class way to earn a living. Shirley Temple could do it at the age of four'; Roger Moore once said 'I used to work for a living, then I became an actor'.

With nearly 30 new themes from *Gambling* to *Hollywood*, from *Diets* to *Shopping* rubbing shoulders and well over 600 new quotations added, the *Oxford Dictionary of Humorous Quotations*, with its wisecracks and wit, is sure to entertain.

### Acting

There's nothing worse than actors who give the impression that they've taken on the priesthood. Acting is really about lying and, in my case, drinking coffee. *Johnny Depp*

### Cricket

The last positive thing England did for cricket was to invent it. *Ian Chappell*

**Diets**

Free your mind, and your bottom will follow. *Sarah, Duchess of York*

**Dress**

People always look askance at someone on the left who doesn't go round in sackcloth and ashes...why should the devil have all the best suits. *George Galloway*

**Epitaphs**

Here lies Spike Milligan. I told you I was ill. *Spike Milligan*

**Food**

This has nothing to do with frogs' legs. No amphibian is harmed in making this dish. *Nigella Lawson*

**Parents**

Money—the one thing that keeps us in touch with our children. *Gyles Brandreth*

**Self knowledge**

They underestimated me. *George W. Bush*

**Speeches**

Whales only get caught when they spout. *Denis Thatcher*

**Success**

Rise early. Work late. Strike oil. *John Paul Getty*

**Travel**

I wouldn't mind seeing China if I could come back the same day. *Philip Larkin*

**Wine**

Good God! I've never drunk a vintage that starts with the number two before. *Nicholas Soames*

Ned Sherrin is presenter of BBC Radio 4's *Loose Ends*. Producer and director of the ground-breaking 1960's satire TV show *That Was the Week that Was*, and producer of a number of films, he has also written extensively for stage and screen.

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