

Golden Rules

Measuring Life by a Different Standard

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Recently, David Letterman created a firestorm of controversy by insulting Sarah Palin with a crude remark regarding her daughter. Damage control ensued, and CBS and Letterman later issued an apology. The incident made us reflect upon times long ago, when the English language was cleverly used in a tasteful manner, (without four letter words or sexual barbs), even if the intent was to retort in a critical nature. The following quips reflect how someone with a razor sharp mind can be more clever than those who sink to a modern day, gutter-like style:

- **A Parliament member, speaking to Disraeli:** *'Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease.'* **To which, Disraeli retorted:** *'That depends, Sir, whether I embrace your policies or your mistress.'*
- I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure – Clarence Darrow.
- He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary – William Faulkner, commenting on Earnest Hemingway.
- **Lady Astor to Churchill:** *'If you were my husband, I'd be tempted to give you poisoned tea.'* **To which Churchill responded:** *'If you were my wife, I'd drink it.'*
- In order to avoid being called a flirt, she always yielded easily – Charles, Count Talleyrand.
- His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork. – Mae West.
- I feel so miserable without you, it's almost like having you here – comedian Kip Adota.
- I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it – Mark Twain.
- I've had a perfectly wonderful evening, but this one wasn't it. – Groucho Marx.
- Thanks you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it. – Moses Hadas.
- Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go. – Oscar Wilde.
- Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it? – Mark Twain.

