The 237 Best Things Ever Said about RETIREMENT
The 237 Best Things Ever Said about

RETIREMENT

Chosen and Arranged by
Ernie J. Zelinski
Author of the International Bestseller
How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free
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Introduction

“It is a good thing for an educated man,” declared Winston Churchill, “to read books of quotations.” Anatole France advised, “When a thing has been said and said well, have no scruple. Take it and copy it.” Not to be outdone, George Bernard Shaw once remarked, “I often quote myself. It adds spice to my conversations.”

No doubt few things spice up an article, a book, a conversation, or a retirement speech more than a quotation. Given that retirement is one of the most written and talked about subjects by today’s baby boomers, there should be a book of great quotations about the topic — this is the book!

Organized into over 40 categories for easy reference, this is the ultimate guide about retirement for the professional speaker, journalist, author, career advisor and retirement life coach. It also makes great reading for any connoisseur of great quotations and just about everyone who is contemplating retirement.

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Achieving Financial Abundance for Your Retirement

Waiting until your retirement party is too late to start planning your retirement portfolio.
— Richard Wastcoat in *The Daily Telegraph*

Retirement: It’s nice to get out of the rat race, but you have to learn to get along with less cheese.
— Gene Perret

It is better to have a permanent income than to be fascinating.
— Oscar Wilde
When you retire, your house is your home. Don’t look at it as an investment. You can convert it if you need to, but if you’re retiring because of the equity in your house, you better get back to work.

— Robert Doyle (CPA with Spoor, Doyle & Associates in St. Petersburg, FL)

If you don’t want to work [in retirement] you have to work to earn enough money so that you won’t have to work.

— Ogden Nash

Whether you wind up with a nest egg or a goose egg depends on the kind of chick you married.

— from The Wall Street Journal

The thing to do is to make so much money that you don’t have to work after the age of twenty-seven. In case this is impractical, stop working at the earliest moment, even if it is a quarter past eleven in the morning of the day when you find you have enough money.

— Robert Benchley
Advice on How to Retire Happy

Stay busy [when you retire]. If you are going to sit on the couch and watch TV, you are going to die.

— Bill Chavanne

Preparation for old age should begin not later than one’s teens. A life which is empty of purpose until 65 will not suddenly become filled on retirement.

— Arthur E. Morgan

Don’t act your age [in retirement]. Act like the inner young person you have always been.

— J. A. West

Don’t simply retire from something; have something to retire to.

— Harry Emerson Fosdick

Enjoy every retirement day as if it was your last and one day you will be right about it.

— Unknown wise person
Retired Happy, Wild, and Free!

The Worlds Best Retirement Book

Shows You How

- A Classic by Ernie J. Zelinski
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Advice on Whether to Take Early Retirement

Before deciding to take early retirement from your job, stay home a week and watch daytime television.

— Unknown wise person

We have no porch, no rocking chair — and no time. My biggest need is a calendar because there are so many things to do. Now I encourage people to retire — the younger the better.

— Maurice Musholt

The only way of discovering the limits of the possible is to venture a little ways past them into the impossible.

— Arthur C. Clarke

When is the right age to retire? When you dread going to work.

— Mary Bright
HERE IS GREAT NEWS FOR YOU!

A much happier you and a more satisfying life are just around the corner.

This is your chance to live a life of retirement that many people miss out on.

Not 10 years from now!

NOW!

It is a mistake to retire too late in life because you don’t get another chance to do it right!

CLICK HERE NOW to Purchase How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free on Amazon.com
Definition of Retirement

Retirement: Twice the husband, half the money!
— Unknown wise person

Retirement: When you stop lying about your age and start lying around the house.
— Unknown wise person

Retirement . . . is when you stop living at work and begin working at living.
— Unknown wise person

Retirement: The time in your life when time is no longer money.
— Unknown wise person

Ahhh Retirement: Fishing Yesterday, Fishing Today, Fishing Tomorrow!
— Unknown wise person
Difficulties of Retirement

Retirement takes all the meaning out of weekends.
— Unknown wise person

The trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off.
— Abe Lemons

Retirement is waking up in the morning with nothing to do and by bedtime having done only half of it.
— Unknown wise person

Retirement is the time when you never do all the things you intended to do when you were still working.
— Unknown wise person

A lot of our friends complain about their retirement. We tell ‘em to get a life.
— Larry Laser
Warning!  Warning!  Warning!

What you don't know about what makes people happy in retirement can greatly hurt you!

Retirement is a double-edged sword. You either make it work for you — or it will cut your happiness in half. The more you know about the secrets to a successful retirement, the happier you will be once you retire.

That's why you need *The World's Best Retirement Book* by Ernie Zelinski.

*How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free: Retirement Wisdom That You Won’t Get from Your Financial Advisor* is a provocative, entertaining, down-to-earth, and tremendously inspiring book that will help you get more joy and satisfaction out of all your retirement activities.

Purchase *How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free* at fine bookstores throughout the universe or through this direct link: [www.Amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)
Early Retirement Quotes

There are some who start their retirement long before they stop working.
— Robert Half

There’s one thing I always wanted to do before I quit . . . . retire!
— Groucho Marx

I only work every couple of years. I go into retirement between films.
— Paul Hogan

CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT WHY RETIRING TOO LATE IS MUCH MORE SERIOUS THAN RETIRING TOO EARLY

Hang in there, retirement is only thirty years away!
— Workplace Graffiti
Can You Answer These Questions?

- Once you retire, what are you going to do about your identity that is so tied to work?
- What will you do with your time if you have never learned how to enjoy your leisure?
- What should you say to your spouse — and perhaps your parents — if you are retiring before them?
- How will you relate to your friends who are still working while you are living the life of an aristocrat?

*How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free* provides you with inspirational answers not to be found in other books. Indeed, it offers *Retirement Wisdom That You Won’t Get from Your Financial Advisor*.

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www.Amazon.com

www.BarnesandNoble.com
Dear Ernie.

I enjoyed your book *How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free*.

It sure is “Retirement Wisdom That You Won't Get from Your Financial Advisor.”

I am going to give it to my financial advisor to read next.

I can't wait for another book by you.

Have a great fall and winter.

Thanks,

Mavis Marko

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
No longer having to punch a time clock is my definition of retirement. That way I could do what I want — when I want — anytime I want.

— Brooky Brown

You will have attained true freedom in this world when you can get up in the morning when you want to get up; go to sleep when you want to go to sleep; and in the interval, work and play at the things you want to work and play at — all at your own pace. The great news is that retirement allows you the opportunity to attain this freedom.

— from How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free
I am a free man. I feel as light as a feather.
— Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, (On his retirement)

Retirement means doing whatever I want to do. It means choice.
— Dianne Nahirny

The only liberty an inferior man really cherishes is the liberty to quit work, stretch out in the sun, and scratch himself.
— H. L. Mencken

What good is freedom [and retirement] if you’ve not got the money for it?
— Lillian Hellman

One of the best things about being retired is the freedom to travel when I want. When my son and daughter-in-law asked me to stay at their house for a week to house-sit while they were away on vacation, I had the freedom to do it.
— Helen Rich
Are You Ready to Claim Your Freedom from Corporate Life?

CLICK HERE NOW to Purchase *How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free* on Amazon.com

I Promise You . . . This!

*How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free* reveals the secrets to a happy retirement like no other retirement book does. This is the reason it is the bestselling non-financial retirement book on Amazon.com.

So often, the secrets to happiness are all around us, but it isn't until much later that we realize their significance.

*How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free* reveals the 'invisible' secrets to you and opens doorways to your retirement future that will otherwise stay locked up until it is too late.
Having a Retirement Plan

We’ve put more effort into helping folks reach retirement age than into helping them enjoy it.
— Unknown wise person

I don’t even think about a retirement program because I’m working for the Lord, for the Almighty. And even thought the Lord’s pay isn’t very high, his retirement program is, you might say, out of this world.
— George Foreman

Welfare is not a retirement plan.
— from How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free

As in all successful ventures, the foundation of a good retirement is planning.
— Earl Nightingale

Heaven, that’s my retirement plan.
— Unknown wise person
Retired Happy, Wild, and Free!

The World’s Best Retirement Book

Shows You How

• It’s about wining and dining, spending a lot more time with friends, and — truly L I V I N G!

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[www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com)
Health Tips for the Retired and Semi-Retired

Eat few suppers, and you'll need few medicines.
— Ben Franklin

You want to go easy on the suicide stuff — first thing you know, you'll ruin your health.
— Robert Benchley

Of all the anti-social vested interests the worst is the vested interest in ill-health.
— George Bernard Shaw

Eat only when you are hungry. Drink only when you’re thirsty. Sleep only when you’re tired. Screw only when you’re horny.
— Al Neuharth

One should only see a psychiatrist out of boredom.
— Muriel Spark
How Rich You Should Be When You Die

Any man who has $10,000 left when he dies is a failure.
— Errol Flynn

If you want to really know what your friends and family think of you — die broke, and then see who shows up for the funeral.
— Gregory Nunn

It’s better to live rich than to die rich.
— Henry David Thoreau

It’s a wise man who lives with money in the bank; it’s a fool who dies that way.
— French proverb

To die rich is to have lived in vain.
— Jiddu Krishnamurti
The 237 Best Things Ever Said about Retirement

He who gives while he lives also knows where it goes.
— Percy Ross

Ah, well, then I suppose I shall have to die beyond my means.
— Oscar Wilde

How to Have a Good Day — Everyday — When You Retire

Swallow a toad in the morning if you want to encounter nothing more disgusting the rest of the day.
— Nicholas Chamfort
The 237 Best Things Ever Said about Retirement

The one serious conviction that a man should have is that nothing is to be taken seriously.
— Nicholas Murray Butler

Be pleasant until ten o’clock in the morning and the rest of the day will take care of itself.
— Elbert Hubbard

When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life so that when you die, the world cries and you rejoice.
— Indian proverb

How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free

There is no pleasure worth forgoing just for an extra three years in the geriatric ward.
— John Mortimer

You only live once — but if you work it right, once is enough.
— Joe E. Lewis
For Those Who Absolutely, Positively Want to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free

“To be sure, retirement books are a glutted field, but most focus on money and financial planning. They view the finish line as the last day of employment. That’s where How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free begins.”

— Jonathan Chevreau, Retirement Columnist, National Post

“How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free is optimistic, practical, humorous, and provocative AND comprehensively addresses the many issues impacting individuals as they think about their retirement.”

— Nancy Conroy, Association of Retirement Planners

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• Published in 9 Languages

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www.BarnesandNoble.com
In retirement, I look for days off from my days off.
— Mason Cooley

Happiness is being retired and spending all of my kids’ inheritance before I die!
— Unknown wise person

One ought, every day at least, to hear a little song, read a good poem, see a fine picture, and, if it were possible, to speak a few reasonable words.
— von Goethe

Sex is Number 1 of my Top 10 joys in retirement. Number 2 is reading *How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free*. I forgot the other 8.
— from *Graffiti for the Enlightened Soul*

Don’t wait for retirement to be happy and really start living. People who try this find out that they have waited much too long.
— from *How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free*
Importance of Best Friends in Retirement

It is great to have friends when one is young, but indeed it is still more so when you are getting old. When we are young, friends are, like everything else, a matter of course. In the old days [particularly in retirement] we know what it means to have them.

— Edvard Grieg

There is a magic in the memory of a schoolboy friendship. It softens the heart, and even affects the nervous system of those who have no heart.

— Benjamin Disraeli

Understand that friends come and go, but with a precious few you should hold on. The older you get, the more you need the people who knew you when you were young.

— Mary Schmich

24
Money might make you wealthy, but friends make you rich.
— Unknown wise person

Best friends are the most important ingredient in the recipe for retirement life.
— Unknown wise person

Old friends are the great blessing of one’s later years . . . They have a memory of the same events and have the same mode of thinking.
— Horace Walpole

It’s funny how in the end, you always go back, to the old friends that have been there from the very beginning
— Unknown wise person

There is no physician in your retirement years like a true friend.
— Unknown wise person
Some More Retirement Questions

- Will you have any true friends once you retire, given that studies show that the so-called friends you make in the workplace seldom turn out to be true friends?

- What are you going to do for friendship when you find out that most of your apparent friends at work don’t want to have anything to do with you once you retire?

- How are you going to experience a sense of true accomplishment and satisfaction without a job?

How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free provides you with many inspirational answers not to be found in other books. What’s more, it offers Retirement Wisdom That You Won’t Get from Your Financial Advisor.

Purchase The World’s Best Retirement Book at fine bookstores and through:

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Importance of Money for Retirement

Retirement can be a great joy if you can figure out how to spend time without spending money.
— Unknown wise person

The key to a happy retirement is to have enough money to live on, but not enough to worry about.
— Unknown wise person

You can be young without money but you can’t be old without it.
— Tennessee Williams

From birth to age 18, a girl needs good parents, from 18 to 35 she needs good looks, from 35 to 55 she needs a good personality, and from 55 on she needs cash.
— Sophie Tucker
When I was young I thought that money was the most important thing in life; now that I am old I know that it is.

— Oscar Wilde

I have enough money to last me the rest of my life, unless I buy something.

— Jackie Mason

The chief value of money lies in the fact that one lives in a world in which it is overestimated.

— H. L. Mencken

When a man says money can do anything; that settles it. He doesn’t have any.

— Ed Howe

There are people who have money and people who are rich.

— Coco Chanel
Investing Your Retirement Funds Wisely

Invest in the known before the unknown.
— Suze Orman

Nobody ever lost money taking a profit.
— Bernard Baruch

Stay in love with a security until the security gets overvalued, then let somebody else fall in love with it.
— Roy Neuberger

Buy on the rumor, sell on the news.
— Wall Street adage

There are two times in a man’s life when he should not speculate: when he can’t afford it, and when he can.
— Mark Twain
Retirement Advice from
The Dallas Morning News

These books will lead to financial happiness:

“Read a book that will get your mind out of the hands of the Wall Street investment — retirement complex — all those institutions that want us to save and invest unending amounts of money so they can manage it, extracting zillions in fees.


“Trust me, there are books . . . that are far more complicated. But few [like Zelinski’s] are more accessible, useful, and meaningful.”

— Scott Burns, The Dallas Morning News
Keeping Active in Retirement

Up, sluggard, and waste not life; in the grave will be sleeping enough.
— Ben Franklin

I still find each day too short for all the thoughts I want to think, all the walks I want to take, all the books I want to read, and all the friends I want to see.
— John Burrough

Life is a game.
Happy people are the players.
Unhappy people are the spectators.
Which would you like to be?
— The Lazy Person’s Guide to Happiness
Dear Ernie.

I enjoyed reading *The Joy of Not Working* and *How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free*. Both have been important books for me. I’m 55 and have worked continuously since I was 11 delivering the *Montreal Gazette* before 7 a.m. I have lived in Queensland for 31 years and have taught high-school science all that time.

Your focus on “purpose” has hit home. I still find purpose in teaching but have decided to cut back to part-time to free up time (especially weekends). Thanks for helping me arrive at that decision — your books have been almost like a sounding board and I’ll read them again.

Thanks again.

Yours,

Blake Wheaton
Burleigh Waters
Queensland, Australia
The 237 Best Things Ever Said about Retirement

Retired Happy, Wild, and Free!

The World’s Best Retirement Book

Shows You How

• It’s about generating purpose in your retirement life with meaningful, creative pursuits.

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Longevity

Wish not so much to live long, as to live well.
— Ben Franklin

It is not how old you are, but how you are old.
— Marie Dressler

You can’t help getting older, but you don’t have to get old.
— George Burns

A light heart lives long.
— William Shakespeare

The trick is growing up without growing old.
— Casey Stengel

Age only matters when one is aging. Now that I have arrived at a great age, I might just as well be twenty.
— Pablo Picasso
To lengthen thy life, lessen thy meals.
— Ben Franklin

Growing old is compulsory. Retirement from work is discretionary.
— Unknown wise person

The great thing about getting older is that you don’t lose all the other ages you’ve been.
— Madeleine L’Engle

Do not regret growing older. It is a privilege denied to many.
— Unknown wise person

And in the end it’s not the years in your life that count. It’s the life in your years.
— Abraham Lincoln

Age is strictly a case of mind over matter. If you don’t mind, it doesn’t matter.
— Mark Twain
Making the Adjustment to Retirement

I slip from workaholic to bum real easy.
— Matthew Broderick

I’m retired — goodbye tension, hello pension!
— Unknown wise person

I’m sort of a pessimist about tomorrow and an optimist about the day after tomorrow.
— Eric Severeid, CBS-TV newscaster (at his retirement)

Musicians don’t retire; they stop when there’s no more music in them.
— Louis Armstrong

I think my idea of retirement might be to one day work a 40-hour week.
— Vince McMahon
Retirement at sixty-five is ridiculous. When I was sixty-five, I still had pimples.

— George Burns

**Men and Women in Retirement**

When a man retires, his wife gets twice the husband but only half the income.

— Chi Chi Rodriguez

When men reach their sixties and retire, they go to pieces. Women go right on cooking.

— Gail Sheehy

In this country . . . men seem to live for action as long as they can and sink into apathy when they retire.

— Charles Francis Adams, Sr.

A retired husband is often a wife's full-time job.

— Ella Harris
Retired Happy, Wild, and Free!

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Shows You How

• It’s about following your own dreams instead of someone else’s.

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Misers Holding on to Their Retirement Money

Misers amass wealth for those who wish them dead.
— Polish proverb

Once you have decided to keep a certain pile, it is no longer yours, for you can’t spend it.
— Michel de Montaigne

Riches are to be used and not to be hoarded. After all, what’s the ultimate purpose of money, but to spend it?
— from How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free

Money is only useful when you get rid of it. It is like the odd card in Old Maid; the player who is finally with it has lost.
— Evelyn Waugh

Misers aren’t fun to live with, but they make wonderful ancestors.
— David Brenner
How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free
Retirement Wisdom That You Won’t Get from Your Financial Advisor

- It's about learning to live every part of your retirement life to the fullest.
- It’s about pursuing interesting leisure activities that make a difference in your physical, mental, and spiritual well-being!
- It’s about being financially independent with less money.

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The Paradox of Retirement

When a man retires and time is no longer a matter of urgent importance, his colleagues generally present him with a watch.

— R.C. Sherriff

Retirement is when the living is easy and the payments are hard.

— Unknown wise person

When a man retires, his wife gets twice the husband but only half the income.

— Chi Chi Rodriguez

People Contemplating Retirement

The best time to start thinking about your retirement is before your boss does.

— Unknown wise person
What will I do with myself when I retire? When I quit my job, I do not want to quit living. Can I possibly be of use when retirement day comes, or will I just be taking up space?

— J. A. West

I’m not in retirement. I just don’t want to work so much, and I don’t get that many offers any more.

— Max von Sydow

He who laughs last at the boss’s jokes probably isn’t far from retirement.

— Unknown wise person

When I retire I’m going to spend my evenings by the fireplace going through those boxes. There are things in there that ought to be burned.

— Richard Milhouse Nixon
People Enjoying Retirement

I like retirement life. It's something to do when no one wants you to work anymore.
— Unknown wise person

Eating’s going to be a whole new ball game. I may even have to buy a new pair of trousers.
— Lester Piggott, British champion jockey (on his retirement)

I’m retired — I’m not dead!
— Unknown wise person

Problems of Retirement

If you have the time, you won’t have the money. If you have the money, you won’t have the time.
— Wolter's Law
Nothing ever comes out as planned.
— Seay's Law

One of the problems of retirement is that it gives you more time to think about the problems of retirement.
— Unknown wise person

The student who secures his coveted leisure and retirement by systematically shirking any labor necessary to man obtains but an ignoble and unprofitable leisure, defrauding himself of the experience which alone can make leisure fruitful.
— Henry David Thoreau

When you retire, you switch bosses — from the one who hired you to the one who married you.
— Gene Perret
The 237 Best Things Ever Said about Retirement

Retired Happy, Wild, and Free!

The World’s Best Retirement Book Shows You How

- It’s about how to create and maintain great friends — the most important ingredient, according to researchers, for a successful retirement.

Purchase *How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free* at fine bookstores and through this direct link:

[www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com)
The Right Time to Retire

Sixty-five is the age when one acquires sufficient experience to lose one's job.
— Unknown wise person

I have made enough faces.
— Greta Garbo (refusing to perform again)

Don't think of retiring from the world until the world will be sorry that you retire.
— Samuel Johnson

The question isn't at what age I want to retire, it's at what income.
— George Foreman

By the age of 65, most of us have accomplished whatever work-related goals we are going to reach. If you haven't done it by then, chances are you aren't going to do it. Take the retirement, take the pension, take the Social Security, and sail off into the sunset.
— Sue Lasky
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Social Security and Retirement

Social Security is a government program with a constituency made up of the old, the near old and those who hope or fear to grow old. After 215 years of trying, we have finally discovered a special interest that includes 100 percent of the population. Now we can vote ourselves rich.

— P. J. O'Rourke

The Republican Party is a friend of Social Security the way Colonel Sanders was a friend of chickens.

— Charles T. Manatt

Solitude in Retirement

I find it wholesome to be alone the greater part of the time. To be in company, even with the best, is soon wearisome and dissipating. I love to be alone. I never found the companion that was so companionable as solitude.

— Henry David Thoreau
The 237 Best Things Ever Said about Retirement

Solitude makes us tougher towards ourselves and tenderer towards others. In both ways it improves our character.
— Friedrich Nietzsche

If you go long enough without a bath, even the fleas will let you alone.
— Ernie Pyle

It is better to be alone than in bad company.
— George Washington

Spending Your Money Foolishly in Retirement

I don't think you can spend yourself rich.
— George Humphrey

He who buys what he does not need steals from himself.
— Unknown wise person

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It is wonderful to think how men of very large estates not only spend their yearly income, but are often actually in want of money. It is clear, they have not value for what spend.

— Samuel Johnson

The waste of money [particularly in retirement] cures itself, for soon there is no more to waste.

— M.W. Harrison

**Spending Your Money Wisely in Retirement**

Better a good dinner than a fine coat.

— French proverb

The money you enjoy spending frivolously to enhance your retirement is money well spent.

— from *How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free*
Don't ask the barber whether you need a haircut.
— Daniel S. Greenberg

Don't buy expensive socks if you can never find them.
— Unknown wise person

Real richness in retirement is in how you spend your money.
— Unknown wise person

When I get a little money I buy books; and if any is left I buy food and clothes.
— Eramus

Life is too short to do anything for oneself that one can pay others to do for one.
— W. Somerset Maugham

Never economize on luxuries.
— Angela Thirkell
For Those Who Absolutely, Positively Want to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free

“Ernie has done it again. Easy to read, well laid out. Emphasis on simple living, and preparing for retirement long before you retire.”
— Mary Anne Fields, Life Coach and Trainer of Life Unfolds, Houston, Texas

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— The Strebel Planning Group, New York

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Staying out of Debt When You Retire

Whatever you have, spend less.
— Samuel Johnson

Attend no auctions if thou hast no money.
— The Talmud

Never buy expensive wine, luggage, or watches.
— H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

Your best purchases in retirement will turn out to be the ones that you never made.
— from How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free

What a lot of things there are a man can do without.
— Socrates
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Travel as an Activity in Your Retirement Years

I’ve learned that the secret of growing old gracefully is never to lose your enthusiasm for meeting new people and seeing new places.

— Unknown wise person

The world is a book, and those who do not travel, read only a page.

— Saint Augustine

Be the hero of your adventure. All travel is inner travel, because wherever we are, we are processing our experiences internally. Remind yourself that you are the hero of all your journeys, and that all your travel in the outside world is really travel inward, toward ever higher spiritual consciousness.

— Joseph Dispenza (author of The Way of the Traveler: Making Every Trip a Journey of Self-Discovery)
Certainly, travel is more than the seeing of sights; it is a change that goes on, deep and permanent, in the ideas of living.

— Miriam Beard

A good holiday is one spent among people whose notions of time are vaguer than yours.

— J. B. Priestley

Most people say that they are going to travel a lot when they retire. The only ones who do so are the ones who travel a lot before they retire.

— from How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free

The longer you travel to view an eclipse, the greater the chance of cloud cover.

— Unknown wise person

Travel is the frivolous part of serious lives, and the serious part of frivolous ones.

— Anne Sophie Swetchine
They say travel broadens the mind, but you must have the mind.
— G. K. Chesterton

I have wandered all my life, and I have traveled; the difference between the two is this — we wander for distraction, but we travel for fulfillment.
— Hilaire Belloc

Ultimate Retirement — Famous Last Words before They Checked Out

My work is done, why wait?
— George Eastman, founder of Kodak (in suicide note)

Get out of here and leave me alone. Last words are for fools who haven’t said enough already.
— Karl Marx
I am going to put myself to sleep now for a bit longer than usual. Call the time Eternity.
— Jerzy Kosinski, American Author

Either that wallpaper goes, or I do.
— Oscar Wilde (as he lay dying in a drab Paris hotel room.)

All my possessions for a moment of time.
— Elizabeth I (1533 - 1603) English ruler

God will forgive me; it is his trade.
— Heinrich Heine

The hour I have long wished for is now come.
— Theresa of Ávila

I’ll be comfortable on the couch.
— Lenny Bruce
I don’t feel good.
— Luther Burbank, American horticulturist

Don’t let it end like this. Tell them I said something.
— Pancho Villa, Mexican revolutionary leader

Well, I’ve had a happy life.
— William Hazlitt, English writer

Unemployment Tips for the Retired

Unemployment is capitalism’s way of getting you to plant a garden.
— Orson Scott Card

The trouble with unemployment is that the minute you wake up in the morning you’re on the job.
— Slappy White
He did nothing in particular, and did it very well.
— W. S. Gilbert

What you want to do is not go to work. You’re not missing a thing. The worst thing I did was start work young.
— Jimmy Breslin

What Is Important in Retirement

In retirement, only money and symptoms are consequential.
— Mason Cooley

But what, it may be asked, are the requisites for a life of retirement? A man may be weary of the toils and torments of business, and yet quite unfit for the tranquil retreat. Without literature, friendship, and religion, retirement is in most cases found to be a dead, flat level, a barren waste, and a blank. Neither the body nor the soul can enjoy health and life in a vacuum.
— Richter
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Slow down and enjoy life. It’s not only the scenery you miss by going too fast — you also miss the sense of where you are going and why.

— Eddie Cantor

Retirement is wonderful if you have two essentials — much to live on and much to live for.

— Unknown wise person

I advise you to go on living solely to enrage those who are paying your annuities. It is the only pleasure I have left.

— Voltaire (in retirement)

Retirement is a time to make the inner journey and come face to face with your flaws, failures, prejudices, and all the factors that generate thoughts of unhappiness. Retirement is not a time to sleep, but a time to awaken to the beauty of the world around you and the joy that comes when you cast out all the negative elements that cause confusion and turmoil in your mind and allow serenity to prevail.

— Howard Salzman
Age appears to be best in four things — old wood best to burn, old wine to drink, old friends to trust, and old authors to read.

— Francis Bacon

What People Plan to Do in Their Retirement Years

I shall enjoy my freedom from the tyranny of the In and Out boxes.

— S. Dillon Ripley (On his retirement after 20 years as secretary of the Smithsonian Institution)

There is a whole new kind of life ahead, full of experiences just waiting to happen. Some call it “retirement.” I call it bliss.

— Betty Sullivan

Americans will listen, but they do not care to read. War and Peace must wait for the leisure of retirement, which never really comes: meanwhile it helps to furnish the living room.

— Anthony Burgess
Where to Retire

I want a house [for my retirement] that has got over all its troubles; I don’t want to spend the rest of my life bringing up a young and inexperienced house.

— Jerome K. Jerome

A comfortable house is a great source of happiness. It ranks immediately after health and a good conscience.

— Sydney Smith

He makes his home where the living is best.

— Latin proverb
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Go and live somewhere else. Try doing what you think you've always wanted to do.

— John Osborne, Retirement Life Coach

Home is a name, a word, it is a strong one; stronger than magician ever spoke, or spirit ever answered to, in the strongest conjuration.

— Charles Dickens

Home — that blessed word, which opens to the human heart the most perfect glimpse of Heaven, and helps to carry it thither, as on an angel's wings.

— Lydia M. Child

Home is any four walls that enclose the right person.

— Helen Rowland

No money is better spent than what is laid out for domestic satisfaction.

— Samuel Johnson
Why Some People Gave Up Retirement

For the loot, honey, for the loot.
— Ava Gardner, (On why she came out of retirement to appear in a TV soap opera)

She (my ex-wife) wanted me to stop being Evel Knievel. I am who I am. I’m not going to change. I’ll settle down the day they put me in a six-foot pine box.
— Retired stuntman Evel Knievel at 63, considering coming out of retirement.

Wills for the Retired

If a man dies and leaves his estate in an uncertain condition, the lawyers become his heirs.
— Ed Howe
I owe much. I have nothing. The rest I leave to the poor.
— François Rabelais (his last will)

Surprise! Having been of sound mind, I spent all my money while I was still alive.
— Will of an unknown wise person

I would as soon leave my son a curse as the almighty dollar.
— Andrew Carnegie

The patient is not likely to recover who makes the doctor his heir.
— Thomas Fuller, M.D.

Leaving your heirs a lot of money doesn't guarantee tears at your funeral.
— Sandra Block

If you want him to mourn, you had best leave him nothing.
— Martial
Working at Fun Jobs When You Retire

Ask yourself, “If all jobs paid $2 an hour, what job would I want to do?” When you answer that question, start doing it, even if you have to do it for free at first.

— Greg Aldrik

I was proud to work with the great Gershwin, and I would have done it for nothing, which I did.

— Howard Dietz

Work is what you do so that sometime you won’t have to do it anymore.

— Alfred Polgar

If I choose to devote myself to certain labors which yield more real profit, though but little money, they may be inclined to look on me as an idler.

— Henry David Thoreau
The 237 Best Things Ever Said about Retirement

If I had known retirement would be this great, I would have killed to have gotten here sooner.
— Kirk Symmes (who was forced to retire from his sales job at 65 and became a part-time college instructor)

Writing a Book When You Retire

If you want to be a writer — stop talking about it and sit down and write!
— Jackie Collins

Writing is easy. All you do is stare at a blank sheet of paper until drops of blood form on your forehead.
— Gene Fowler

There are three difficulties in authorship: to write anything worth publishing, to find honest men to publish it — and to get sensible men to read it.
— Charles Caleb Cotton

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Perhaps in retirement I will be tempted by the ultimate weakness of idealistic minds — which is to write a book.
— Cartoon caption in *How to Retire Happy*

You don’t write because you want to say something: You write because you’ve got something to say.
— F. Scott Fitzgerald

Writers may be disreputable, incorrigible, early to decay or late to bloom, but they dare to go it alone.
— John Updike

Why do writers write? Because it isn’t there.
— Thomas Berger

Write drunk; edit sober.
— Ernest Hemingway

Someday I hope to write a book where the royalties will pay for the copies I give away.
— Clarence Darrow
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— Life Planning Network

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The Youth Experience in Your Retirement Years

How old would you be if you didn’t know how old you are?
— Satchel Paige

You’re never too old to become younger.
— Mae West

You can’t turn back the clock. But you can wind it up again.
— Bonnie Pruden

If you want to live a long and happy life, forget how old you are. This gets more important the older you get.
— from How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free

Everyone is the age of their heart.
— Guatemalan proverb
Zen for Your Retirement Years

Doing what you like in your retirement at this moment puts you in the best place for the next moment.
— Unknown wise person

Do every act of your life as if it were your last.
— Marcus Aurelius

Retire from work, but not from life.
— M. K. Soni

Life is the only thing worth living for.
— Zen proverb

The key to retirement is to find joy in the little things.
— Susan Miller

Retirement is the beginning of life — not the end!
— from How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free
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- Above all, it’s about how you can be happier in retirement than you have ever been before.

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About the Author

Ernie J. Zelinski is a leading authority on early retirement and solo-entrepreneurship. He is the author of Career Success Without a Real Job, the bestseller How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free (over 125,000 copies sold and published in 9 languages), and The Joy of Not Working (over 250,000 copies sold and published in 17 languages).

Ernie speaks about early retirement, solo-entrepreneurship, and applying creativity to business and leisure. He recently spoke about The Joy of Not Working to over 2,000 executives, scholars, and students at the National Turkish Congress on Quality Convention in Istanbul.

Contact Ernie at [ez-books [ at ] telus [ dot ] net

Resources by Ernie Zelinski (Links Work)

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Retirement Poems on Squidoo
Career Success Resource Center
The Fun at Work Café
Reasons to Love a Recession
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