



*Ideas that make you
a better leader*

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If you Google the word leadership you can get about 479,000,000 results, each definition as unique as an individual leader. It's a difficult concept to define, perhaps because it means so many things to different people.

Here are 50 great ways to define leadership--choose the ones that fits best for you.

1. "A leader is best when people barely know he exists, when his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will say: we did it ourselves." --*Lao Tzu*
2. "A good leader takes a little more than his share of the blame, a little less than his share of the credit." --*Arnold Glasow*
3. "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." --*Martin Luther King Jr*
4. "You don't need a title to be a leader." --*Mark Sanborn*
5. "It is better to lead from behind and to put others in front, especially when you celebrate victory when nice things occur. You take the front line when there is danger. Then people will appreciate your leadership." --*Nelson Mandela*

6. "Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other." --*John F. Kennedy*
7. "The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one that gets the people to do the greatest things." --*Ronald Reagan*
8. "Successful leadership is leading with the heart, not just the head. They possess qualities like empathy, compassion and courage." --*Bill George*
9. "The task of leadership is not to put greatness into people, but to elicit it, for the greatness is there already." --*John Buchan*
10. "A great person attracts great people and knows how to hold them together."--*Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe*
11. "When the leadership is right and the time is right, the people can always be counted upon to follow--to the end at all costs." --*Harold J. Seymour*
12. "Leaders must be self-reliant individuals with great tenacity and stamina."--*Thomas E. Cronin*
13. "Leadership: The capacity and will to rally people to a common purpose together with the character that inspires confidence and trust." --*Bernard Montgomery*
14. "All of the great leaders have had one characteristic in common: it was the willingness to confront unequivocally the major anxiety of their people in their time. This, and not much else, is the essence of leadership." --*John Kenneth Galbraith*

15. "Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality." --*Warren Bennis*

16. "Leadership defines what the future should look like, aligns people with that vision, and inspires them to make it happen, despite the obstacles." --*John Kotter*

17. " I start with the premise that the function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers." --*Ralph Nader*

18. "I think leadership comes from integrity--that you do whatever you ask others to do. I think there are non-obvious ways to lead. Just by providing a good example as a parent, a friend, a neighbor makes it possible for other people to see better ways to do things. Leadership does not need to be a dramatic, fist in the air and trumpets blaring, activity." --*Scott Berkun*

19. "Leadership is the capacity to influence others through inspiration motivated by passion, generated by vision, produced by a conviction, ignited by a purpose." --*Myles Munroe*

20. "Leadership is unlocking people's potential to become better." --*Bill Bradley*

21. "The art of leadership is saying no, not saying yes. It is very easy to say yes." ----*Tony Blair*

22. "Effective leadership is not about making speeches or being liked; leadership is defined by results not attributes." --*Peter F. Drucker*

23. "One measure of leadership is the caliber of people who choose to follow you." --*Dennis Peer*

24. "Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower." --*Steve Jobs*

25. "Leadership is simply causing other people to do what the leaders want.

Good leadership, whether formal or informal, is helping other people rise to

their full potential while accomplishing the mission and goals of the

organization. All members of an organization, who are responsible for the

work of others, have the potential to be good leaders if properly developed." -

-*Bob Mason*

26. "Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want

done because he wants to do it." --*Dwight Eisenhower*

27. "The very essence of leadership is that you have to have a vision. It's got

to be a vision you articulate clearly and forcefully on every occasion. You

can't blow an uncertain trumpet." --*Theodore Hesburgh*

28. "Leadership is the art of mobilizing others to want to struggle for shared

aspirations." --*James Kouzes and Barry Posner*

29. "A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes

people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be." --*Rosalynn*

Carter

30. "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and

become more, you are a leader." -- *John Quincy Adams*

31. "Leadership is not a person or a position. It is a complex moral relationship

between people, based on trust, obligation, commitment, emotion, and a

shared vision of the good." --*Joanne Ciulla*

32. "The challenge of leadership is to be strong, but not rude; be kind, but not weak; be bold, but not bully; be thoughtful, but not lazy; be humble, but not timid; be proud, but not arrogant; have humor, but without folly." --*Jim Rohn*

33. "Leadership is lifting a person's vision to high sights, the raising of a person's performance to a higher standard, the building of a personality beyond its normal limitations." --*Peter Drucker*

34. "Leadership is an opportunity to serve. It is not a trumpet call to self-importance." --*J. Donald Walters*

35. "Leadership is a matter of having people look at you and gain confidence, seeing how you react. If you're in control, they're in control." --*Tom Landry*

36. "A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way." --*John Maxwell*

37. "Leadership is the process of persuasion or example by which an individual (or leadership team) induces a group to pursue objectives held by the leader or shared by the leader and his or her followers."--*John W. Gardner*

38. "My definition of a leader... is a man who can persuade people to do what they don't want to do, or do what they're too lazy to do, and like it." --*Harry S. Truman*

39. "Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality." --*Warren Bennis*

40. "A leader is a dealer in hope." --*Napoleon Bonaparte*

41. Leadership is the collective action of everyone you influence. Your behavior--your actions and your words--determines how you influence. Our job as leaders is to energize whatever marshals action within others. --*David Caullo*

42. "A leader has to be somebody who's getting people to do things which don't seem to make sense to them or are not in their best interest--like convincing people that they should work 14 hours a day so that someone else can make more money." --*Scott Adams*

43. "Leadership is the ability to guide others without force into a direction or decision that leaves them still feeling empowered and accomplished." --*Lisa Cash Hanson*

44. "The task of the leader is to get his people from where they are to where they have not been." --*Henry Kissinger*

45. "Leadership is about service to others and a commitment to developing more servants as leaders. It involves co-creation of a commitment to a mission." --*Robert Greenleaf*

46. "Leadership is working with and through others to achieve objectives." --*Paul Hersey*

47. "Management is about arranging and telling. Leadership is about nurturing and enhancing." --*Tom Peters*

48. "Leadership is a potent combination of strategy and character. But if you must be without one, be without the strategy." --*Norman Schwarzkopf*

49. "A leader's role is to raise people's aspirations for what they can become and to release their energies so they will try to get there." --David R. Gergen

50. "Leadership is unlocking people's potential to become better." --Bill Bradley

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