

IDEAS 73

**International Online Teachers Society
Debate
Educational Materials For
Advance and Upper Intermediate
Students**



**International Online Teachers Society
Publishing Committee**



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THE 73rd INTERNATIONAL ONLINE TEACHERS SOCIETY ESSAY CONTEST

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WISDOM=KNOWLEDGE + JUDGMENT

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When virtue and objective come together, we attain wisdom. Being wise is having the ability to know the difference between things and acting accordingly. One can be intelligent, but the ability to use that intelligence at the proper context takes experience and a whole lot of trial and error in the process. To be wise is to be able to understand things at varying perspectives, not just knowing a lot of things.

In this modern world, many have been able to accumulate tremendous amounts of knowledge. They are able to pursue higher studies, work at prime jobs and become leaders. However, it is sad when these individuals fail to optimize their knowledge and amass wisdom. They simply fail to temper their intelligence with common sense, or worse yet, they become arrogant of their erudition and forget their humanity. Thus, they fail miserably at gaining wisdom at a faster rate than earning money.

Still, there are some people that are able to make decisions by using both knowledge and wisdom. They know which decisions work best for all concerned, and unselfishly pursue noble purposes in their day-to-day lives. They never see logic in making hard decisions very quickly. Such wise people look at all angles of a story before passing judgment. Such individuals are willing to wait for the right time to come, knowing that haste makes waste. For them, it's always worth being wise. They are confident in the knowledge that they possess, but are readily able to temper down conceit with sensible judgment.

It has long been said that with age comes wisdom. Well, I have seen many an old person in my time that seem not to have gained any wisdom from living up to their age. People who do not learn from the lessons of their past but continue making the same mistakes over and over seem not to gain wisdom from history. Experience is the best teacher they say, but for these people, it would probably take a whole lot of negative experiences to teach them to reorient their perspectives.

We need to derive lessons from what we experience. Those lessons help us know better and know more, adding to our arsenal of knowledge. Thus, with various facts and figures present in our reservoir, we begin to form sense and sensibility. We can begin to formulate and reformulate our considerations in life. Whatever is negative or not helpful, we should learn to discard. Accumulating too much garbage is harmful, right? In the same manner, if we keep too many negative feelings, for instance, bottled up inside, we might never find our way to true wisdom. Learn from experience, and move on as soon as you can. That helps us achieve wisdom.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Define wisdom.
2. Why is it easier to amass knowledge than wisdom?
3. Do you find it easy to make judgments? Why or why not?
4. Talk about specific situations in your life when your wisdom was put to the test.
5. How do you personally accumulate wisdom?



WISENING UP AS A PARENT

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Becoming a parent can bring wonderful lessons along the way that enable someone to become much wiser. However, more often than not, very few among us are able to gain adequate wisdom from the many years we spend as parents. Much like marriage, parenthood is a lifelong process. There are instances when we are able to get on quickly with the lessons that we get taught about. And then there are the bad days when we ask ourselves, "What have I done wrong? Why does everything seem to turn out the opposite of what I expect?"

We should learn not to despair for our shortcomings. There's no manual for parents like us, and our children do not come with a list of instructions that we should follow. They all turn out differently, no matter how alike they may seem. It takes a lot of patience to "grow" as our children do. But we should be determined to learn as much as we can in the little time that we are still able to interact with our children. When the time comes for them to fly from the roost, we might not have the opportunity again.

Thankfully children, especially nowadays, seem to have faster pick-up times than us before. They learn quickly, probably because there's a lot more learning to be done than ever before. They easily pick up cues and clues from our own behavior, and learn to use their knowledge to gain greater wisdom. Their learning curves might have become steeper, but they are able to quickly overcome their challenges and become good. But many of us seem not to be able to adjust to this rapid pace. We fail to comprehend that their rate is not the same as ours.

On the other hand, many of us fail to understand why children are as they are now. We fail to understand that our children are simply not miniatures of us. They're unique, one from the other. No two children are ever alike. And yet, many of us prefer to be steeped in stubbornness and expect our children to turn out the same way: successful, intelligent, and uncomplicated.

I myself am guilty of this, and have thankfully gained wisdom from many, many others around me. Those others include my own children, who, in their innocence and youth, have managed to squeeze out semblances of wisdom from me. During the many times I have shown stupidity, they have thankfully stood by me and made me feel I'm still perfect. They have assured me that I am only acting in their own best interests and that I have acted wisely. They believe within themselves that I am still the wiser one.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. What are the qualities of a wise parent?
2. Do you believe you have been able to contribute to your parents' wisdom? How?
3. How does today's generation derive wisdom, in your opinion?
4. Are there valuable lessons in life that have made you wiser? Cite specific ones, as needed.
5. Be able to talk about how your parents have been able to teach you wisdom.



TRUE WISDOM

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Who among us doesn't want to have true wisdom? We all would like to possess and gain true wisdom but it's not that easy to achieve it. We cannot equate wisdom with intelligence although everybody also value intelligence. This is because everybody wants to be smart too. Having intelligence is showing mental keenness and book knowledge. It can also be considered a kind of reasoning, the ability to learn and this is actually what makes intelligence an innate character. It is the amount of knowledge that a person has.

As a matter of fact, we can similarly say that intelligence correlates to being a witty person. When we talk of wisdom, it is the knowledge that is learned, acquired and gained which is accumulated over a lifetime. Therefore, wisdom according to cognitive scientists termed it like "crystallized intelligence" which definitely improves as a person ages. On the other hand, scientists called intelligence as "fluid intelligence" which decreases or fluctuates, meaning it is somewhat reduced during adulthood.

True wisdom definitely is valued like beauty. We want to do sustain and preserve it as long as we could hold on to it. But when it fades, we tend to become fools. How then can we define wisdom after all? Wisdom comes from knowledge and experience. I believe that wisdom is being a rational person. We have to continually acquire knowledge and make use of it in order for us to come up with better results each time.

Having true wisdom is being able to understand all sides of an issue without being biased. That is, you don't let emotional or personal feelings come your way. Then, you are being objective in this way and you will see things in a different perspective. Wisdom is being open-minded, finding empathy and also realizing the fact that we all have our flaws and that we have our own life stories which influences our actions. True wisdom means you realize that you could also go wrong and we are prone to committing mistakes.

Yes, being wise means knowing that it's impossible for us to know everything. Recognizing your errors lead you to greater wisdom. We build our reputation when we accept our mistakes so that our advices can be trusted by the people around us. When we face reality and learn to accept our mistakes, we are exercising true wisdom. Being wise is to know that life has its unexpected turns. As Cicero said, "Any man is liable to err; only a fool persists in error."

Wisdom has too many meanings and can mean not only a thousand and one but so much more. We cannot base wisdom through knowledge. Wisdom has been known to be able to have the ability to know the distinction of good and evil. It means to combine knowledge with our correct assessment of the facts and situations that surround us. So then if anyone wants to have wisdom, he may acquire it in many and different ways. Let it be seen and manifest in our various field of knowledge and activity. All these positive qualities make a person have true wisdom, wouldn't you want to acquire it?

Questions for discussion:

1. How can you differentiate wisdom from intelligence? Explain your answer.
2. Is wisdom acquired intelligence? Why or why not?
3. How would you define true wisdom?
4. Is being wise, being intelligent too? Why or why not?
5. Would it be wiser if we subject ourselves to corrections of our errors or mistakes? Why or why not?



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