

When Insults Had Class

These glorious insults are from an era before the English language got boiled down to four-letter words . . .

- **The exchange between Churchill & Lady Astor:**

- **She said, "If you were my husband I'd give you poison." □ He said, "If you were my wife, I'd drink it.**

- **A member of Parliament to**

Disraeli:

- **"Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease." "That depends, Sir," said Disraeli, "whether I embrace your policies or your mistress."**

- **"He had delusions of adequacy.." □ Walter Kerr**

- **"He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire."**

Winston Churchill

- **"I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure." □ Clarence Darrow**

- **"He has never been known to**

use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary." - William Faulkner (about Ernest Hemingway)

- "Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it." - Moses Hadas

- "I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it." □ Mark Twain

- "He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends." Oscar Wilde

- "I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend... If you have one." - George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill

- **"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second... If there is one." □ Winston Churchill, in response.**

- **"I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here." - Stephen Bishop**

- **"He is a self-made man and worships his creator." □ John Bright**

- **"I've just learned about his illness. □ Let's hope it's nothing trivial." □ Irvin S. Cobb**

- **"He is not only dull himself; he is the cause of dullness in others." Samuel Johnson**

- **"He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up." □ Paul Keating**

- **"In order to avoid being called a flirt, she always yielded easily." Charles, Count Talleyrand**

- **"He loves nature in spite of what it did to him." □ Forrest Tucker**

- **"Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?" □ Mark Twain**

- **"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork." □ Mae West**

- **"Some cause happiness**

wherever they go; others, whenever they go." □ Oscar Wilde

- "He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts... For support rather than illumination." □ Andrew Lang (1844-1912)

- "He has Van Gogh's ear for music." - Billy Wilder

**- "I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. □ But this wasn't it."
Groucho Marx**

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Written by Cosmic

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