

The Top 10 Graduation Quotes for Graduates

Graduation is often a time of celebration. Graduates of all ages are recognized for their academic accomplishments at the end of each academic era in their lives. Graduation quotes can provide insight to new graduates as they make their way on to the next chapter in their lives. A graduation quote can be written in a card to personalize a graduation message or used in a speech. Many graduation quotes celebrate accomplishment, new beginnings, and success. The top ten graduation quotes are a sampling of graduation quotes that stand out among the best.

1. "*Education is not filling a pail, but lighting a fire.*" (William Butler Yeats)

2. "*Knowledge is power.*" (Francis Bacon)

This is an excellent quote for reminding new graduates how valuable their education and accomplishments are. It can easily be used as an introduction or ending to any speech.

3. "*The most rewarding things in life are often the ones that look like they cannot be done.*" (Arnold Palmer)

This positive graduation quotes reminds graduates to have faith in their future.

4. "*The best of all things is to learn. Money can be lost or stolen, health and strength may fail, but what you have committed to your mind is yours forever.*" (Louis L'Amour)

This graduation quote is ideal for either a written quote in a card or as a topic for a speech.

5. "*The important thing is this: to be able to give up in any given moment all that we are for what we can become.*" (DeSeaux)

This is one of the best graduation quotes for those graduating from high school or college.

6. "*What lies behind us, and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us.*" (Ralph Waldo Emerson)

A perfect graduation quote for graduates of all ages. This quote reminds graduates that the ability to achieve is within the person.

7. "*Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.*" (Mahatma Gandhi)

Mahatma Gandhi's message in this quote has a universal appeal, and is especially valuable as a graduation quote for those who are about to move forward to new experiences.

8. "*Carpe Diem!*" (Seize the day, translated from Latin)

One of the all time favorite graduation quotes, this powerful quote never gets outdated.

9. "*To accomplish great things, we must not only act but also dream, not only dream, but also believe.*" (Anatole France)

Graduates should relate well to this quote by Anatole France. The quote combines the necessity of both faith and hard work as a road to success.

10. "*Do not go where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.*" (Ralph Waldo Emerson)

Ralph Waldo Emerson's popular quote is a good choice as a graduation quote because it reminds graduates of their uniqueness, as well as their ability to create their own path in the world.

Below are 50 graduation quotes and inspirational sayings for the high school or college graduate. Some quotations may also be appropriate for younger middle school graduates as well. Use any of these great, inspiring, and sometimes funny graduation quotations for greeting cards, speeches or graduation gifts.

“There are no shortcuts to any place worth going.” ~Beverly Sills

“Success is not the result of spontaneous combustion. You must set yourself on fire.”
~Reggie Leach

“A fellow who does things that count, doesn’t usually stop to count them.” ~Unknown

“If you think education is expensive, try ignorance!” ~Andy McIntyre

“One person working toward a dream is worth 99 people just working.” ~ Lani Kraus

“Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind.” ~Dr. Seuss

“You’re not a failure if you don’t make it. You’re a success because you tried.” ~Susan Jeffers

“Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm.”
~Winston Churchill

“Whenever I hear, ‘It can’t be done,’ I know I’m close to success.” ~Michael Flatley

My father always told me, “Find a job you love and you'll never have to work a day in your life.” ~Jim Fox

“Excellence is not a skill. It is an attitude.” ~Ralph Marston

“If you aren't fired with enthusiasm, you will be fired with enthusiasm.” ~Vince Lombardi

“Learning is not attained by chance. It must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence.” ~Abigail Adams

“Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value.” ~Albert Einstein

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.” ~Robert Louis Stevenson

“Education is what survives when what has been learned has been forgotten.” ~B.F. Skinner

“Keep true to the dreams of your youth.” ~Friedrich Von Schiller

“A man who has never gone to school may steal from a freight car; but if he has a university education, he may steal the whole railroad.” ~Theodore Roosevelt

“You cannot get to the top by sitting on your bottom.” ~Proverb

“Don't be afraid to take a big step if one is indicated; you can't cross a chasm in two small jumps.” ~David Lloyd George

“Education make a people easy to lead, but difficult to drive, easy to govern, but impossible to enslave.” ~Lord Brougham

“Stop worrying about the potholes in the road and celebrate the journey.” ~ Fitzhugh Mullan

“The rewards of the journey far outweigh the risk of leaving the harbor.” ~ Unknown

“Always do more than is required of you.” ~ George S. Patton

“If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door.” ~Milton Berle

“Act as if you are, and you will become such.” ~ Leo Tolstoy

“As long as you're going to be thinking anyway, think big.” ~ Donald Trump

“Every man is the architect of his own future.” ~Appius Claudius

“Dreams come a size too big so we can grow into them.” ~Josie Bissett

“It is what you learn after you know it all that counts.” ~John Wooden

“As knowledge increases, wonder deepens.” ~Charles Morgan

“The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.” ~Sidney J. Harris

“Try to learn something about everything and everything about something.” ~T. H. Huxley

“Education is an admirable thing, but it is well to remember from time to time that nothing worth knowing can be taught.” ~Oscar Wilde

“I am learning all the time. The tombstone will be my diploma.” ~ Eartha Kitt

“Education is not filling a bucket but lighting a fire.” ~ William Butler Yeats

“The wisest mind has something yet to learn.” ~ George Santayana

“Dreams are renewable. No matter what our age or condition, there are still untapped possibilities within us.” ~ Dr. Dale Turner

“Like dreams, small creeks grow into mighty rivers.” ~ Unknown

“To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream, not only plan, but also believe.” ~ Anatole France

“What is worse than having no sight is being able to see but having no vision.” ~ Helen Keller

“It is easier to go down a mountain than up, but the view is always best from the top.” ~ Unknown

“The golden opportunity you are seeking is within yourself.” ~ Mary Engelbreit

“The only way to discover the limits of the possible is to go beyond them to the impossible.” ~ Arthur C. Clarke

“Each of us has a fire in our hearts for something. It's our goal in life to find it and keep it.” ~ Mary Lou Retton

“There are no rules of architecture for a castle in the clouds.” ~ G. K. Chesterton

“Set out each day believing in your dreams. Know without a doubt that you were made for great things.” ~ Josh Hinds

“A professor is someone who talks in someone else's sleep.” ~W. H. Auden

“Recipe for success: Study while others are sleeping, work while others are loafing, prepare while others are playing, and dream while others are wishing.” ~William A. Ward

“Every person you meet knows something you don't; learn from them.” ~H. Jackson Brown

Other Great Quotes and Sayings for Parents, Teachers and Bosses

Graduates need to know that parents can have intense feelings of loss as well as elation as graduation day approaches. Students may want to surprise their parents by giving a greeting card thanking them for all their hard work as parents. In it, why not use some great quotations about parenthood.

Parents aren't the only ones that deserve a student's thanks. For quotes and sayings appropriate for teacher thank-you notes, check out [Teacher Quotes and Sayings](#). A graduate who is leaving work to pursue bigger and better things can thank a former boss by sending a thank you card using quotations that are great for bosses.