**Compliments**

**Compliments are great anti-depressants, and they have no side effects. (Rose L. Korotkin)**

**One of the best compliments a person can pay you is to say that you have a balanced view of life. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Hagar: “Lucky Eddie, you’ve cooked good slop and you’ve cooked bad slop. But this is the best slop you’ve ever cooked!!” Lucky Eddie: “Gee, thanks, Hagar! Everyone needs a compliment now and then!” *(Dik Browne, in Hagar the Horrible comic strip)***

**Fish for no compliments; they are generally caught in shallow water. *(D. Smith, in Reader's Digest)***

**Linus: “Here, I made us some hot chocolate. How do you like it?” Lucy: “Well, if I were trapped behind enemy lines and the temperature was thirty-below-zero, I might say it tasted pretty good.” Linus: “I don't suppose that's really much of a compliment.” *(Charles M. Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)***

**A woman seeking counsel from Dr. George W. Crane, the psychologist,**

**confided that she hated her husband, and intended to divorce him. “I want to hurt him all I can,” she declared firmly. “Well, in that case,” said Dr. Crane, “I advise you to start showering him with compliments. When you have become indispensable to him, when he thinks you love him devotedly, then start the divorce action. That is the way to hurt him.” Some months later the wife returned to report that all was going well. She had followed the suggested course. “Good,” said Dr. Crane. “Now’s the time to file for divorce.” “Divorce!” the woman said indignantly. “Never. I love my husband dearly!” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Compliments: If there is something laudable, make sure that it is audible. *(Madge M. Mullin, in Reader's Digest)***

**There is more to a compliment than flattery, however. An insecure compliment sweetens the tongue, but sours the stomach. And the flowery phrase is usually unnecessary. The simplest compliment can be the most profound. (Mark R. Littleton, in Reader’s Digest)**

**A hunger for praise: Has schools’ focus on instilling self-esteem turned young people into narcissists? New research has found that college students have such a compulsive need for boosts to their egos that they’ll choose compliments over their favorite foods, money, or even sex. “I was shocked,” lead researcher Brad Bushman tells The New York Times. “This desire to feel worthy and valuable trumps almost any other pleasant activity you can imagine.” In the study, University of Michigan students were asked to choose from among several pleasurable activities, such as sex, eating their favorite foods, receiving a paycheck, getting a good grade, or being given a nice compliment. Most chose the ego boosts of a compliment or a good grade. The students’ responses indicated they craved praise irrationally, similar to the way addicts “want” their fix. The danger of this compulsion, said researcher Jennifer Crocker, is that it may keep young people from admitting mistakes and accepting criticism. “Admitting you were wrong may be uncomfortable for self-esteem at the moment,” Crocker said, “but ultimately it could lead to better learning, relationships, growth, and even future self-esteem.” *(The Week magazine, February 4, 2011)***

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**Lucy: “Those are nice shoes, Rerun.” Rerun: “They feel good. My other shoes were always a little tight. I like the color, and the soles feel bouncy, and the laces are easy to tie.” Lucy: “When you get a compliment, all you have to say is, ‘thank you’!” Rerun: “I’m sorry . . . I’ve never had a compliment before.” *(Charles M. Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)***

**Never pay a compliment as though you expected a receipt. *(Bits & Pieces)***

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**As a child, one looks for compliments. As an adult, one looks for evidence of effectiveness. *(Ben Bradlee, in A Good Life)***

**Some people pay a compliment as if they expected a receipt. *(Kin Hubbard)***

**Compliments seem few and far between these days, sighs a gentlewoman we know. "It's too bad because they provide an element of grace in our contacts with one another." It's true. Compliments do much for the morale; they prop us up in the places where we tend to lean a bit. I recall reading that Mark Twain once said he could go for two months on a good compliment. But the most perfect compliment I've ever heard of was given by Joseph Choate, one-time U.S. ambassador to Great Britain. When asked who he would like to be if he could come back to earth again after he died, he replied without an instant's hesitation: "Mrs. Choate's second husband." *(Doris Ann Krupinski, in Greendale, Wisconsin, Village Life)***

**Gloria: “I notice you don’t take compliments very well.” Lance: “I’m out of practice.” *(J. C. Duffy, in The Fusco Brothers comic strip)***

**Mark Twain remarked that he could live for two months on one good compliment. (Mark R. Littleton, in Reader's Digest)**

**It is a great mistake for men to give up paying compliments, for when they give up saying what is charming, they give up thinking what is charming. *(Oscar Wilde)***

**The women's-lib girls don't like patronizing compliments. So what do you say -- "You're looking very equal today"? (Bill Vaughn, in Kansas City Star)**

**Nothing makes people so worthy of compliments as occasionally receiving them. One is more delightful for being told one is delightful – just as one is more angry for being told one is angry. *(Katharine Fullerton Gerould, American writer)***

**I have yet to be bored by someone paying me a compliment. *(Otto Van Isch)***

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