**Procrastination**

**My mother said, "You won't amount to anything because you procrastinate." I said, "Just wait." *(Judy Tenuta, in Catholic Digest)***

**I was gonna go to Procrastinators Anonymous, but they keep delaying having a meeting. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**Apple Computer introduced its pioneering, user-friendly Macintosh computer in 1984. The “Mac” quickly became popular and appeared likely to dominate the field. But Apple officials were reluctant to license the Mac’s operating system to other manufacturers and give up control of their product. Meanwhile, Microsoft developed the “Windows” system for rival IBM computers and compatible machines. Microsoft licensed its operating system to whoever could pay the price, and its sales boomed. Last September Apple finally licensed the Mac technology. But by then, most computer manufacturers were committed to Windows and few customers signed up. “Apple made the right decision,” says financial analyst Douglas Kass of Santa Cruz, California. “They just waited too long to make it.” *(Edwin, Jr. & Sally Valente Kiester, in Reader’s Digest)***

**On the bus: “It’s awful to be indecisive. You’re like a centipede who’s told to put his best foot forward.” *(Alabama Rural Water Association Monthly Newsletter)***

**Becoming a procrastinator just doesn't happen overnight. *(The Milwaukee Journal)***

**Librarian says to Ziggy: "Sorry, sir. All the books on procrastination are overdue!" *(Tom Wilson, in Ziggy comic strip)***

**Never do today what you can put off till tomorrow. Delay may give clearer light as to what is best to be done. *(Aaron Burr)***

**First woman: "I'd like you to cater a meeting of my Procrastinators Club." Second woman: "Certainly! What day is your meeting?" First woman: "Wednesday." Second woman: "And what day would like me to cater the meeting?" First woman: "Saturday." *(Dean Young and Denis Lebrun, in Blondie comic strip)***

**With Christmas falling at the end of the week and many offices closed on Christmas Eve, consumers have extra incentive to procrastinate this year. *(Tracy Mullin, president and CEO of the National Retail Federation, as it appeared in the Rocky Mountain News, December 24, 2004)***

**The Procrastinators Club of America has gotten around to naming its choice of today’s best comedy team: Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**DOING IT ANYWAY: Creativity is there all the time. We're the ones who leave it. We wait for the inspiration to start, yet it's really the other way around -- first the action, then the inspiration. *(Sark, in The Bodacious Book of Succulence)***

**All we have is here and now, and that’s why procrastination feels so right. Procrastination is not the problem. It’s the solution. *(Ellen DeGeneres)***

**He who deliberates fully before taking a step will spend his entire life on one leg. *(Chinese proverb)***

**The most pernicious aspect of procrastination is that it can become a habit. We don’t just put off our lives today; we put them off till our deathbed. Never forget: This very moment, we can change our lives. There never was a moment, and never will be, when we are without the power to alter our destiny. This second, we can turn the tables on resistance. This second, we can sit down and do our work. *(Steven Pressfield, in The War of Art: Winning the Inner Creative Battle)***

**Procrastination is hardening of the oughteries. *(Anonymous)***

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**He who hesitates is interrupted. *(Franklin P. Jones, in Quote)***

**He who hesitates is last. *(The Wit and Wisdom of Mae West, edited by Joseph Weintraub)***

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**Procrastination is the bad habit of putting off until the day after tomorrow what should have been done the day before yesterday. *(Napoleon Hill)***

**A man who procrastinates in his choosing will inevitably have his choice made for him by circumstance. *(Hunter S. Thompson, journalist)***

**One year ago: A congressional report found that intelligence agencies that were supposed to protect Americans from the Sept. 11 hijackers failed to do so because were poorly organized, poorly equipped and slow to pursue clues that might have prevented the attacks. (*Rocky Mountain News, December 11, 2003)***

**Would You Like to Join . . . The Procrastinators Club? Maybe next week. *(gcfl.com, in Reader's Digest)***

**If it weren’t for the last minute, a lot of things wouldn’t get done. *(Michael S. Traylor)***

**Ziggy: “If it wasn’t for procrastination, I’d have nothing to look forward to tomorrow!” *(Tom Wilson, in Ziggy comic strip)***

**Lord, make me chaste, but not yet. *(Augustine of Hippo)***

**Procrastination is the art of keeping up with yesterday. *(Don Marquis, humorist)***

Procrastination means you know what you need to do and you don’t do it. If you don’t know what to do, you aren’t procrastinating. You are thinking. *(Lynn Lively, in The Procrastinator’s Guide to Success)*

**There is much in life that doesn't have to be done instantly. There are phone calls that don't have to be returned immediately. There are many difficult problems and decisions that actually improve when they are left to simmer a little while. The rhythm of life is intricate but orderly, tenacious but fragile. To keep that in mind is to hold the key to survival. *(Judge Shirley M. Hufstedler)***

**Never put off until tomorrow what you can manage to wriggle out of today. *(Doug Larson, United Features Syndicate)***

**Ziggy: “I know my first new year’s resolution should be to stop procrastinating because I haven’t gotten around to making last year’s list yet!” *(Tom Wilson, in Ziggy comic strip)***

**One of the nicest thing about gardening is that if you put it off long enough it’s eventually too late. *(Bill Vaughan, in Reader’s Digest)***

**A producer for RKO studios spotted a beautiful blonde demonstrating refrigerators at a Los Angeles trade show. But he waited too long before signing her and Columbia moved in, whisking her away from the freezer. At first, the new sex star chose the name Marilyn, but the studio decided it was too close to Marilyn Monroe, so she settled for Kim Novak. *(Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 5)***

**The really happy people are those who have broken the chains of procrastination, those who find satisfaction in doing the job at hand. They’re full of eagerness, zest, productivity. You can be, too. *(Norman Vincent Peale)***

**Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone. *(Pablo Picasso)***

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**The price of procrastination: "Procrastinating on financial matters can cost you big in the long run," said Russ Wiles in AZCentral.com. Many Americans struggle with the pressure of planning for retirement, drafting a will, or developing a savings plan. Some are gripped by the fear of making a mistake, while others are intimidated by not knowing how to proceed. Delaying some matters can be especially costly. One of the worst financial behaviors is paying only the minimum on your credit cards, thinking that you will eventually ramp up payments. Compounding interest will just sink you further in debt. There's also no better time than now to make sure that you have enough savings to cover three to six months' worth of expenses, and to get serious about retirement. "Even individuals who start late with retirement planning can make headway if they just get going." *(The Week magazine, April 27, 2018)***

**The price of procrastination: More than just a lazy habit, procrastination can be bad for your health, suggests a study of more than 3,500 students in Sweden. Over nine months, those who habitually delayed important tasks experienced more anxiety and depression, poor sleep, and pain in the neck, shoulders and back. Fortunately, cognitive behavioral therapy, either in person or through books and websites, can help. Strategies include learning to breakdown big goals into smaller ones and managing distractions – for example, turning off your smartphone until you’ve finished a task. *(Reader’s Digest, September, 2023, page 40)***

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**Never put off ‘til tomorrow what you can put off ‘til the day after tomorrow! *(Tom Wilson, in Ziggy comic strip)***

**Always put off until tomorrow what you shouldn’t do at all. *(Morris Mandel, in Jewish Press)***

**Putting off an easy thing makes it hard. Putting off a hard thing makes it impossible. *(George Claude Lorimer)***

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**Helga: “Hagar, you know how I keep asking you to rake the leaves, and you keep putting it off?” Hagar: “Yeah.” As snow begins to fall, Helga again says to Hagar: “Well, never mind.” *(Chris Browne, in Hagar comic strip)***

**The science of putting it off: Chronic procrastination can feel like a character flaw, but a new study indicates that rather than lamenting your lack of will power, you can just blame your parents. Researchers at the University of Colorado, Boulder, surveyed pairs of identical and fraternal twins about their tendency to procrastinate and to set and meet goals, and their level of impulsiveness. Identical twins were much more likely to match answers than fraternals, showing that genetics plays a significant role in forming these habits. "Learning more about the underpinnings of procrastination may help develop interventions to prevent it," study author Daniel Gustavson tells NatureWorldNews.com. Researchers also believe impulsiveness, which overlaps with procrastination tendencies, may have given our ancestors an evolutionary advantage by helping them focus on day-to-day survival rather than long-term goals. Procrastination could be a by-product of that thinking, showing how behavioral traits that evolved millennia ago can clash with the demands of modern life. *(The Week magazine, April 25, 2014)***

**Boy: “Peter, it’s your turn to shovel the driveway.” Peter: “I’ll get right on it.” Boy: “Never mind. The snow melted.” Peter: “Who says procrastination doesn’t pay?” *(Bill Amend, in Foxtrot comic strip)***

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**Some day I’ll (isle) is a famous resort. *(Larry McGlaughin)***

**Someday is not a day of the week. *(Bits & Pieces) 521982***

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**Bill: "Will you ever stop procrastinating?" Shirley: "I don't know. We'll have to wait and see." *(The American Legion magazine)***

**The habit of always putting off an experience until you can afford it, or until the time is right, or until you know how to do it is one of the greatest burglars of joy. Be deliberate, but once you’ve made up your mind – jump in. *(Charles R. Swindoll)***

**First lady: “You certainly put off your taxes until the last minute.” Second lady: “I’ve got three and a half days before the filing deadline. For some of us that’s hardly last minute.” A third lady then enters the room and says: “Doing your taxes already?” *(Jan Eliot, in Stone Soup)***

**Shortly before a term paper was due, I asked a classmate how far along he was with his paper. "Oh," he said, "I've just about completed my preliminary procrastination." *(H. Allen Hilsenberg, in Reader's Digest)***

**The nice thing about things that are urgent is that if you wait long enough they aren't urgent anymore. *(Amos Tversky, psychologist)***

**To think too long about doing a thing often becomes its undoing. *(Eva Young)***

**It is the job that is never started that takes longest to finish. *(J. R. R. Tolkien)***

**Procrastination traditionally has been linked to moral lapse or character deficit, as Lord Chesterfield observed: “No idleness, no laziness, no procrastination: never putt off ‘til tomorrow what you can do today.” *(Michael Haederle, in Rocky Mountain News)***

**Never put off till tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow. *(Mark Twain)***

**Procrastination is a nearly universal human trait. It keeps several businesses humming along: Without it, Federal Express, belated birthday cards and income tax filing extensions would be unnecessary. (Michael Haederle, in Rocky Mountain News)**

**Know the true value of time! Snatch, seize, and enjoy every moment of it. No idleness, no laziness, no procrastination. Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today. *(Lord Chesterfield Stanhope)***

**Procrastination is the fear of success. People procrastinate because they are afraid of the success that they know will result if they move ahead now. Because success is heavy, it carries a responsibility with it. It is much easier to procrastinate and live on the “someday I’ll” philosophy. *(Denis Waitley)***

**No one ever procrastinated their way to the top. *(Sign on a billboard in New York City)***

**I never put off till tomorrow what I can possibly do the day after. *(Oscar Wilde)***

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**When it comes to work, procrastination is an even bigger problem. It leads to decreased productivity and increased stress for everyone involved. I think one of the reasons people procrastinate at work is because they are afraid. While most people would never admit it, they are, on some level, afraid of all the possibilities of success. If they procrastinate and don’t get the work done on time, or leave it to the last second so they can’t give the report or presentation all the attention it deserves, they leave themselves an out. *(Carissa Van deWalle, in Women’s Edition)***

**Friend: “Can you work on my Jeep tomorrow, Beetle?” Beetle: “Sorry. I’m all filled up tomorrow. Maybe the day after tomorrow. Never put off till tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow.” *(Nort Walker, in Beetle Bailey comic strip)***

**Some 95 percent of workers procrastinate occasionally, according to a University of Calgary study; 15 percent to 20 percent are chronic procrastinators. *(BusinessWeek, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 2, 2007)***

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