

101

reasons

not to do

ANYTHING

A COLLECTION OF CYNICAL & DEFEATIST QUOTATIONS

SUMMERSDALE

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101 Reasons Not To Do Anything

**A Collection of
Cynical & Defeatist
Quotations**

Introduction

According to Oscar Wilde, a cynic is ‘A man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing’, which is a refreshing antidote to the feel-good, be calm, de-stress and motivational trends that have crept into our society in recent years.

It wasn't always like this. In past centuries people would look at the world through grey-tinted spectacles. So what better way to combat the nicey nicey nineties than with this treasure trove of the world's finest cynical and defeatest quotations?

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

If you live long enough, you'll see that
every victory turns into a defeat.

Simone de Beavoir

Touts les hommes sont mortels

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

I want to be bored to death,
as good a way to go as any.

Peter De Vries
Comfort me with Apples

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

Other people are quite dreadful.
The only possible society is oneself.

Oscar Wilde
An Ideal Husband

I get my exercise acting as a pall bearer
to my friends who exercise.

Chauncey Depew

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

Happy is the man with a wife to tell him
what to do and a secretary to do it.

Lord Mancroft

Observer, "Sayings of the Week" 18 Dec 1966

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

Alas! The hours we waste in work
and similar inconsequence,
Friends, I beg you do not shirk
Your daily task of indolence.

Don Marquis
The Almost Perfect State

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

It is better to have loafed and lost
than never to have loafed at all.

James Thurber

Fables for Our Time, "The Courtship of All"

'Tis the voice of the sluggard, I hear him complain;
“You have waked me too soon, I must slumber again”.

Isaac Watts
The Sluggard

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

I am happiest when I am idle. I could live for months without performing any kind of labour, and at the expiration of that time I should feel fresh and vigorous enough to go right on in the same time for numerous more months.

Artemus Ward
Pyrotechny

It was such a lovely day
I thought it was a pity to get up.

W. Somerset Maugham
Our Betters

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

I enjoy convalescence. It is the part that makes the illness worthwhile.

George Bernard Shaw
Back to Methuselah

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

I am interested in leisure in the way a poor man is interested in money. I can't get enough of it.

Attributed to Prince Philip

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

The wisdom of a learned man cometh by
opportunity of leisure: and he that hath little
business shall become wise.

Bible

Ecclesiastes 38. 24-25

You should do nothing that did not absolutely please you. Be idle, be very idle! The habits of your mind are such that you will necessarily do much; but be as idle as you can.

S.T. Coleridge
Letter to Southey

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

Every man is, or hopes to be, an Idler

Samuel Johnson

The Idler

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

I am sure that indolence – indefeasible indolence –
is the true state of man, and business
the invention of the old Teazer.

Charles Lamb

Letter to Wordsworth, 1805

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

There is one piece of advice, in a life of study, which I think no one will object to; and that is, every now and then to be completely idle, – to do nothing at all.

Sydney Smith

Sketches of Moral Philosophy

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

Increased means and increased leisure
are the two civilisers of men.

Benjamin Disraeli

Speech to Conservatives of Manchester, 3 April 1872

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

Leisure is the mother of Philosophy.

Thomas Hobbes

Leviathan iv, 46

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

Leisure is the best of all possessions.

Socrates

Diogenes Laertius

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

There is no pleasure in having nothing to do;
the fun is having lots to do and not doing it.

Mary Wilson Little

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

What's wrong with dropping out?
To me, this is the whole point: one's right
to withdraw from a social environment that
offers no spiritual sustenance, and to
mind one's own business.

William S Burroughs

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

One little chore to do, one little commission to fulfil,
one message to carry, would spoil heaven itself.

Henry D Thoreau
Journal, 21 July 1851

So that what was indolence was called wisdom.

Tacitus

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

I have spent my life laboriously doing nothing.

Grotius

With ecstasies so sweet
As none can ever guess
Who walk not with the feet
Of joy in idleness

Robert Bridges

Spring

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

That indolent but delightful
condition of doing nothing.

Pliny the Younger

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

Better to idle well than work badly.

Spanish proverb

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

Serious matters can wait until tomorrow.

Cornelius Nepos

Pelopidas

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

To do nothing is in every man's power.

Samuel Johnson
The Rambler

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

Procrastination
– the art of keeping up with yesterday.

Don Marquis

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

Never put off until tomorrow what you can
do the day after tomorrow just as well.

Mark Twain

The Late Benjamin Franklin

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

Work is the refuge of people who
have nothing better to do.

Oscar Wilde

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

. . . saves time like putting off until tomorrow
what you should do today.

Malcolm Muggeridge

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

My father taught me to work, but not to love it. I never did like to work, and I don't deny it. I'd rather read, tell stories, crack jokes, talk, laugh – anything but work.

Abraham Lincoln

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

The chief attraction of military service has
consisted and will consist in this
compulsory and irreproachable idleness.

Tolstoy
War and Peace

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

Put off the evil hour as long as you can.

Proverb

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

As peace is the end of war, so to be idle is
the ultimate purpose of the busy.

Samuel Johnson

The Idler

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

He that knows nothing, doubts nothing.

Proverb

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

Hard work has never killed anyone,
but it frightens some people half to death.

Aldous Huxley

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

Marriage has many pains
but celibacy has no pleasures.

Samuel Johnson

Rasselas

If it rained knowledge, I'd hold out my hand;
but I would not give myself the trouble
to go in quest of it.

Boswell

Life of Johnson

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

In this world nothing can be said to be certain,
except death and taxes.

Benjamin Franklin
letter to Jean-Baptiste Le Roy

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

Cheer up, the worst is yet to come.

Philander Johnson

Shooting Stars

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

Thank heaven the sun has gone in,
and I don't have to go out and enjoy it.

Logan Pearsall Smith

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

Call no man happy until he dies,
he is at best fortunate.

Plutarch

Solon

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

It is unfortunate, considering enthusiasm
moves the world, that so few enthusiasts
can be trusted to speak the truth.

A. J. Balfour

Marriage is a romance in which the
hero dies in the first chapter.

Anon

Quoted by Barbara Gourdy – Falling Angels

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

Like every man of sense and good feeling,
I abominate work.

Aldous Huxley

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

The lecture theatre – the place where information passes from the notebook of the lecturer to the notebook of the student without necessarily passing through the mind of either.

Jim White

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

Mother is the dead heart of the family, spending father's earnings on consumer goods to enhance the environment in which he eats, sleeps and watches the television.

Germaine Greer
The Female Eunuch

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

Brigands demand your money or your life;
women require both.

Samuel Butler

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

By working faithfully eight hours a day,
you may eventually get to be a boss
and work twelve hours a day.

Robert Frost

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

Life is too short to do anything for oneself
that one can pay others to do for one.

W. Somerset Maugham
The Summing Up

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

They say hard work never hurt anybody,
but I figure: why take the chance?

Ronald Reagan

If I were a medical man, I should prescribe a holiday to any patient who considered his work important.

Bertrand Russell
Autobiography

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

I love mankind
– it's people I can't stand.

Charles M Schultz
Go Fly a Kite, Charlie Brown

I never found the companion that was so
companionable as solitude.

Henry David Thoreau
Solitude

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

The majority of men devote the greater part of their lives to making their remaining years unhappy.

Jean De La Bruyère

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

He that lives upon hope will die fasting.

Benjamin Franklin
Poor Richard's Almanac

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

If people really liked to work,
we'd still be ploughing the land with
sticks and transporting goods on our backs.

William Feather

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

Time you can enjoy wasting
is never wasted time.

Anon

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

There are only three events in a man's life;
birth, life and death; he is not conscious of
being born, he dies in pain and he forgets to live.

Jean De La Bruyère

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

Ours is a world where people don't know
what they want and are willing to go
through hell to get it.

Don Marquis

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

Laziness implies a lot of intelligence. It is the normal healthy attitude of a man with nothing to do.

Sir Heneage Oglivie

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

Anybody who works is a fool. I don't work,
I merely inflict myself on the public.

Robert Morley

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

Work is the only dirty four-letter
word in the language.

Abbie Hoffman

Harpers Magazine, 1970

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

You marry the man of your dreams, ladies,
but 14 years later you're married to a couch that burps.

Roseanne Barr

Roseanne, 1986

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

It's always been and always will be the
same in the world: the horse does the work
and the coachman is tipped.

Anon

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

People would rather sleep their way through life
than stay awake for it.

Edward Albee

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

Life is a concentration camp.
You're stuck here and there's no way out
and you can only rage impotently
against your persecutors.

Woody Allen

Esquire, 1977

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

Life is a practical joke.

Paul Bocuse

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

Life is a shit sandwich and
everyday you take another bite.

Joe Schmidt

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

Life's a piece of shit,
when you look at it.

Eric Idle
Life Of Brian

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

There is only the difference of a letter between the beginning and the end of life - creation and cremation.

Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree

Lord Illingworth:

The Book of Life begins with a man
and a woman in a garden.

Mrs Allonby:

It ends with Revelations.

Oscar Wilde

A Woman of No Importance

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

The shorter the hours, the larger the income. Don't get into the habit of putting in long hours or you may be set down into a permanent subordinate position.

George Ade

Fables

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

His sole concern with work was
considering how he might best avoid it.

Anatole France
Revolt of the Angels

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

Work is the scythe of time.

Napoleon Bonaparte, 1815

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

Set me anything to do as a task, and it is
inconceivable the desire I have to do something else.

George Bernard Shaw

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

It is easier to admire hardwork if you don't do it.

Unknown

Meditations on Wall Street.

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

Work is the curse of the drinking classes.

Oscar Wilde

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

Life is a one way street.

Bernard Berenson

Notes, 1950

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

All of the animals excepting man know that
the principal business of life is to enjoy it.

Samuel Butler
Notebooks

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

Life ain't all beer and skittles, and more's the pity; but
what's the odds, so long as you're happy?

George du Maurier

Trilby

Life is like an onion: you peel off layer after layer and then you find there is nothing in it.

James G Huneker

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

We are but tenants, and ... shortly the great Landlord will give us notice that our lease has expired.

Joseph Jefferson
Inscription on his monument

He beats the bush and another catches the bird.

Old French Proverb

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

It is not necessary that a man should earn his living by the sweat of his brow, unless he sweats easier than I do.

Henry D Thoreau

The brain is a wonderful organ.
It starts working the moment you get up,
and does not stop until you get into the office.

Attributed to Robert Frost

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

In a hierarchy every employee tends to rise
to his level of incompetence.

Laurence J. Peter
The Peter Principle

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

One should not exaggerate the importance of trifles.
Life, for instance, is much too short to be taken seriously.

Attributed to Nicolas Bentley

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

Living is a sickness from which sleep provides relief every sixteen hours. [...] The Remedy is Death.

Nicolas Chamfort

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

Thirty million, mostly fools.
[When asked the population of England]

Thomas Carlyle

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

Life is just one damned thing after another.

Elbert Hubbard

A Thousand and One Epigrams

Life is as tedious as a twice-told tale
Vexing the dull ear of a drowsy man.

William Shakespeare
King John

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

It is better to be a fool than to be dead.

R L Stevenson

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

Friendship is a disinterested commerce between equals;
love an abject intercourse between tyrants and slaves.

Oliver Goldsmith

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

Work is accomplished by those employees who have not yet reached their level of incompetence.

Laurence J Peter
The Peter Principle

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

Life is a tragedy when seen in close-up,
but a comedy in long-shot.

Charlie Chaplin

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

Life is a jest; and all things show it.
I thought so once but now I know it.

John Gay

My Own Epitaph

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

Life is one long process of getting tired.

Samuel Butler

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

Life would be tolerably agreeable if it
were not for its amusements.

Edward Bulwer-Lytton

The basic fact about human existence
is not that it is a tragedy, but that it is a bore.

H. L. Mencken
Prejudices

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

I do not want people to be very agreeable, as it saves me
the trouble of liking them a great deal.

Jane Austen

Letters

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

I have often thought upon death,
and I find it the least of all evils.

Francis Bacon

An Essay Upon Death

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

Never, ever, bloody anything ever.

Rick Mayall

Mr Jolly Lives Next Door

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

A person seldom falls sick, but the bystanders are animated with a faint hope that he will die.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

I hate quotations.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

If all the year were playing holidays,
To sport would be as tedious as to work;
But when they seldom come, they wish'd for come.

William Shakespeare
Henry IV

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

Who first invented Work—and tied the free
And holy-day rejoicing spirit down
To the ever-haunting importunity
Of business, in the green fields, and the town—
To plough—loom—anvil—spade—and, oh, most sad,
To this dry drudgery of desk's dead wood?

Charles Lamb

Letter to Barton

He may live without books, – what is knowledge but grieving?
He may live without hope, – what is hope but deceiving?
He may live without love, – what is passion but pining?
But where is the man that can live without dining?

Owen Meredith

Lucille

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

Man, I can assure you, is a nasty creature.

Molière

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

The ceaseless labour of your life is to
build the house of your death.

Montaigne

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

If one judges love by the majority of its effects, it is more like hatred than like friendship.

Duc de la Rochefoucauld

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

If you give me six lines written by the most honest man, I
will find something in them to hang him.

Attributed to Cardinal Richelieu

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

The world itself is but a large prison,
out of which some are daily led to execution.

Sir Walter Raleigh

‘Blessed is the man who expects nothing, for he shall never be disappointed’ was the ninth beatitude.

Alexander Pope
Letter to Fortescue

↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

In the misfortunes of our best friends we
find something that is not unpleasing.

Duc De La Rochefoucauld

↔ 101 Reasons Not To Do Anything ↔

So little done, so much to do.

Cecil Rhodes

[Last words]

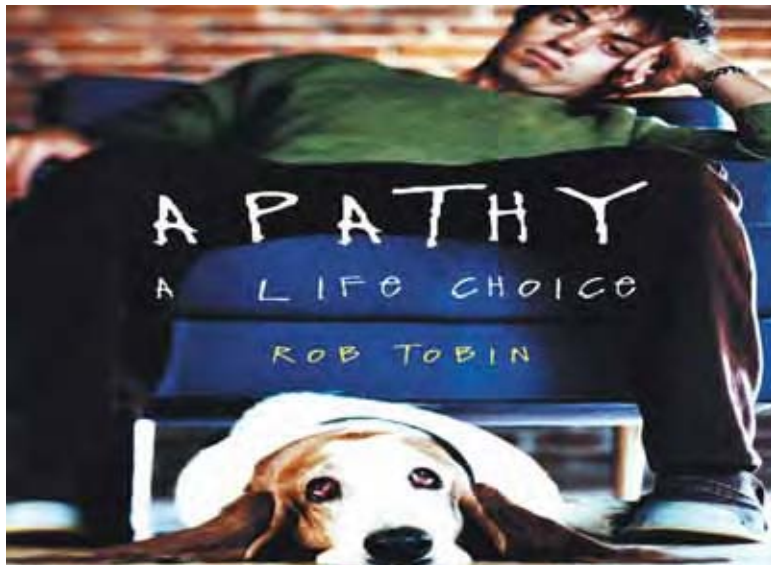
↔ A Collection of Cynical & Defeatist Quotations ↔

The crash of the whole solar and stellar
systems could only kill you once.

Thomas Carlyle

Letter

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"Surface her mind with the help of Stewart Ferris" *ESQUIRE Magazine*

HOW TO CHAT-UP WOMEN

Stewart Ferris

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HOW TO
**CHAT-UP
BLOKES**



Want to come
with me for a pizza
and a kiss?



No thanks.
Don't like pizza.

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Chav Speak

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wiv gold innit?



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