ABNORMAL
An abnormal person is anyone who behaves differently from you.

ABORTION
Isn’t it funny how everyone in favor of abortion has already been born?
—Patrick Murray

ABSENTMINDEDNESS
No man knows what absentmindedness really is until he finds himself dialing his own telephone number.

ABSURDITY
You never know how absurd your own opinion is until you hear somebody else quoting it.

There is no opinion so absurd but that some philosopher will express it.
—Cicero

ACCIDENTS
What is better than presence of mind in a railway accident? Absence of body.

If most auto accidents happen within five miles of home, why don’t we move ten miles away?
—Michael Davis
There would be far fewer accidents if we could only teach telephone poles to be more careful.

Most accidents happen at home—maybe we ought to move.

**ACCORDIONS**
Accordion: an instrument in harmony with the sentiments of an assassin.
—*Ambrose Bierce*

**ACCOUNTANTS**
Old accountants never die; they just lose their balance.

**ACTING**
The most important thing in acting is honesty. If you can fake that, you’ve got it made.
—*George Burns*

**ACTION**
A man can do more than he thinks he can, but he usually does less than he thinks he does.

The finest eloquence is that which gets things done.
—*David Lloyd George*

Footprints on the sands of time are not made by sitting down.
As I grow older, I pay less attention to what men say. I just watch what they do.
—Andrew Carnegie

**ACTIONS**
Actions speak louder than words—but not so often.
Actions speak louder than words, and they tell fewer lies.

**ACTIVITY**
Activity is contagious.
—Ralph Waldo Emerson

**ACTORS**
Never turn your back on an actor; remember, it was an actor who shot Lincoln.
An actor is a man with an infinite capacity for taking praise.
I deny I ever said that actors are cattle. What I said was, “Actors should be treated like cattle.”
—Alfred Hitchcock

You can pick out the actors by the glazed look that comes into their eyes when the conversation wanders away from themselves.
—Michael Wilding
ACTRESSES
The girl who has half a mind to become an actress doesn’t realize that’s all it requires.

ADAM
Adam was the only man who, when he said a good thing, knew that nobody had said it before him.
—Mark Twain

ADAM’S RIB
Adam’s rib: the original bone of contention.
—Oliver Herford and John Clay

ADOLESCENCE
God’s way of making separation with children easier was to invent adolescence.
—Mark Patinkin

An adolescent is a teenager who acts like a baby when you don’t treat him like an adult.

ADVERSARIES
The rule is perfect: in all matters of opinion our adversaries are insane.
—Mark Twain
ADVERSITY
By trying, we can easily learn to reduce adversity—another man’s, I mean.
—Mark Twain

Adversity introduces a man to himself.

Adversity makes men wise but not rich.
—John Ray

ADVERTISING
The codfish lays ten thousand eggs,
The homely hen lays one.
The codfish never cackles
To tell you what she’s done.
And so we scorn the codfish,
While the humble hen we prize,
Which only goes to show you
That it pays to advertise.

ADVICE
Among the many remedies that won’t cure a cold, the most common is advice.

The easiest way to escape being hated is to mind your own business and refrain from giving good advice.
—W. Burton Baldry

We hate to have some people give us advice because we know how badly they need it themselves.
We always admire the intelligence of those who ask us for advice.

The best time to give advice to your children is while they’re still young enough to believe you know what you’re talking about.

Advice is seldom welcome, and those who need it the most like it the least.
—Lord Chesterfield

If at first you don’t succeed, you’ll find everyone giving you advice.

Healthy people have one thing in common: They always give advice to the sick.

When a man seeks your advice, he generally wants your praise.
—Lord Chesterfield

When a man comes to me for advice, I find out the kind of advice he wants, and I give it to him.
—Josh Billings

How is it possible to expect mankind to take advice when they will not so much as take warning?
—Jonathan Swift

Advice is like castor oil, easy enough to give but dreadful uneasy to take.
—Josh Billings
If you want people to notice your faults, start giving advice.
—Kelly Stephens

Never trust the advice of a man in difficulties.
—Aesop

If you want to get rid of somebody, just tell ’em something for their own good.
—Frank McKinney Hubbard

AESOP’S FOX
Like Aesop’s fox, when he had lost his tail, he would have all his fellow foxes cut off theirs.
—Robert Burton

AFFLICTIONS
If afflictions refine some, they consume others.
—John Ray

AFTER-DINNER SPEECHES
An after-dinner speech should be like a lady’s dress: long enough to cover the subject and short enough to be interesting.

AGE
I think age is a very high price to pay for maturity.

Age is so deceiving. It is amazing how much faster sixty comes after fifty compared to fifty after forty!
When you’re over the hill, you pick up speed.

Age is a question of mind over matter. If you don’t mind, it doesn’t matter.
— Satchel Paige

I’ve reached that age when a good day is one when you get up and nothing hurts.
— H. Martin

The years that a woman subtracts from her age are not lost. They are added to the ages of other women.
— Diane de Poitiers

I refuse to admit that I am more than fifty-two, even if that does make my sons illegitimate.
— Nancy Astor

Age is like love—it cannot be hid.
— Thomas Dekker

Age is not a particularly interesting subject. Anyone can get old. All you have to do is live long enough.
— Groucho Marx

AGING
The only good thing about [aging] is you’re not dead.
— Lillian Hellman

The reason mature men look younger than mature women is that a woman of forty is usually fifty.
HUMOROUS QUOTATIONS

AGNOSTICS
An agnostic is an irreligious person who stays away from church religiously.

AGREEMENT
Ah, don’t say that you agree with me. When people agree with me, I always feel that I must be wrong.
—Oscar Wilde

AILMENTS
We are so fond of each other because our ailments are the same.
—Jonathan Swift

ALARM CLOCKS
An alarm clock goes off by going on.

An alarm clock is built with a mechanism to scare the daylights into you.

ALGEBRA
Stand firm in your refusal to remain conscious during algebra. In real life, I assure you, there is no such thing as algebra.
—Fran Lebowitz