

Epigram - definition of epigram by The Free Dictionary

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epigram

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epigram

witticism, quip; ingenious saying tersely expressed

Not to be confused with:

epigraph – an inscription on a building or statue; quotation at the beginning of a book or chapter

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ep·i·gram (ěp'ĩ-grăġm')

n.

1. A short, witty poem expressing a single thought or observation.
2. A concise, clever, often paradoxical statement.
3. Epigrammatic discourse or expression.

[Middle English, from Old French *epigramme*, from Latin *epigramma*, from Greek, from *epigraphein*, *to mark the surface, inscribe* : *epi-*, *epi-* + *graphein*, *to write*; see [gerbh-](#) in [Indo-European roots](#).]

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epigram ('epɪ,græm)

n

1. a witty, often paradoxical remark, concisely expressed
2. (Poetry) a short, pungent, and often satirical poem, esp one having a witty and ingenious ending

[C15: from Latin *epigramma*, from Greek: inscription, from *epigraphein* to write upon, from *graphein* to write]

,epigram'matic, ,epigram'matical *adj*

,epigram'matically *adv*

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ep·i·gram ('epɪ,græm)

n.

1. a witty, ingenious, or pointed saying tersely expressed.

2. epigrammatic expression: *a genius for epigram*.

3. a short, concise poem, often satirical, displaying a witty or ingenious turn of thought.

[1400–50; late Middle English < Latin *epigramma* < Greek *epígramma* inscription, epigram. See [epi-](#), [-gram](#)¹]

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epigram

a pithy statement, often containing a paradox. — **epigrammatist**, *n*.

See also: [Proverbs](#)

a pithy statement, often containing a paradox.

See also: [Language](#)

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epigram

A brief but memorable statement making a pithy observation.

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Noun 1. epigram - a witty saying

quip

locution, **saying**, **expression** - a word or phrase that particular people use in particular situations; "pardon the expression"

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epigram

noun **witticism**, **quip**, **aphorism**, **bon mot**, **witty saying**, **witty poem** *Oscar Wilde was famous for his epigrams.*

Quotations

"A thing well said will be wit in all languages" [John Dryden *Essay of Dramatic Poesy*]

Collins Thesaurus of the English Language – Complete and Unabridged 2nd Edition. 2002 © HarperCollins Publishers 1995, 2002

Translations

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epigram ['epɪgræm] *N* → **epigrama** *m*

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1992, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2005

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