'I Fly upside down and pretend to be an Eagle.'

David Gilmour
Pink Floyd guitar hero, 59

1. Don't call me Dave. I've never liked it and I've never used it. Some people seem to think that I've changed it. But you can't find a Pink Floyd record, going back to 1968, where I've ever used Dave. I love the name David. I hate the name Dave. I don't feel like a Dave.

2. I'm not the person on TV. There's that person who's the famous one who plays the guitar, but I really believe it's me. I feel very uncomfortable doing autographs, still to this day. But I am a total hypocrite and I revel in elements of it. It boosts your ego.

3. We've lost millions. We got pretty rich after Dark Side Of The Moon but we lost all that due to crookedness and all sorts of difficulties. At the time of making The Wall album, we were in distinct financial danger. If you have £10 in the world and you gamble and make an error, you can suddenly find yourself owing a million pounds.

4. Help the homeless. I had a big house in Maida Vale on the canal, which I used rarely because we moved to the country. I was having guilt feelings about living there part-time. Crisis were launching a project to get homeless people back into a real life and in 2003 I volunteered to give them the £3.6 million from the sale of it. Quite frankly I don't need that money, I have more than enough.

5. Pink Floyd will not tour. Having Roger [Waters, Gilmour's former Pink Floyd nemesis] back in the band for Live 8 made a difference in people's minds, but that was the only place it made a difference. We could have done that same set exactly the same way. They have offered us a lot of money to do a tour—and that offer is with or without Roger, incidentally. I just don't think working in a studio with Roger and the others to make an album is something that would increase my personal happiness. I don't think Pink Floyd will tour again. With me, anyway.

6. Chocks away! I do a little bit of flying in Second World War-era aeroplanes. I love the feeling of flight, that free-as-a-bird elemental thing of being up in the sky, preferably in an open-top aeroplane. I go on my own and do a loop-the-loop or turn it upside down and pretend to be an eagle. I've had a couple of hairy moments, but if you walk away from it, you've learnt something.

7. Syd Barrett is gone but not forgotten. I feel sorry for poor old Syd. People's obsession with him is a little unhealthy. It's a classic syndrome. If they're damaged beyond repair or dead, they become much more valuable. I'd love to see him but I haven't seen him since 1975. He gets a share of royalties from the first album and even on [Pink Floyd's 2001 best of] Echoes there's a track or two of his. It helps keep him going.

8. Drugs are for mugs, I should know. All drugs damage you. They damage your mind and they damage your body. Cocaine is the worst because of the insidious damage it wreaks on people, and I am speaking from personal experience. I definitely don't think they help the artistic process. Look at poor old Pete Doherty. He's a charismatic, intelligent character. If his ambition is to end up like Shane MacGowan, that's tragic.

9. Imitation is flattery. The Scissor Sisters' version of Comfortably Numb surprised me, but I enjoyed it. I wish more people would cover us. There's the [reggae novelty version] Dub Side Of The Moon, which is fun.

10. Age with grace. I've always thought a lot about mortality and it used to scare me deeply. Now it doesn't scare me any more. Or not significantly. I thought it was quite fun to release my album on my 60th birthday and embrace my seniority. I hope that one achieves maturity and contentment and even resignation to some extent as one gets older. I think I'm pretty content.