

## When Insults Had Class

These glorious insults are from an era " before" the English language got boiled down to 4-letter words .

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**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 I'm afraid this wasn't it."***

*Groucho Marx*