

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY  
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SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES

## Dear Young People.....

Here are ten bits of advice from an old guy who has always done what he liked and got well paid for it.

**First, be lucky.**

Watch out for unexpected changes and be ready to jump at them whenever they come by.

**Second, be competent.**

Find out what you can do well, and work hard to do it better.

**Third, be active.**

Do not imagine that you need to learn everything before you can do anything.

**Fourth, be daring.**

Do not let fear of failure stop you from doing something great.

**Fifth, be cosmopolitan.**

Travel and learn foreign languages when you are young, and you will have friends all over the world when you are old.

**Sixth, be flexible.**

Always be ready to quit what you are doing and start a new career.

**Seventh, be generous.**

Give your enemies more credit than they deserve, and they will become your friends.

**Eighth, be lucid.**

In almost all professions, speaking and writing clearly is the way to become a leader.

**Ninth, be sharing.**

Working with a group to achieve a shared goal is usually more satisfying than working alone.

**Tenth, be loving.**

In the long run, family and friends are more important than work and career.

*Freeman J. Dyson*

Freeman Dyson  
Scientist and Writer



**Mr. Freeman Dyson** is a British-born American theoretical physicist and mathematician, famous for his work in quantum field theory, solid-state physics, and nuclear engineering. He is a member of the Board of Sponsors of The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. Dyson also did work in a variety of topics in mathematics, such as topology, analysis, number theory and random matrices. Professor Dyson's friend, the neurologist and author Oliver Sacks, said: "A favorite word of Freeman's about doing science and being creative is the word 'subversive.' He feels it's rather important not only to be not orthodox, but to be subversive, and he's done that all his life."