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Friday, 22 March, 2002, 18:22 GMT

A lifetime of public speaking



Lady Thatcher: "I love being at the centre of things"

Baroness Thatcher has been ordered by doctors to make no more public speeches on health grounds.

Here is a reminder of what we will be missing:

- **"I wasn't lucky. I deserved it"**
On receiving a school prize, aged nine
- **"There is no alternative."**
Comment made on several occasions about her economic policy, giving rise, through the initial letters of the words, to her nickname "Tina"
- **"I am not hard - I'm frightfully soft. But I will not be hounded."**
Interview, 1972
- **"It will be years - and not in my time - before a woman will lead the party or become Prime Minister."**
Speech, 1974
- **"Let our children grow tall, and some taller than others if they have it in them to do so."**
Speech in United States, 1975
- **"I've got a woman's ability to stick to a job and get on with it when everyone else walks off and leaves it."**
Speech, 1975
- **"I stand before you tonight in my green chiffon evening gown, my face softly made up, my fair hair gently waved. The Iron Lady of the Western World? Me? A Cold War warrior? Well, yes - if that is how they wish to interpret my defence of values and freedoms fundamental to our way of life."**
Speech, 1976, after the Kremlin dubbed her the Iron Lady
- **"Britain is no longer in the politics of the pendulum, but of the ratchet."**

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The BBC's Nick Jones

"It follows reports that she intends to scale down her commitments"

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Speech to the Institute of Public Relations, 1977

- **"I can trust my husband not to fall asleep on a public platform and he usually claps in the right places."**
Interview, 1978
- **"Votes do not fall from the trees like ripe plums. They have to be fought for."**
Private meeting of Tory candidates before the 1979 General Election
- **"Any woman who understands the problems of running a home will be nearer to understanding the problems of running a country."**
Election campaign, 1979
- **"If a woman like Eva Peron with no ideals can get that far, think how far I can go with all the ideals that I have."**
Interview, 1980
- **"I love argument, I love debate. I don't expect anyone just to sit there and agree with me, that's not their job."**
Interview, 1980
- **"To those waiting with bated breath for that favourite media catchphrase, the U-turn, I have only one thing to say, you turn if you want to. The lady's not for turning."**
Speech at Conservative Party conference, 1980
- **"No one would have remembered the Good Samaritan if he'd only had good intentions. He had money as well."**
Television interview, 1980
- **"A crime is a crime is a crime."**
News conference in Saudi Arabia, 1981, rejecting any view that there could be political reasons for IRA terrorism
- **"We should rejoice at that news."**
On the recapture of South Georgia during the Falklands conflict, 1981
- **"We knew what we had to do and we went about it and did it. Great Britain is great again."**
On end of Falklands conflict
- **"In politics, if you want anything said, ask a man; if you want anything done, ask a woman."**
Speech 1982
- **"The battle for women's rights has been largely won."**
Interview, 1982
- **"Pennies do not come from heaven. They have to be earned here on earth."**
Interview, 1982
- **"I owe nothing to women's lib."**
Interview, 1982
- **"Victorian values were the values when our country became great."**
TV interview, 1982

- **"I am painted as the greatest little dictator, which is ridiculous - you always take some consultations."**
Interview, 1983
- **"We are the true peace movement."**
Interview, 1983
- **"Oh, I have got lots of human weaknesses. Who hasn't?"**
Interview, 1983
- **"And what a prize we have to fight for: no less than the chance to banish from our land the dark divisive clouds of Marxist socialism."**
Speech to Scottish Tories, 1983
- **"The National Health Service is safe in our hands."**
Conservative Party conference, 1983
- **"State socialism is totally alien to the British character."**
Interview, 1983
- **"Young people ought not to be idle. It is very bad for them."**
Interview, 1984
- **"I love being at the centre of things."**
Interview, 1984
- **"This is a man I can do business with."**
On first meeting Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev
- **"That is the scale of the outrage in which we have all shared. And the fact we are gathered here, now, shocked but composed and determined, is a sign not only that this attack has failed, but that all attempts to destroy democracy by terrorism will fail."**
Tory conference, 1984, a few hours after the Brighton bomb outrage that nearly killed her
- **"This is a day I was not meant to see."**
The Sunday following the Brighton bomb
- **"I think, historically, the term 'Thatcherism' will be seen as a compliment."**
Speech, 1985
- **"Why, Marks and Spencer of course. Doesn't everyone?"**
When asked where she bought her underwear, 1986
- **"I don't mind how much my ministers talk, as long as they do what I say."**
Interview, 1987
- **"There is no such thing as society. There are individual men and women, and there are families."**
Interview, 1987
- **"I am certain we will win the election with a good majority. Not that I am ever over-confident."**
Comment during 1987 election campaign,

which she won with a three-figure majority

- **"I think I have become a bit of an institution - you know the sort of thing people expect to see around the place."**
Speech, 1987
- **"Had we gone the way of France and got 60% of our electricity from nuclear power, we should not have environmental problems."**
Speech, 1988
- **"What's wrong with British water."**
When presented with French Perrier water at a lunch in 1989
- **"We are a grandmother."**
On the birth of her grandson Michael, February, 1989
- **"The Chancellor is unassailable."**
Comment about Nigel Lawson only days before he resigned from the government, 1989
- **"I fight on. I fight to win."**
Statement, 21 November 1990, after she was forced into a second ballot in the leadership battle - she withdrew before it occurred
- **"Having consulted widely among colleagues, I have concluded that the unity of the party and the prospects of victory in a general election would be better served if I stood down to enable Cabinet colleagues to enter the ballot for the leadership."**
Statement the following day
- **"It's a funny old world."**
Comment after her decision to quit in November 1990, pointing out that she had never lost an election in her life, yet had been forced to stand down
- **"I'm enjoying this."**
An interjection in a speech she made in the Commons only hours after announcing she would quit
- **"The Mummy returns."**
During the 2001 General Election, after passing a poster publicising a film of that name

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