

Newbie Guide to Martial Arts Doublespeak

When people say..	They really mean...
Japanese martial arts are the best.	I practice a Japanese martial art.
This art is thousands of years old.	This style is decades old.
The martial arts are about building better people.	The martial arts are about sweat, bruises and money.
Chinese martial arts are the best.	I practice a Chinese martial art.
High kicks are stupid.	I can't do high kicks.
Sparring is extremely important.	I'm good at fighting and I like it and I can't do much of anything else.
The martial arts are about building better people.	The martial arts are about beating people up if they lay a finger on you.
Korean martial arts are the best.	I practice a Korean martial art.
Breaking techniques are very important.	We do a lot of breaking techniques.
I don't believe in grades.	Nobody ever gave me a high grade.
The martial arts are about building better evolved characters.	Like me.
Filipino martial arts are the best.	I practice a Filipino martial art.
Sophisticated arts like Tai Chi and Aikido are far superior.	Sparring frightens me.
He's a good martial arts teacher.	He's in my organization.
He's a lousy martial arts teacher.	He used to be in my organization but he broke away and I don't get any money out of him anymore.
My style is the best.	I don't know anything about any other styles.
Grades are not important.	There's a grading coming up and it's important.
Breaking techniques are useless.	I can't do breaking techniques.

I'm an innovative, free-thinking, modern Western martial arts teacher, doing my own non-classical thing.

Martial arts politics are the necessary result of official recognition by respectable associations to protect the public.

I hate martial arts politics.

In this system, we make the art fit the person.

Competitions are a waste of time.

Forms or kata are the highest expression of the inner essence of the martial arts.

Forms or kata are useless.

One style is not better than another -- it's the individual that counts.

The techniques aren't important.

The principles are important.

Bruce Lee didn't know what he was talking about.

Size and strength are not important.

Science and leverage will always win out over bruce force.

The purpose of the martial arts is spiritual development and liberation from the ego.

I'm more interested in teaching than learning; and the Orientals ignore me because they know how ignorant I am.

I belong to a large, well-established organization.

None of the large, well-established organizations recognize me or have the slightest interest in my existence.

In this system, we make the person fit the art.

I never won any competitions.

I read that somewhere -- and I've had enough of tournaments.

Bruce Lee said forms are useless and this relieves me of a lot of effort, so go argue with him.

Don't go to another school -- it's the style we teach here that counts.

The techniques are important.

I wouldn't know what else to do with the principles so it's the techniques that are important.

I don't know what Bruce Lee was talking about.

Size and strength are important, especially if you're fighting somebody who's bigger and stronger than you are.

Except when he's bigger and stronger than you are.

I'm so humble and wise, it's terrific.

This is really funny---but it's scary how many of these you hear from people, with the meanings like those above.