

International Conversation Cafe

Lifestyle Topic: Reputation

Reputation is the opinion people have about someone or something. Read the following quotations and discuss the category of questions that follow.

You can't build a reputation on what you are going to do. ~Henry Ford (1863 - 1947)

A good name, like good will, is got by many actions and lost by one. ~Lord Jeffery

A good reputation is more valuable than money. ~Publilius Syrus (~100 BC), Maxims

A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold. ~Proverbs 22:1

Good Reputation

What is considered a good reputation in your home country?

Do you know anyone who has a really good reputation? Tell us about them.

In your opinion, what features of character matter? (i.e. honesty, just, caring, etc.)

Does faith in God help a person get a good reputation? Why or why not?

Does faith in God help a person keep a good reputation? If so, how?

Bad Reputation

Do you know of anyone with a really bad reputation? Tell about it this person.

Can you give other examples of situations that would give a person a bad reputation?

Is there anything a person gains from having a bad reputation?

What do relationships have to do with reputations?

Is it wise to be friendly with someone with a bad reputation?

Losing Reputations

Would you consider a reputation something to worry about? Why or why not?

Why are good reputations difficult to keep?

How can one lose a bad reputation?

Gaining Reputations

How does one gain a good reputation?

Do you think it is more important to be nice, or effective?

Can you think of any public figure with a good reputation? Why do you think this?

The Internet and Reputation

The internet can be quite vicious in the sense that someone in your personal or professional life who wants to do damage to you can be very good at it. A former spouse can go after your small business because of a divorce or former employees can try to destroy your life if you fire them.

But it matters even if you aren't in the business of selling things. Every life transaction now begins with a search, and even in a good economy, prospective employers will be doing searches on you. The thundering silence you might hear is your best indication that your digital profile isn't doing the work it should.

Also, we're increasingly living in a pull economy—and people, employers and customers find you because of the internet. Let's say that you are a landscape architect. If you're talking about landscape architecture and you're identified with it in social media, you have a plausible résumé. But if someone looks you up, and finds someone else [with the same name] whose interest is kite surfing, that doesn't do you any good. On the other hand, if all they can find is that you're interested in cooking, that's not necessarily good, either.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/learnvest/2013/11/20/10-things-you-need-to-know-about-online-reputation-management/>

Does your reputation on the internet concern you?

How do you protect your reputation on the internet?

