

# Quotes: **DIALOGUE & LISTENING**

“Easy listening exists only on the radio.”

—*David Barkan*

“Never hold anyone by the button or the hand in order to be heard out; for if people are unwilling to hear you, you had better hold your tongue than them.”

—*Lord Chesterfield*

“No one ever listened themselves out of a job.”

—*Calvin Coolidge*

“As you go through life, you are going to have many opportunities to keep your mouth shut. Take advantage of all of them.”

—*James Dent*

“Listening is not a skill; it is a discipline.”

—*Peter Drucker*

“One of the most valuable things we can do to heal one another is listen to each other’s stories.”

—*Rebecca Falls*

“Listening is an attitude of the heart, a genuine desire to be with another which both attracts and heals.”

—*J. Isham*

“If you’re not listening, you’re not learning.”

—*Lyndon Baines Johnson*

“The jungle speaks to me because I know how to listen.”

—*Mowgli, in Rudyard Kipling’s The Jungle Book*

“An enemy is one whose story we have not heard.”

—*Mrs. Gene Knudsen-Hoffman*

“If you are listening to find out, then your mind is free, not committed to anything; it is very acute, sharp, alive, inquiring, curious, and therefore capable of discovery.”

—*Krishnamurti*

“One friend, one person who is truly understanding, who takes the trouble to listen to us as we consider our problems, can change our whole outlook on the world.”

—*Elton Mayo*

“The greatest gift you can give another is the purity of your attention.”

—*Richard Moss*

“Give every man thine ear, but few thy voice.”

—*William Shakespeare, Hamlet*

“A better idea than my own is to listen.”

—*Mark Twain*

“When we are listened to, it creates us, makes us unfold and expand. Ideas actually begin to grow within us and come to life.”

—*Brenda Ueland, Strength to Your Sword Arm*

“One of the best ways to persuade others is with your ears.”

—*Dean Rusk*

“When we begin listening to each other, and when we talk about things that matter to us, the world begins to change. Everyone has the capacity to be able to figure out how to make a difference. Listening and talking to one another heals our divisions and makes us brave again.”

—*Margaret Wheatley*

“To listen well is as powerful a means of communication and influence as to talk well.”

—*John Marshall*

“The reason why so few people are agreeable in conversations is that each is thinking more about what he intends to say than about what others are saying, and we never listen when we are eager to speak.”

—*Francois La Rochefoucauld*

“Knowledge speaks, but wisdom listens.”

—*Jimi Hendrix*

“There cannot be greater rudeness than to interrupt another in the current of his discourse.”

—*John Locke*

“It is the province of knowledge to speak, and it is the privilege of wisdom to listen.”  
—*Oliver Wendell Holmes*

“The most basic and powerful way to connect to another person is to listen. Just listen. Perhaps the most important thing we ever give each other is our attention.”  
—*Rachel Naomi Remen*

“Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening when you’d have preferred to talk.”  
—*Doug Larson*

“One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say.”  
—*Bryant H. McGill*

“Listening is a magnetic and strange thing, a creative force. The friends who listen to us are the ones we move toward. When we are listened to, it creates us, makes us unfold and expand.”  
—*Karl A. Menniger*

“Listening is being able to be changed by the other person.”  
—*Alan Alda*

“When people talk, listen completely. Most people never listen.”  
—*Ernest Hemingway*

“Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply.”  
—*Stephen R. Covey*

“The art of conversation lies in listening.”

—*Malcolm Forbes*

“You cannot truly listen to anyone and do anything else at the same time.”

—*M. Scott Peck*

“We have two ears and one tongue so that we would listen more and talk less.”

—*Diogenes*

“Give me the gift of a listening heart.”

—*King Solomon*

“The whole purpose of democracy is that we may hold counsel with one another, so as not to depend upon the understanding of one man.”

—*Woodrow Wilson*

“Confrontation can be counter-productive. Change happens by listening and then starting a dialogue with the people who are doing something you don’t believe is right.”

—*Jane Goodall, world-renowned scientist and humanitarian*