

Quotes About Choosing Simplicity

Minimalist-minded quotes about less noise and more meaning

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Simplicity quotes organized by minimalism, focus, decluttering your mind, and living with intention. Great for readers who want less chaos and clearer priorities.



Simplicity as a Life Philosophy

Use these quotes when you're trying to reset your perspective, especially after a season of busyness, overthinking, or "more, more, more" pressure. The tone here is calm, wise, and grounding, with an emphasis on what's essential rather than what's loud. These lines work well in journals, personal mission statements, or as a reminder at the top of a weekly planner. Practical tip: pick one quote and turn it into a one-sentence rule for the next 24 hours.

▮▮ *"Manifest plainness, embrace simplicity, reduce selfishness, have few desires"*

— Lao Tzu

▮▮ *"I have just three things to teach: simplicity, patience, compassion. These three are your greatest treasures"*

— Lao Tzu

▮▮ *"Our life is frittered away by detail. simplify, simplify"*

— Henry David Thoreau

▮▮ *"Simplicity does not precede complexity, but follows it"*

— Alan Perlis

▮▮ *"Progress is man's ability to complicate simplicity"*

— Thor Heyerdahl

▮▮ *"Understanding reduces the greatest to simplicity, and lack of it causes the least to take on the magnitude"*

— Raymond Holliwel

▮▮ *"Everything deep is also simple and can be reproduced simply as long as its reference to the whole truth is maintained. But what matters is not what is witty but what is true"*

— Albert Schweitzer

▮▮ *"The ultimate wisdom which deals with beginnings, remains locked in a seed. There it lies, the simplest fact of the universe and at the same time the one which calls faith rather than reason"*

— Hal Borland

▮▮ *"A man's work is nothing but this slow trek to rediscover, through the detours of art, those two or three great and simple images in whose presence his heart first opened"*

— Albert Camus

▮▮ *"Simplicity is the key"*
— Ritchie Blackmore

Minimalism & Contentment (Fewer Desires— More Space)

Reach for these quotes when you're decluttering, budgeting, downsizing, or simply trying to want less without feeling deprived. The tone is steady and reassuring, reminding you that "enough" is a real destination, not a compromise. They're perfect for captions on minimalist posts, notes inside a donation box, or a reminder before you hit "add to cart". Practical tip: pair a quote with one concrete action, donate one item, cancel one subscription, or say no to one optional commitment.

▮▮ *"I believe that a simple and unassuming manner of life is best for everyone, best both for the body and the mind"*
— Albert Einstein

▮▮ *"We never reflect how pleasant it is to ask for nothing"*
— Seneca the Younger

▮▮ *"Having nothing, nothing can he lose"*
— William Shakespeare

▮▮ *"It is the sweet, simple things of life which are the real ones after all"*
— Laura Ingalls Wilder

▮▮ *"The man is happiest who lives from day to day and asks no more, garnering the simple goodness of life"*
— Euripides

▮▮ *"Simplicity makes me happy"*
— Alicia Keys

▮▮ *"I think people want very much to simplify their lives enough so that they can control the things that make it possible to sleep at night"*
— Twyla Tharp

▮▮ *"The cost of a thing is the amount of what I will call life which is required to be exchanged for it, immediately or in the long run"*
— Henry David Thoreau

▣▣ *"Spend the afternoon. You can't take it with you"*
— Annie Dillard

▣▣ *"Anybody who thinks money will make you happy, hasn't got money"*
— David Geffen

Declutter Your Mind: Stillness— Attention, and Focus

Use these quotes when your mind feels noisy, too many tabs open, too many opinions, too many half-finished thoughts. The tone is centered and practical, aimed at calming your attention and strengthening your ability to choose one thing on purpose. These work well as daily mantras, meditation prompts, or "lock screen" reminders that nudge you back to the present. Practical tip: read one quote, then take a 60-second pause before you do the next thing on your list.

▣▣ *"You must learn to be still in the midst of activity and to be vibrantly alive in repose"*
— Indira Gandhi

▣▣ *"Concentrate, don't embroider"*
— Spencer Tracy

▣▣ *"The simple act of paying attention can take you a long way"*
— Keanu Reeves

▣▣ *"Never mistake activity for achievement"*
— John Wooden

▣▣ *"To create something exceptional, your mindset must be relentlessly focused on the smallest detail"*
— Giorgio Armani

▣▣ *"Expecting is the greatest impediment to living. In anticipation of tomorrow, it loses today"*
— Seneca the Younger

▣▣ *"What do we tell our children? Haste makes waste. Look before you leap. Stop and think. Don't judge a book by its cover. We believe that we are always better off gathering as much information as possible and spending as much time as possible in deliberation"*
— Malcolm Gladwell

▮▮ *"The key to wisdom is this - constant and frequent questioning, for by doubting we are led to question and by questioning we arrive at the truth"*

— Peter Abelard

▮▮ *"My greatest strength as a consultant is to be ignorant and ask a few questions"*

— Peter Drucker

Simple Strategy: Choosing What Not to Do

These quotes are best when you're planning, prioritizing, or rebuilding your schedule, especially when life feels overstuffed with "shoulds". The tone is decisive and clarifying, helping you see that simplicity often comes from subtraction, not optimization. Use them in work meetings, goal-setting sessions, or as a note to yourself before you commit to something new. Practical tip: after reading a quote, write down one thing you will not do this week, and why.

▮▮ *"The essence of strategy is choosing what not to do"*

— Michael Porter

▮▮ *"At Wal-Mart, if you couldn't explain an idea or a concept in simple terms on one page of paper Sam Walton considered the new idea too complicated to implement"*

— Michael Bergdahl

▮▮ *"I think the major good idea in Unix was its clean and simple interface: open, close, read, and write"*

— Ken Thompson

▮▮ *"Expansion means complexity and complexity decay"*

— C. Northcote Parkinson

▮▮ *"The solutions all are simple - after you have arrived at them. But they're simple only when you know already what they are"*

— Robert M. Pirsig

▮▮ *"Once you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the truth"*

— Arthur Conan Doyle

▮▮ *"Educators take something simple and make it complicated. Communicators take something complicated and make it simple"*

— John C. Maxwell

▮▮ *"Anticipate the difficult by managing the easy"*
— Lao Tzu

The Art of Less: Writing— Design, and Craft

Use these quotes when you want your work to feel cleaner, whether you're writing, designing, presenting, building, or creating anything that needs clarity. The tone is disciplined and elegant, emphasizing restraint, editing, and the courage to remove what doesn't serve the core. They're especially useful for creative briefs, revision sessions, or before you publish something publicly. Practical tip: choose one quote, then remove one unnecessary sentence, feature, or step from what you're making.

▮▮ *"The ability to simplify means to eliminate the unnecessary so that the necessary may speak"*
— Hans Hofmann

▮▮ *"Art is the elimination of the unnecessary"*
— Pablo Picasso

▮▮ *"Art is a collaboration between God and the artist, and the less the artist does the better"*
— Andre Gide

▮▮ *"Simplicity and repose are the qualities that measure the true value of any work of art"*
— Frank Lloyd Wright

▮▮ *"Simplicity is the final achievement. After one has played a vast quantity of notes and more notes, it is simplicity that emerges as the crowning reward of art"*
— Frederic Chopin

▮▮ *"Design is the method of putting form and content together. Design, just as art, has multiple definitions; there is no single definition. Design can be art. Design can be aesthetics. Design is so simple, that's why it is so complicated"*
— Paul Rand

▮▮ *"Usually when someone says a thing is too simple, they're saying that certain familiar things aren't there, and they're seeing a couple maybe that are left, which they count as a couple, that's all"*
— Donald Judd

▮▮ *"Say what you have to say in the fewest possible words"*
— Arthur Bryant

▮▮ *"Do not say a little in many words but a great deal in a few"*
— Pythagoras

▮▮ *"Broadly speaking, the short words are the best, and the old words best of all"*
— Winston Churchill

▮▮ *"Don't use words too big for the subject. Don't say 'infinitely' when you mean 'very'; otherwise you'll have no word left when you want to talk about something really infinite"*
— C. S. Lewis

▮▮ *"There is nothing so strong or safe in an emergency of life as the simple truth"*
— Charles Dickens

Simple Joys & Intentional Living

Use these quotes when you want to live with more intention, less performance, less cluttered ambition, and more meaning in ordinary days. The tone is warm and reflective, with a gentle push toward choosing what's real over what's impressive. They're great for captions, graduation notes, personal letters, or a reminder you read before bed. Practical tip: pair a quote with one "small joy" you'll protect this week (a walk, a quiet breakfast, a screen-free hour).

▮▮ *"If you get simple beauty and naught else, you get about the best thing God invents"*
— Robert Browning

▮▮ *"The firm, the enduring, the simple, and the modest are near to virtue"*
— Confucius

▮▮ *"We say nothing essential about the cathedral when we speak of its stones. We say nothing essential about Man when we seek to define him by the qualities of men"*
— Antoine de Saint-Exupery

▮▮ *"There's no such thing as simple. Simple is hard"*
— Martin Scorsese

▣▣ *"Simplicity should not be identified with bareness"*
— Felix Adler

▣▣ *"Simplicity in character, in manners, in style; in all things the supreme excellence is simplicity"*
— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

▣▣ *"Think big thoughts but relish small pleasures"*
— H. Jackson Brown— Jr.

▣▣ *"Life is pretty simple: You do some stuff. Most fails. Some works. You do more of what works. If it works big, others quickly copy it. Then you do something else. The trick is the doing something else"*
— Leonardo da Vinci

▣▣ *"Do the difficult things while they are easy and do the great things while they are small. A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step"*
— Lao Tzu

▣▣ *"A happy life is one which is in accordance with its own nature"*
— Seneca the Younger

How to Use These Quotes

These quotes work best when you treat them like tools, not decorations, small prompts that change what you choose next. Keep the tone consistent with your moment: calm for reflection, firm for boundaries, and warm for encouragement. You'll get more value by repeating one quote for a week than by saving fifty and forgetting them. Practical tip: copy one quote into your notes app and add a single sentence about how you'll apply it today.

- For decluttering motivation: write one quote on a sticky note and place it where you make decisions (closet, desk, shopping cart).
- For focus at work: add a quote to the top of a to-do list, then underline the one task it points you toward.
- For social captions: pair a quote with one real detail (what you removed, what you kept, what you chose) to make it feel lived-in.
- For journaling: answer one question: "What would I stop doing if I believed this quote?"