

FINISH THE

PROVERB



3 exercises plus answer keys

* Plus a full glossary of common English proverbs / sayings

ELT 
buzz

Teaching Resources

Finish The Saying - Sentence Building



Finish the sentences.

1. It's always darkest before _____
2. You can't teach an old dog new _____
3. Where there is smoke, there is _____
4. Two's company, three's _____
5. Children should be seen and not _____
6. A bird in hand is _____
7. No news is _____
8. Don't bite the hand that _____
9. You can lead a horse to water but _____
10. The pen is mightier than _____
11. If at first you don't succeed, _____
12. Better late than _____
13. Kill two birds with one _____
14. He who laugh's first, _____
15. He's feeling a little under the _____
16. All good things must _____

Finish The Saying - Sentence Building



Finish the sentences.

1. The early bird gets _____
2. A picture is worth _____
3. Beggars can't be _____
4. It's expensive. I paid _____
5. Beauty is in the eye of _____
6. He looks good. He looks like _____
7. Don't count your chickens before _____
8. Don't judge a book by _____
9. Don't put all your eggs in one _____
10. Good things come to those who _____
11. If it ain't broke, don't _____
12. If you can't beat them, _____
13. If you want something done right, you have _____
14. Keep your friends close and _____
15. People who live in glass houses shouldn't _____
16. When the going gets tough, _____

Finish The Saying - Sentence Building



Finish the sentences.

1. You can't always get _____
2. Laughter is the best _____
3. If you play with fire, _____
4. Like father, _____
5. No man is _____
6. The early bird gets _____
7. Practice _____
8. The enemy of my enemy is _____
9. The grass is always greener _____
10. Two wrongs don't make _____
11. There is no place like _____
12. Two heads are better than _____
13. There is no time like _____
14. The squeaky wheel gets the _____
15. Two wrongs don't _____
16. When in Rome, _____

Finish The Saying - Sentence Building

Finish the sentences.

1. It's always darkest before _____ the dawn.
2. You can't teach an old dog new _____ tricks.
3. Where there is smoke, there is _____ fire.
4. Two's company, three's _____ a crowd.
5. Children should be seen and not _____ heard.
6. A bird in hand is _____ better than one in the bush.
7. No news is _____ good news.
8. Don't bite the hand that _____ feeds you.
9. You can lead a horse to water but _____ you can't make it drink.
10. The pen is mightier than _____ the sword.
11. If at first you don't succeed, _____ try, try again.
12. Better late than _____ never.
13. Kill two birds with one _____ stone.
14. He who laugh's first, _____ laughs last.
15. He's feeling a little under the _____ weather.
16. All good things must _____ come to an end.

Finish The Saying - Sentence Building

Finish the sentences.

1. The early bird gets the worm.
2. A picture is worth a thousand words.
3. Beggars can't be choosers.
4. It's expensive. I paid an arm and a leg.
5. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.
6. He looks good! He looks like a million dollars / bucks.
7. Don't count your chickens before they're hatched.
8. Don't judge a book by its cover.
9. Don't put all your eggs in one basket.
10. Good things come to those who wait.
11. If it ain't broke, don't fix it.
12. If you can't beat them, join them.
13. If you want something done right, you have to do it yourself.
14. Keep your friends close and enemies closer.
15. People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.
16. When the going gets tough, the tough get going.

Finish The Saying - Sentence Building

Finish the sentences.

1. You can't always get what you want.
2. Laughter is the best medicine.
3. If you play with fire, you'll get burned.
4. Like father, like son.
5. No man is an island.
6. The early bird gets the worm.
7. Practice makes perfect.
8. The enemy of my enemy is my friend.
9. The grass is always greener on the other side.
10. Two wrongs don't make a right.
11. There is no place like home.
12. Two heads are better than one.
13. There is no time like the present.
14. The squeaky wheel gets the grease.
15. Two wrongs don't make a right.
16. When in Rome, do as the Romans do.

THE PROVERBS OF ENGLISH

A complete alphabetical list



Alphabetical list - Proverbs Of English

Alphabetical list - A

Absence makes the heart grow fonder.

When you are away from someone you love, you love them even more.

Accidents will happen.

Some unfortunate events must be accepted as inevitable.

Actions speak louder than words.

What a person actually does is more important than what they say they will do.

Advice is cheap.

It doesn't cost anything to offer advice.

Advice is least heeded when most needed.

When a problem is serious, people often do not follow the advice given.

Advisers run no risks.

It's easier to give advice than to act.

All cats are grey in the dark.

People are undistinguished until they have made a name.

All good things come to those who wait.

Patience brings rewards.

All that glitters is not gold.

Appearances can be deceptive.

All days are short to Industry and long to Idleness.

Time goes by slowly when you have nothing to do.

All is fair in love and war

Things that are done in love or war can often be excused.

All's well that ends well

There is a solution to everything even though there are doubts.

All that glitters is not gold.

What looks good on the outside may not be so in reality.

All things grow with time - except grief.

As time goes by, grief subsides little by little.

All things are difficult before they are easy.

With practice things become easier.

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.

Everybody needs a certain amount of relaxation. It is not good to work all the time;

An apple a day keeps the doctor away.

Eating an apple every day can help to keep you healthy.

Other interpretation : A small preventive treatment wards off serious problems.

An empty purse frightens away friends.

When one's financial situation deteriorates, friends tend to disappear.

An Englishman's home is his castle.

An Englishman's home is a place where he feels safe, enjoys privacy and can do as he wishes.

An idle brain is the devil's workshop.

When you work you avoid temptation.

An onion a day keeps everyone away.

A humoristic version of "an apple a day..."

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

It is easier to prevent something from happening than to repair the damage or cure the disease later.

Anger is the one thing made better by delay.

When you are angry, it is best not to speak or act immediately.

Any time means no time.

If the date of an event remains vague, it will never happen.

April showers bring May flowers.

Something bad or unpleasant today may bring good things in the future.

A bad tree does not yield good apples.

A bad parent does not raise good children.

A bad workman blames his tools.

Blaming the tools for bad workmanship is an excuse for lack of skill.

A bird in hand is worth two in a bush.

It's better to keep what you have than to risk losing it by searching for something better.

A broken friendship may be soldered but will never be sound.

Friendships can be rebuilt after a dispute but will never be as strong as before.

A burden of one's own choice is not felt.

Something difficult seems easier when it is done voluntarily.

A burnt child dreads the fire.

A bad experience will make people stay away from certain things.

A cat has nine lives.

- 1) Cats can survive many accidents because they land on their feet without injury.
- 2) Nine lives = 3 years to play, 3 years to stray, 3 years to stay.

A chain is no stronger than its weakest link.

The strength of a group depends on each individual member.

A change is as good as a rest.

A change in routine is often as refreshing as a break or a holiday.

A dry March, a wet April and a cool May fill barn and cellar and bring much hay.

Harvest predictions according to the weather.

A fault confessed is half redressed.

Confession is the beginning of forgiveness.

A flower blooms more than once.

If you miss an occasion, you can avail of it at another time.

A fool and his money are soon (easily) parted.

A foolish person usually spends money carelessly.

A fool at forty is a fool forever.

If a person hasn't matured by the age of 40, they never will.

A friend in need is a friend indeed.

Someone who helps you when you are in trouble is a real friend.

A friend to all is a friend to none.

Someone who is a friend to everyone makes none of them feel special.

A friend's eye is a good mirror.

A real friend will tell you the truth.

A good example is the best sermon.

Giving an example is better than giving advice.

A good beginning makes a good end.

If a task is carefully planned, there's a better chance that it will be done well.

A good conscience is a soft pillow.

You sleep well when you have nothing to feel guilty about.

A guilty conscience needs no accuser.

A leopard cannot change its spots.

It is not possible for a bad or unpleasant person to become good or pleasant.

A loaded wagon makes no noise.

Really wealthy don't talk about money.

A loveless life is a living death.

Without affection, life is difficult.

A man can die but once.

A man is as old as he feels himself to be.

Your age doesn't matter as long as you are fit and healthy.

A man is known by the company he keeps.

A person's character is judged by the type of people with whom they spend their time.

A monkey in silk is a monkey no less.

No matter how someone dresses, it's the same person underneath.

A new broom sweeps clean.

A newly-appointed person makes changes energetically.

A problem shared is a problem halved

It is easier to deal with a problem when you discuss it with someone.

A rising tide lifts all boats.

Describes something that will be helpful to all.

A rolling stone gathers no moss.

If a person keeps moving from place to place, they gain neither friends nor possessions.

Another interpretation is that, by moving often, one avoids being tied down!

A rotten apple spoils the barrel.

A dishonest or immoral person can have a bad influence on a group.

A smooth sea never made a skilled mariner.

Overcoming adversity leads to competence.

A stitch in time saves nine.

It's better to deal with a problem at an early stage, to prevent it from getting worse.

A stumble may prevent a fall.

Correcting a small mistake may help you to avoid making a bigger one.

A swallow does not make the summer.

One good event does not mean that everything is alright.

A tree is known by its fruit.

A man is judged by his actions.

A watched pot never boils

If you wait anxiously for something, it seems to take a long time.

A young idler, an old beggar.

If you don't work, you won't have any money when you're old.

After dinner rest a while, after supper walk a mile.

Dinner is called 'lunch' nowadays, and supper has become 'dinner'.

As you sow, so shall you reap

You have to accept the consequences of your actions.

Ask me no questions, I'll tell you no lies.

There are subjects I'd rather not discuss.

Alphabetical list - B

Bad news travels fast.

People tend to circulate bad news (accidents, illness etc.) very quickly.

(A) bad tree does not yield good apples.

A bad parent does not raise good children.

(A) bad workman blames his tools.

Blaming the tools for bad workmanship is an excuse for lack of skill.

Beauty is only skin deep.

A person's character is more important than their appearance.

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

Different people have different tastes.

Beauty is the wisdom of women. Wisdom is the beauty of men.

Be swift to hear, slow to speak.

Listen carefully before speaking.

Better be alone than in bad company.

Be careful in the choice of the people you associate with.

Better be the head of a dog than the tail of a lion.

It's better to be the leader of a small group than a subordinate in a bigger one.

Better flatter a fool than fight him.

It's better to avoid disputes with stupid people.

Better to drink the milk than to eat the cow.

Be careful not to destroy the source of your income or welfare.

Better the devil you know than the devil you don't know

It's better to deal with somebody difficult but familiar, than change and risk dealing with somebody worse.

Better late than never.

It's better to do something, even if it's late, than not do it at all.

Better lose the saddle than the horse.

It's better to stop and accept a small loss, rather than continue and risk losing everything.

Better safe than sorry

It's better to be too careful than to be careless and regret it later.

Better untaught than ill-taught

It's better not to be taught at all than to be taught badly.

Beware of Greeks bearing gifts.

Don't trust your enemies.

(A) bird in hand is worth two in a bush.

It's better to keep what you have than to risk losing it by searching for something better.

Birds of a feather flock together.

People of the same sort are usually found together.

Blood is thicker than water

Family relationships are stronger than relationships with other people.

Blood will out.

A person's background or education will eventually show.

(A) broken friendship may be soldered but will never be sound.

Friendships can be rebuilt after a dispute but will never be as strong as before.

(A) burden of one's own choice is not felt.

Something difficult seems easier when it is done voluntarily.

(A) burnt child dreads the fire.

A bad experience will make people stay away from certain things

Alphabetical list - C

(A) cat has nine lives.

- 1) Cats can survive many accidents because they land on their feet without injury.
- 2) Nine lives = 3 years to play, 3 years to stray, 3 years to stay.

(A) chain is no stronger than its weakest link.

The strength of a group depends on each individual member.

(A) change is as good as a rest.

A change in routine is often as refreshing as a break or a holiday.

Charity begins at home.

A person's first duty is to help and care for his own family.

Children and fools tell the truth.

Cleanliness is next to godliness.

A clean body is just as important as a pure soul.

Clear moon, frost soon.

If the atmosphere is clear, frost may form.

Clothes don't make the man.

Appearances can be deceiving.

Constant occupation prevents temptation.

When you work you avoid temptation.

Alphabetical list - D

Dead men tell no tales

A dead person cannot cause difficulties by revealing something that it would be preferable to conceal.

Diamond cuts diamond.

Refers to two people equally matched in wit or cunning.

Diligence is the mother of good fortune.

Hard work brings rewards.

Discretion is the better part of valour

It is useless to take unnecessary risks.

Diseases of the soul are more dangerous than those of the body.

Distance makes the heart grow fonder.

When you are separated from the person you love, your feelings are even stronger.

Dogs of the same street bark alike.

People from the same background have the same behaviour.

Don't bark if you can't bite.

Don't complain if you can't enforce your point of view.

Don't count your chickens before they're hatched.

You must not be too confident that something will be successful.

Don't dig your grave with your own knife and fork.

Don't do something yourself which causes your own downfall.

Don't judge a book by its cover.

Don't judge by appearances.

(A) dry March, a wet April and a cool May fill barn and cellar and bring much hay.

Harvest predictions according to the weather.

Alphabetical list - E

Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise.

It is better to go to bed early at night and to get up early in the morning.

Easier said than done.

What is suggested sounds easy, but it is more difficult to actually do it.

Elbow grease is the best polish.

Hard work gives the best results.

Empty vessels make the most noise.

The least intelligent people are often the most talkative or noisy.

(An) empty purse frightens away friends.

When one's financial situation deteriorates, friends tend to disappear.

(An) Englishman's home is his castle.

An Englishman's home is a place where he feels safe, enjoys privacy and can do as he wishes.

Every ass likes to hear himself bray.

People like to listen to themselves talking.

Every cloud has a silver lining

There is a positive or hopeful side to every unpleasant situation.

Every man for himself.

You must think of your own interests before the interests of others.

Every man has his price.

Everyone's loyalty can be bought for a price.

Every man is the architect of his own fortune.

Life is what you make it.

Every path has its puddle.

Progress is rarely without difficulty.

Every rose has its thorn.

Every good thing has an unpleasant side.

Every why has a wherefore.

There is an explanation for everything.

Everything in the garden is rosy.

Everything is satisfactory.

Experience is the father of wisdom.

Experience and knowledge result in better judgment.

Alphabetical list - F

Facts speak louder than words.

People show what they are really like by what they do, rather than by what they say.

Failure teaches success.

People can learn from their failures and be successful later on.

False friends are worse than open enemies.

Familiarity breeds contempt

Knowing somebody very well may lead to a lack of respect for them.

(A) fault confessed is half redressed.

Confession is the beginning of forgiveness.

Fine words butter no parsnips.

No amount of talking can replace action.

First come, first served.

The first person in the line will be attended to first.

(A) flower blooms more than once.

If you miss an occasion, you can avail of it at another time.

(A) fool at forty is a fool forever.

If a person hasn't matured by the age of 40, they never will.

(A) fool and his money are soon (easily) parted.

A foolish person usually spends money carelessly.

Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me.

One should learn from one's mistakes.

Fools rush in where angels fear to tread

Inexperienced people become involved in situations that more intelligent people would avoid.

(A) friend in need is a friend indeed.

Someone who helps you when you are in trouble is a real friend.

(A) friend to all is a friend to none.

Someone who is a friend to everyone makes none of them feel special.

(A) friend's eye is a good mirror.

A real friend will tell you the truth.

Friendship is love with understanding.

Alphabetical list - G

Gardens are not made by sitting in the shade.

Nothing is achieved without effort.

Give someone an inch and they will take a mile (or yard).

Give someone a little and they will want more - some people are never satisfied.

Give someone enough rope and they will hang themselves.

Give someone enough time and freedom and they will get into trouble.

God helps those who help themselves.

Good accounting makes good friends.

You will keep your friends if you avoid disputes over money.

Good and quickly seldom meet.

A well-done job takes time.

(A) good conscience is a soft pillow.

You sleep well when you have nothing to feel guilty about.

Good management is better than good income.

Great minds think alike.

Intelligent people very often have the same idea at the same time.

Great oaks grow from little acorns.

Large successful operations can begin in a small way.

Grief divided is made lighter

If you share your grief it will be easier to bear.

(A) guilty conscience needs no accuser.

Alphabetical list - H

Half a loaf is better than none.

You should be grateful for something, even if it's not as much as you wanted.

Hard words break no bones.

Criticism or verbal attacks may be unpleasant but will not kill anyone.

Haste makes waste.

If something is done too quickly, it may be done carelessly and need to be redone.

Hatred is as blind as love.

A person who feels hatred does not see any qualities in the person he/she hates.

He can who believes he can

If you believe you can do something, you will be able to do it.

He has enough who is content.

A happy person needs nothing more.

He who hesitates is lost.

If you delay your decision too long, you may miss a good opportunity.

He who is everywhere is nowhere.

It's not good to do too many things at the same time.

He who knows nothing, doubts nothing.

Knowledge leads us to make choices.

He who pays the piper calls the tune.

The person who provides the money for something should control how it is spent

He who plays with fire gets burnt.

If you behave in a risky way, you are likely to have problems.

He who wills the end wills the means.

If you are determined to do something you will find a way.

He laughs best who laughs last.

Don't express your joy, or your triumph, too soon!

Health is better than wealth.

It's better to be in good health than to be rich.

Home is where the heart is.

You call home the place where the people you love are.

Honesty is the best policy.

It's always better to be honest.

Honey catches more flies than vinegar.

You can obtain more cooperation from others by being nice.

However long the night, the dawn will break

Bad things don't last forever.

Hunger is a good sauce.

All food tastes good when you are hungry.

Alphabetical list - I

(An) idle brain is the devil's workshop.

When you work you avoid temptation.

In times of prosperity friends are plentiful.

You have many friends when you have no difficulties.

If a camel gets his nose in a tent, his body will follow.

If you let something intrusive enter your life, your life will become difficult .

If in February there be no rain, 'tis neither good for hay nor grain.

Plants and crops will grow badly if there is no rain in early spring.

If you are patient in one moment of anger, you will avoid 100 days of sorrow.

Avoid regrets by taking time to think before speaking or acting angrily.

If you chase two rabbits, you will not catch either one.

If you try to do two things at the same time, you won't succeed in doing either of them.

If two ride a horse, one must ride behind.

When two people do something together, one will be the leader and the other will be the subordinate.

If you want a friend, be a friend.

Friendship must be reciprocal.

If wishes were horses, then beggars would ride.

Wishing alone is of no use; you must act as well.

Ignorance is bliss.

Possible interpretation: What you do not know causes no worry or sadness.

In for a penny, in for a pound.

If you start something, it's better to spend the time or money necessary to complete it.

In the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is king.

A man of even limited ability has an advantage over a person who is less able.

It never rains but it pours.

Misfortunes usually come in large numbers.

It is always darkest before the dawn

The most difficult time is just before a problem is solved.

It's no use crying over spilt milk.

Don't express regret for something that has happened and cannot be remedied.

It takes all sorts to make a world.

People vary in character and abilities, and this is a good thing.

Alphabetical list - J-K

Justice delayed is justice denied.

If the law is applied too late, there is no justice.

Kill one to warn a hundred.

Warn many by punishing a few.

Kill the goose that lays the golden egg.

Destroy something that would be a source of wealth or success.

Kindness begets kindness.

If you are kind to someone, they will return your kindness.

Knowledge in youth is wisdom in age.

What you learn when you are young will be invaluable when you grow old.

Knowledge is power.

Knowledge makes it possible for you to act.

Alphabetical list - L

Laughter is the best medicine.

Laughter makes people feel good.

Learn to walk before you run.

Don't rush into doing something until you know how to do it.

Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere.

Education is something you keep forever.

Least said soonest mended.

The more discreet you are, the less damage you cause.

(A) leopard cannot change its spots.

It is not possible for a bad or unpleasant person to become good or pleasant.

Let bygones be bygones.

Let's forgive and forget past quarrels.

Let the chips fall where they may.

We should not try to control our destiny.

Liars need good memories.

People who do not tell the truth must be careful to remember what they say.

Lightning never strikes in the same place twice

An unusual event is not likely to occur again in exactly the same circumstances.

Like father, like son.

A son's character can be expected to resemble his father's.

Little strokes fell great oaks.

If you divide a task into small parts, it becomes easier to do.

(A) loaded wagon makes no noise.

Really wealthy don't talk about money.

Look before you leap.

Consider possible consequences before taking action.

Loose lips sink ships.

Disclosing important information (to the enemy or a competitor) could result in large losses.

Losers weepers, finders keepers.

If you lose something, you weep, if you find something, you keep it.

Love is blind.

A person in love does not see the faults of the person he/she loves.

(A) loveless life is a living death.

Without affection, life is difficult.

Alphabetical list - M

Make a silk purse out of a sow's ear

Manage to produce something good using poor material.

Man is the head of the family and woman is the neck that turns the head.

Man proposes, God disposes.

Our destiny depends on God's will.

(A) man can die but once.

(A) man is as old as he feels himself to be.

Your age doesn't matter as long as you are fit and healthy.

(A) man is known by the company he keeps.

A person's character is judged by the type of people with whom they spend their time.

Manners make the man.

Possibly: a person's manners show their origins.

Many hands make light work.

Sharing work makes work easier.

Marry in haste, repent at leisure.

If you get married too quickly, you may spend all your life regretting it.

Memory is the treasure of the mind.

Men make houses, women make homes.

Might as well be hanged for a sheep as (for) a lamb.

If the penalty is going to be the same, you might as well commit the greater offence.

Money begets money.

If you have money you can make more money.

Money doesn't grow on trees.

You shouldn't waste money because it is not plentiful.

Money is the root of all evil.

Money is the main cause of wrongdoing and problems.

(A) monkey in silk is a monkey no less.

No matter how someone dresses, it's the same person underneath.

Alphabetical list - N

Necessity is the mother of invention.

The need for something forces people to find a way of obtaining it.

Need teaches a plan.

Necessity will make you find a solution.

Never put off till tomorrow what can be done today

Don't postpone something you can do now.

Never say die.

Never give up.

(A) new broom sweeps clean.

A newly-appointed person makes changes energetically.

Nobody is perfect.

It is understandable not to be perfect or to make occasional mistakes.

No man can serve two masters.

It's impossible to follow instructions from two different sources.

No man is an island.

We all need other people.

No news is good news.

If the news was bad, we would hear of it. Since we have heard nothing, we can assume that all is well.

No smoke without fire.

There could be some truth in the rumour...

No wind, no waves.

Similar to : 'no smoke without fire'.

Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

You cannot expect to achieve anything if you don't take risks.

Alphabetical list - O

Once bitten, twice shy.

After an unpleasant experience, people are careful to avoid something similar.

One father is more than a hundred schoolmasters.

A child is raised by a father and taught by a teacher.
The teacher cannot replace the father.

One good turn deserves another.

You should be helpful to someone who helps you.

One of these days is none of these days.

'One of these days' remains a vague promise.

One today is worth two tomorrow.

What you have today is better than what is promised or hoped for.

One man's meat is another man's poison

People don't always like the same things.

One man's trash is another man's treasure.

What is useless to one person could be valuable to another.

One swallow doesn't make a summer.

A single satisfactory event does not mean that all the others will be as good.

(An) onion a day keeps everyone away.

A humoristic version of "an apple a day..."

Only real friends will tell you when your face is dirty.

Only a real friend will tell you the truth.

Opportunity seldom knocks twice.

Don't miss opportunities that come along.

(An) ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

It is easier to prevent something from happening than to repair the damage or cure the disease later.

Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings

Children often speak wisely.

Out of sight, out of mind.

We tend to forget people or things that we do not see.

Alphabetical list - P...R

Penny wise, pound foolish.

Refers to a person who is careful about spending small amounts of money, but not careful about spending large amounts of money.

People who live in glass houses should not throw stones.

One should not criticize others for faults similar to one's own.

Poverty waits at the gates of idleness.

If you do not work you will not make money.

Practice makes perfect.

Doing something repeatedly is the only way to become good at it.

Practise what you preach

Do yourself what you advise others to do.

Prevention is better than cure

It is easier to prevent something from happening than to repair the damage or cure the disease later.

Pride comes before a fall.

Don't be too self-confident or proud; something may happen to make you look foolish.

(A) problem shared is a problem halved

It is easier to deal with a problem when you discuss it with someone.

Procrastination is the thief of time

Delaying an action for too long is a waste of time.

Punctuality is the soul of business

You should always be on time for your business appointments.

Put all your eggs in one basket

Risk everything by relying on one plan (by putting all one's money in one business).

Revenge is sweet.

There is satisfaction in returning an injury.

(A) rising tide lifts all boats.

Describes something that will be helpful to all.

(A) rolling stone gathers no moss.

If a person keeps moving from place to place, they gain neither friends nor possessions.

Another interpretation is that, by moving often, one avoids being tied down!

Rome was not built in a day.

It takes a long time to do a job properly. You should not expect to do it quickly.

(A) rotten apple spoils the barrel.

A dishonest or immoral person can have a bad influence on a group.

Alphabetical list - S

Save me from my friends.

Friends can be more dangerous than enemies.

Saying is one thing, doing is another.

People don't always do what they announce.

Short reckonings make long friends.

Debts paid quickly encourage friendship.

Sickness in the body brings sadness to the mind.

Physical suffering can lead to sadness or depression.

Silence gives consent.

If you don't object to something it can be assumed that you agree with it.

(A) smooth sea never made a skilled mariner.

Overcoming adversity leads to competence.

Snug as a bug in a rug.

Feeling very comfortable.

Spare the rod and spoil the child

If you don't punish a child when he does wrong, you will spoil his character.

Sticks and stones will break my bones but names will never hurt me

Physical attacks may harm me, but cruel words will not.

Still waters run deep.

A quiet person can have much knowledge or wisdom.

(A) stitch in time saves nine

It's better to deal with a problem in its early stages, because if you don't, it will get worse.

(A) stumble may prevent a fall.

Correcting a small mistake may help you to avoid making a bigger one.

(A) swallow does not make the summer.

One good event does not mean that everything is alright.

Stolen fruit is the sweetest.

What is forbidden is the most tempting.

Alphabetical list - T

Tall oaks grow from little acorns.

Great things may come from small beginnings.

The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

Children resemble their parents.

The best advice is found on the pillow.

After a good night's sleep, we may find an answer to our problem.

The best things in life are free.

You don't have to pay for what is important : happiness, friendship, good health.

The darkest hour is just before dawn.

There is hope even in the worst of times.

The devil looks after his own.

Success comes to those who deserve it least .

The devil makes work for idle hands

People who have no work, or are idle, often get into or make trouble.

The die is cast.

A decision has been made and it's impossible to change it.

The early bird catches the worm.

If you want to do something successfully, you should do it as soon as you can.

The end justifies the means.

Wrong or unfair methods may be used if the result of the action is good.

The first step is the hardest.

The most difficult thing is to begin.

The more haste, the less speed.

A person makes more progress if they do things less quickly.

The more you have, the more you want.

People have a constant desire to possess more.

The mouse that has but one hole is quickly taken.

If you depend on just one thing, and it fails you, you will have no alternatives.

The pen is mightier than the sword

Words and communication have greater effect than war and fighting.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating.

The real value of something can be judged only after it has been tried or tested.

The road to hell is paved with good intentions.

It's not enough to intend to do something, you must actually do it.

The tongue wounds more than a lance.

Insults can be more hurtful than physical injuries.

The truth is in the wine.

People speak more freely under the influence of alcohol.

The way to a man's heart is through his stomach.

Feed a man well and he will love you.

The wish is father to the thought.

You think that something is true because you want it to be so.

There is a black sheep in every flock.

There is always one who doesn't behave or perform like the others.

There is a trick in every trade.

There is an established way of doing things.

There is no fool like an old fool.

A older person is expected to behave more sensibly.

There is safety in numbers

Being in a crowd makes you feel more confident.

Time and tide wait for no man.

Delaying a decision will not prevent events from taking place.

Time has wings.

Time goes by quickly.

Time is money.

Time is valuable and should not be wasted.

To err is human, to forgive divine

It is human nature to make mistakes, therefore one should forgive.

Too many cooks spoil the broth.

(Humoristic version : Too many clicks spoil the browse!)

If too many people are involved in something, it will not be done properly.

Too much bed makes a dull head.

If you sleep too much, you are not able to think clearly.

(A) tree is known by its fruit.

A man is judged by his actions.

Trust not a horse's heel nor a dog's tooth.

A horse kicks from behind, a dog attacks with its teeth.

Truth has no answer.

You cannot argue against facts or refute what is true.

Truth is stranger than fiction.

Events in real life are sometimes stranger than in fiction.

Two wrongs don't make a right

It is wrong to harm someone because they have harmed you.

Alphabetical list - U-V

Union is strength.

A group has more force than an individual.

Unwillingness easily finds an excuse.

A person who doesn't want to do something always finds a reason to avoid it.

Variety is the spice of life.

Doing a lot of different things makes life more interesting.

Virtue is its own reward.

You should not expect praise for acting in a correct or moral way.

Alphabetical list - W

Walls have ears.

Be careful. People could be listening.

Waste not, want not.

If you never waste anything, you will have it when you need it.

(A) watched pot never boils

If you wait anxiously for something, it seems to take a long time.

What the eye doesn't see, the heart doesn't grieve over.

If a person doesn't know about something, it cannot hurt them.

What a man says drunk, he thinks sober.

People speak more freely under the influence of alcohol.

What soberness conceals, drunkenness reveals.

People are less discreet under the influence of alcohol.

When the cat's away, the mice play.

People misbehave when their boss, or the person in authority, is absent.

When in Rome, do as the Romans do.

You should adopt the customs of the people or country you are visiting, and behave in the same way.

When poverty come in the door, love goes out the window.

When a couple loses everything, their relationship becomes difficult.

Where there's life there's hope.

As long as a person is breathing, there is hope for recovery.

Where there's a will, there's a way.

A person with determination will find a way of doing something.

Who makes himself a sheep will be eaten by the wolves.

Possible interpretation: an easily influenced person can be misled.

Wisdom is better than strength.

It is preferable to use one's intelligence than one's physical strength.

Wonders will never cease!

Expresses surprise at an unexpected pleasure or event (ironic).

Worry often gives a small thing a big shadow.

Worrying over small details can make them seem worse.

Alphabetical list - Y-Z

You are what you eat.

What you eat has an effect on your well-being.

You are never too old to learn.

You can always learn something new no matter how old you are.

You can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink.

You can offer someone an opportunity to do something but you can't force them.

You can't teach an old dog new tricks.

A person who is used to doing things a certain way cannot change.

You never know what you can do until you try.

Try first before deciding not to do something.

You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours.

You help me and I'll help you.

(A) young idler, an old beggar.

If you don't work, you won't have any money when you're old.

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