Sample Inspirational Sayings

*We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.*

–Aristotle, ancient Greek philosopher

*Storms make oaks take deeper roots.*

–Proverb

*What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.*

–Henry Haskins, stockbroker and originator of many great quotations

*I am convinced life is 10 percent what happens to me and 90 percent how I react to it.*

–Charles R. Swindoll, founder of Stonebriar Community Church in Frisco, Texas

*You miss 100 percent of the shots you don’t take.*

–Wayne Gretzky, NHL hockey legend

*An obstacle is often a stepping stone.*

–William Prescott, Revolutionary War colonel

*If we only did things that were easy, we wouldn’t actually be learning anything. We’d just be practicing things we already knew.*

–David Dockterman, education lecturer at Harvard University

*Character is a diamond that scratches every other stone.*

–Cyrus A. Bartol, 19th-century pastor of West Church in Boston

*The master has failed more times than the beginner has even tried.*

–Stephen McCranie, author of *Mal and Chad* comic

*I’ve missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I’ve lost almost 300 games. Twenty-six times I’ve been trusted to take the game-winning shot and missed. I’ve failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.*

–Michael Jordan, NBA basketball legend

*People [with a growth mindset]**believe that their talents and abilities can be developed through passion, education, and persistence. For them . . . it’s about a commitment to learning*—*taking informed risks and learning from the results, surrounding yourself with people who will challenge you to grow, [and] looking frankly at your deficiencies and seeking to remedy them.*

–Carol Dweck, author of *Mindset*

*I am not afraid of storms, for I am learning how to sail my ship.*

–Louisa May Alcott, 19th-century American poet and author of *Little Women*

*The greatest of faults, I should say, is to be conscious of none.*

–Thomas Carlyle, 19th-century Scottish philosopher and teacher

*Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved.*

–Helen Keller, educator and journalist

*Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.*

–Andrew Carnegie, 19th-century Scottish American industrialist and steel magnate

*Nothing can stop the . . . [person] with the right mental attitude from achieving . . . [his or her] goal; nothing on Earth can help the . . . [person] with the wrong mental attitude.*

–Thomas Jefferson, third president of the United States

*A failure is . . . [someone] who has blundered but is not able to cash in on the experience.*

–Elbert Hubbard, American writer, publisher, artist, and philosopher

*The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack of will.*

–Vince Lombardi, NFL football coach legend

*Don’t let failure be an ending; make it a beginning.*

–Unknown

*Whether you think you can, or you think you can’t, you’re right.*

–Henry Ford, American industrialist and inventor

*Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.*

–Henry Ford, American industrialist and inventor

*Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak. Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.*

–Sir Winston Churchill, British prime minister in the mid-1900s

*Great minds discuss ideas. Average minds discuss events. Small minds discuss people.*

–Eleanor Roosevelt, longest-serving First Lady of the United States

*Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try.*

–Gail Devers, American track and field athlete and three-time Olympic champion