

April Fools' Day

April 1 every year

You Know What They Say About Fools

Here are some quotes and sayings about fools and foolery. Read and discuss them. If you were going say something about "fools," what would it be?

It's better to keep your mouth shut and be thought a fool than to open it and leave no doubt. ~ Mark Twain

However big the fool, there is always a bigger fool to admire him.
~ Nicolas Boileau-Despréaux (French poet and critic; 1636–1711)

He who lives without folly isn't so wise as he thinks.
~ François, Duc de La Rochefoucauld (French author; 1613–1680)

The ultimate result of shielding men from the effects of folly is to fill the world with fools.
~ Herbert Spencer (English philosopher; 1820–1903)

Sometimes one likes foolish people for their folly better than wise people for their wisdom.
~ Elizabeth Gaskell (English novelist and short story writer; 1810–1865)

Looking foolish does the spirit good.
~ John Updike (American novelist, poet, short story writer, art critic, and literary critic; 1932–2009)

Let us be thankful for the fools. But for them the rest of us could not succeed.
~ Mark Twain

A fool must now and then be right by chance. ~ William Cowper (English poet; 1731–1800)

Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me. ~ Chinese Proverb

We're fools whether we dance or not, so we might as well dance. ~ Japanese Proverb

You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time. ~ Abraham Lincoln

The greatest lesson in life is to know what even fools are right sometimes ~ Sir Winston Churchill

A fellow who is always declaring he's no fool, usually has his suspicions ~ Author Unknown

A fool may be known by six things: anger without cause; speech without profit; change without progress; inquiry without object; putting trust in a stranger; and mistaking foes for friends.
~ Arabian Proverb

A man always blames the woman who fools him. In the same way he blames the door he walks into in the dark. ~ Henry Louis Mencken (journalist, satirist; 1880–1956)

A common mistake that people make when trying to design something completely foolproof is to underestimate the ingenuity of complete fools.

~ Douglas Adams (English writer and humorist; 1952–2001)



I have great faith in fools—self-confidence, my friends call it. ~ Edgar Allan Poe

Real friends are those who, when you feel you've made a fool of yourself, don't feel you've done a permanent job. ~ Author Unknown

Our wisdom comes from our experience, and our experience comes from our foolishness.
~ Sacha Guitry (French actor; 1885–1957)

It is human nature to think wisely and act foolishly.
~ Anatole France (French poet, journalist, and novelist; 1844–1924)

You will do foolish things, but do them with enthusiasm.
~ *New York World-Telegram and Sun*, 1961

Mix a little foolishness with your prudence: It's good to be silly at the right moment.
~ Horace (65 BC–8 BC)

The first of April is the day we remember what we are the other 364 days of the year. ~ Mark Twain

If every fool wore a crown, we should all be kings. ~ Welsh Proverb

Here cometh April again, and as far as I can see the world hath more fools in it than ever.
~ Charles Lamb (English writer and essayist; 1775–1834)

We're fools whether we dance or not, so we might as well dance. ~ Japanese Proverb

The trouble with practical jokes is that very often they get elected. ~ Will Rogers

Lord, what fools these mortals be. ~ William Shakespeare

Wise men talk because they have something to say; fools talk because they have to say something. ~ Plato

Controversy equalizes fools and wise men...and the fools know it. ~ Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Young men think old men fools, and old men know young men to be so. ~ Author Unknown

It is a fools whose own tomatoes are sold to him. ~ Akan Proverb

A mother takes 20 years to make a man of her boy, and another woman makes a fool of him in 20 minutes. ~ Robert Frost

The first of April, some do say,
Is set apart for All Fools' Day.
But why the people call it so,
Nor I, nor they themselves do know.
But on this day are people sent
On purpose for pure merriment.

~ *Poor Robin's Almanac* (1790)