

Proverbs

Nothing defines a culture as clearly as its language, and the element of language that best encapsulates a society's values and beliefs is its proverbs.

Proverbs are short and pithy sayings that express some traditionally held truth. They are usually metaphorical and often, for the sake of memorability, alliterative.

Here is a list of many of the proverbs in the English language, with links to the meaning and origin of some of them.

A cat may look at a king
A chain is only as strong as its weakest link
A change is as good as a rest
A drowning man will clutch at a straw
A fool and his money are soon parted
A friend in need is a friend indeed
A golden key can open any door
A good beginning makes a good ending
A good man is hard to find
A house divided against itself cannot stand
A house is not a home
A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step
A leopard cannot change its spots
A little knowledge is a dangerous thing
A little of what you fancy does you good
A man who is his own lawyer has a fool for his client
A miss is as good as a mile
A new broom sweeps clean
A nod's as good as a wink to a blind horse
A penny saved is a penny earned
A person is known by the company he keeps
A picture paints a thousand words
A place for everything and everything in its place
A poor workman always blames his tools
A problem shared is a problem halved
A prophet is not recognized in his own land
A rising tide lifts all boats
A rolling stone gathers no moss
A soft answer turneth away wrath
A stitch in time saves nine
A swarm in May is worth a load of hay; a swarm in June is worth a silver spoon; but a swarm in July is not worth a fly
A thing of beauty is a joy forever
A trouble shared is a trouble halved

**A volunteer is worth twenty pressed men
A watched pot never boils
A woman's place is in the home
A woman's work is never done
A word to the wise is enough
Absence makes the heart grow fonder
Absolute power corrupts absolutely
Accidents will happen (in the best-regulated families).
Actions speak louder than words
Adversity makes strange bedfellows
All good things come to he who waits
All good things must come to an end
All is grist that comes to the mill
All roads lead to Rome
All that glitters is not gold
All the world loves a lover
All things come to those who wait
All things must pass
All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy
All you need is love
All's fair in love and war
All's for the best in the best of all possible worlds
All's well that ends well
A miss is as good as a mile
An apple a day keeps the doctor away
An army marches on its stomach
An Englishman's home is his castle
An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure
Any port in a storm
Any publicity is good publicity
April showers bring forth May flowers
As you make your bed, so you must lie upon it
As you sow so shall you reap
Ask a silly question and you'll get a silly answer
Ask no questions and hear no lies
Attack is the best form of defence
Bad news travels fast
Barking dogs seldom bite
Beauty is in the eye of the beholder
Beauty is only skin deep
Beggars can't be choosers
Behind every great man there's a great woman
Better late than never
Better safe than sorry
Better the Devil you know than the Devil you don't
Better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all
Better to light one candle than to curse the darkness
Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak and remove all**

doubt

Beware of Greeks bearing gifts

Big fish eat little fish

Birds of a feather flock together

Blood is thicker than water

Boys will be boys

Brevity is the soul of wit

Business before pleasure

Caesar's wife must be above suspicion

Charity begins at home

Cheats never prosper

Children should be seen and not heard

Cleanliness is next to godliness

Clothes make the man

Cold hands, warm heart

Comparisons are odious

Count your blessings

Cowards may die many times before their death

Crime doesn't pay

Cut your coat to suit your cloth

Dead men tell no tales

Devil take the hindmost

Discretion is the better part of valour

Do as I say, not as I do

Do as you would be done by

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you

Don't bite the hand that feeds you

Don't burn your bridges behind you

Don't change horses in midstream

Don't count your chickens before they are hatched

Don't cross the bridge till you come to it

Don't cut off your nose to spite your face

Don't keep a dog and bark yourself

Don't let the bastards grind you down

Don't look a gift horse in the mouth

Don't meet troubles half-way

Don't put all your eggs in one basket

Don't put the cart before the horse

Don't put new wine into old bottles

Don't rock the boat

Don't spoil the ship for a ha'pworth of tar

Don't throw pearls to swine

Don't teach your Grandma to suck eggs

Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater

Don't try to walk before you can crawl

Don't upset the apple-cart

Don't wash your dirty linen in public

Doubt is the beginning not the end of wisdom

Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise
East is east, and west is west
East, west, home's best
Easy come, easy go
Eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die
Empty vessels make the most noise
Enough is as good as a feast
Enough is enough
Even a worm will turn
Every cloud has a silver lining
Every dog has his day
Every Jack has his Jill
Every little helps
Every man for himself, and the Devil take the hindmost
Every man has his price
Every picture tells a story
Every stick has two ends
Everybody wants to go to heaven but nobody wants to die
Fact is stranger than fiction
Failing to plan is planning to fail
Faint heart never won fair lady
Fair exchange is no robbery
Faith will move mountains
Familiarity breeds contempt
Feed a cold and starve a fever
Fight fire with fire
Finders keepers, losers weepers
Fine words butter no parsnips
First come, first served
First impressions are the most lasting
First things first
Fish always stinks from the head downwards
Fish and guests smell after three days
Flattery will get you nowhere
Fools rush in where angels fear to tread
For want of a nail the shoe was lost; for want of a shoe the horse was lost;
and for want of a horse the man was lost
Forewarned is forearmed
Fortune favours the brave
From the sublime to the ridiculous is only one step
Genius is an infinite capacity for taking pains
Give a dog a bad name and hang him
Give a man rope enough and he will hang himself
Give credit where credit is due
God helps those who help themselves
Good fences make good neighbours
Good talk saves the food
Good things come to those who wait

Great minds think alike
Half a loaf is better than no bread
Handsome is as handsome does
Hard cases make bad law
Hard work never did anyone any harm
Haste makes waste
He that goes a-borrowing, goes a-sorrowing
He who can does, he who cannot, teaches
He who fights and runs away, may live to fight another day
He who hesitates is lost
He who laughs last laughs longest
He who lives by the sword shall die by the sword
He who pays the piper calls the tune
He who sups with the Devil should have a long spoon
Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned
Hindsight is always twenty-twenty
History repeats itself
Home is where the heart is
Honesty is the best policy
Hope springs eternal
Horses for courses
If anything can go wrong, it will
If a job is worth doing it is worth doing well
If at first you don't succeed try, try and try again
If God had meant us to fly he'd have given us wings
If ifs and ands were pots and pans there'd be no work for tinkers
If life deals you lemons, make lemonade
If the cap fits, wear it
If the mountain won't come to Mohammed, then Mohammed must go to the mountain
If wishes were horses beggars would ride
If you can't be good, be careful
If you can't beat em, join em
If you can't stand the heat get out of the kitchen
If you lie down with dogs, you will get up with fleas
If you pay peanuts, you get monkeys
If you want a thing done well, do it yourself
Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery
In for a penny, in for a pound
In the kingdom of the blind the one eyed man is king
In the midst of life we are in death
Into every life a little rain must fall
It goes without saying
It is best to be on the safe side
It is better to give than to receive
It is easy to be wise after the event
It never rains but it pours
It takes a thief to catch a thief

**It takes all sorts to make a world
It takes one to know one
It takes two to tango
It's all grist to the mill
It's an ill wind that blows no one any good
It's better to give than to receive
It's better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all
It's better to light a candle than curse the darkness
It's better to travel hopefully than to arrive
It's never too late
It's no use crying over spilt milk
It's no use locking the stable door after the horse has bolted
It's the early bird that gets the worm
It's the empty can that makes the most noise
It's the squeaky wheel that gets the grease
Jack of all trades, master of none
Judge not, that ye be not judged
Keep your chin up
Keep your powder dry
Laugh and the world laughs with you, weep and you weep alone
Laughter is the best medicine
Least said, soonest mended
Less is more
Let bygones be bygones
Let not the sun go down on your wrath
Let sleeping dogs lie
Let the buyer beware
Let the dead bury the dead
Let the punishment fit the crime
Let well alone
Life begins at forty
Life is what you make it
Life's not all beer and skittles
Lightening never strikes twice in the same place
Like father, like son
Little pitchers have big ears
Little strokes fell great oaks
Little things please little minds
Live for today for tomorrow never comes
Look before you leap
Love is blind
Love makes the world go round
Love will find a way
Make hay while the sun shines
Make love not war
Man does not live by bread alone
Manners maketh man
Many a little makes a mickle**

Many a mickle makes a muckle
Many a true word is spoken in jest
Many hands make light work
March comes in like a lion, and goes out like a lamb
Marriages are made in heaven
Marry in haste, repent at leisure
Might is right
Mighty oaks from little acorns grow
Misery loves company
Moderation in all things
Monday's child is fair of face,
 Tuesday's child is full of grace,
 Wednesday's child is full of woe,
 Thursday's child has far to go,
 Friday's child is loving and giving,
 Saturday's child works hard for its living,
 And a child that's born on the Sabbath day
 Is fair and wise and good and gay.
Money doesn't grow on trees
Money is the root of all evil
Money isn't everything
Money makes the world go round
Money talks
More haste, less speed
Music has charms to soothe the savage breast
Nature abhors a vacuum
Necessity is the mother of invention
Needs must when the devil drives
Ne'er cast a clout till May be out
Never give a sucker an even break
Never judge a book by its cover
Never let the sun go down on your anger
Never look a gift horse in the mouth
Never put off until tomorrow what you can do today
Never speak ill of the dead
Never tell tales out of school
Nine tailors make a man
No man can serve two masters
No man is an island
No names, no pack-drill
No news is good news
No one can make you feel inferior without your consent
No pain, no gain
No rest for the wicked
Nothing is certain but death and taxes
Nothing succeeds like success
Nothing venture, nothing gain
Oil and water don't mix

Old soldiers never die, they just fade away
Once a thief, always a thief
Once bitten, twice shy
One good turn deserves another
One half of the world does not know how the other half lives
One hand washes the other
One man's meat is another man's poison
One might as well be hanged for a sheep as a lamb
One law for the rich and another for the poor
One swallow does not make a summer
One year's seeding makes seven years weeding
Only fools and horses work
Opportunity never knocks twice at any man's door
Out of sight, out of mind
Parsley seed goes nine times to the Devil
Patience is a virtue
Pearls of wisdom
Penny wise and pound foolish
People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones
Physician, heal thyself
Possession is nine points of the law
Power corrupts; absolute power corrupts absolutely
Practice makes perfect
Practise what you preach
Prevention is better than cure
Pride goes before a fall
Procrastination is the thief of time
Put your best foot forward
Red sky at night shepherds delight; red sky in the morning, shepherds warning
Revenge is a dish best served cold
Revenge is sweet
Rome wasn't built in a day
See a pin and pick it up, all the day you'll have good luck; see a pin and let it lie, bad luck you'll have all day
See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil
Seeing is believing
Seek and ye shall find
Set a thief to catch a thief
Shrouds have no pockets
Silence is golden
Slow but sure
Softly, softly, catchee monkey
Spare the rod and spoil the child
Speak as you find
Speak softly and carry a big stick
Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me
Still waters run deep

**Strike while the iron is hot
Stupid is as stupid does
Success has many fathers, while failure is an orphan
Take care of the pence and the pounds will take care of themselves
Talk is cheap
Talk of the Devil, and he is bound to appear
Tell the truth and shame the Devil
That which does not kill us makes us stronger
The age of miracles is past
The apple never falls far from the tree
The best defence is a good offence
The best-laid schemes of mice and men gang aft agley
The best things in life are free
The bigger they are, the harder they fall
The boy is father to the man
The bread never falls but on its buttered side
The child is the father of the man
The cobbler always wears the worst shoes
The course of true love never did run smooth
The customer is always right
The darkest hour is just before the dawn
The devil finds work for idle hands to do
The devil looks after his own
The early bird catches the worm
The end justifies the means
The exception which proves the rule
The female of the species is more deadly than the male
The good die young
The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence
The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world
The husband is always the last to know
The labourer is worthy of his hire
The leopard does not change his spots
The longest journey starts with a single step
The more the merrier
The more things change, the more they stay the same
The only good Indian is a dead Indian
The pen is mightier than sword
The proof of the pudding is in the eating
The road to hell is paved with good intentions
The shoemaker's son always goes barefoot
The squeaking wheel gets the grease
The way to a man's heart is through his stomach
There are more ways of killing a cat than choking it with cream
There are none so blind as those, that will not see
There are two sides to every question
There but for the grace of God, go I
There's an exception to every rule**

**There's always more fish in the sea
There's honour among thieves
There's many a good tune played on an old fiddle
There's many a slip 'twixt cup and lip
There's many a slip twixt cup and lip
There's more than one way to skin a cat
There's no accounting for tastes
There's no fool like an old fool
There's no place like home
There's no smoke without fire
There's no such thing as a free lunch
There's no such thing as bad publicity
There's no time like the present
There's none so blind as those who will not see
There's none so deaf as those who will not hear
There's nowt so queer as folk
There's one born every minute
There's safety in numbers
They that sow the wind, shall reap the whirlwind
Third time lucky
Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it
Those who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones
Those who sleep with dogs will rise with fleas
Time and tide wait for no man
Time flies
Time is a great healer
Time is money
Time will tell
'tis better to have loved and lost, than never to have loved at all
To err is human, to forgive divine
To the victor go the spoils
To travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive
Tomorrow is another day
Tomorrow never comes
Too many cooks spoil the broth
Truth is stranger than fiction
Truth will out
Two blacks don't make a white
Two heads are better than one
Two is company, but three's a crowd
Two wrongs don't make a right
Variety is the spice of life
Walk softly but carry a big stick
Walls have ears
Walnuts and pears you plant for your heirs
Waste not want not
What can't be cured must be endured
What goes up must come down**

**What you lose on the swings you gain on the roundabouts
What's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander
When in Rome, do as the Romans do
When the cat's away the mice will play
When the going gets tough, the tough get going
When the oak is before the ash, then you will only get a splash; when the
ash is before the oak, then you may expect a soak
What the eye doesn't see, the heart doesn't grieve over
Where there's a will there's a way
Where there's muck there's brass
While there's life there's hope
Whom the Gods love die young
Why keep a dog and bark yourself?
Wonders will never cease
Work expands so as to fill the time available
Worrying never did anyone any good
You are never too old to learn
You are what you eat
You can have too much of a good thing
You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink
You can't have your cake and eat it
You can't get blood out of a stone
You can't make a silk purse from a sow's ear
You can't make an omelette without breaking eggs
You can't make bricks without straw
You can't run with the hare and hunt with the hounds
You can't teach an old dog new tricks
You can't tell a book by looking at its cover
You can't win them all
You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar
You pays your money and you takes your choice
Youth is wasted on the young**

Proverbs

90% of Inspiration is Perspiration

A baby is an alimentary canal with a loud voice at one end and no responsibility at the other

A bad custom is like a good cake, better broken than kept

A bad excuse is better than none

A bad penny always turns up

A bad workman blames his tools

A banker is a fellow who lends you his umbrella when the sun is shining, but wants it back the minute it begins to rain

A barking dog never bites

A best friend is like a four leaf clover, Hard to find and lucky to have

A bird can sing with a broken wing, but you cant pluck feathers off a frog

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush

A black plum is as sweet as a white

A book holds a house of gold

A book is like a garden carried in the pocket

A bus is a vehicle that runs twice as fast when you are after it as when you are in it

A calm sea does not make a skilled sailor

A camel is a horse designed by a committee

A cat has nine lives

A cat may look at a king

A cat may look at a Queen

A celebrity is someone who works hard all his life to become known and then wears dark glasses to avoid being recognized

A chain is no stronger than its weakest link

A change is as good as a rest

A child is a person who can dismantle in 5 minutes the toy it took you 5 hours to put together

A cold bitter Christmas, a fat churchyard

A constant guest is never welcome

A creaking door hangs longest

A crowd is not company

A danger foreseen is half avoided

A day of sorrow is longer than a month of joy

A Deaf Husband and a Blind Wife are Always a Happy Couple

A diamond among men

A dog who attends a flea circus most likely will steal the whole show

A drop of ink may make a million think

A drowning man will clutch at straws

A fair exchange is no robbery
A faithful friend is a medicine for life
A fly will not get into a closed mouth
A fool and his money are soon parted
A fool at forty is a fool indeed
A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions
A fool gives; a wise man takes
A Fool May Give a Wise Man Counsel
A fool will laugh when he is drowning
A friend in need is a friend indeed
A friend is not so soon gotten as lost
A friend to all is a friend to none
A gentle heart is tied with an easy thread
A gentleman without an estate is a pudding without suet
A gift given in secret soothes anger, and a bribe concealed in the cloak pacifies great wrath
A golden key opens all doors
A good beginning makes a good ending
A good conscience is the best divinity
A good denial, the best point in law
A Good Example is the Best Sermon
A good lawyer must be a great liar
A good man is hard to find
A good mate is the road map for the spaghetti junction of life
A good name is better than a good face
A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold
A Good Tongue is a Good Weapon
A good tree brings forth good fruit
A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret
A gossips mouth is the devils postbag
A great dowry is a bed full of brambles
A Growing Youth Has a Wolf in His Belly
A guilty conscience needs no accuser
A hairy man is a happy man, a hairy wife is a witch
A handful of patience is worth more than a bushel of brains
A happy heart is better than a full purse
A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit
A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones
A heavy purse gives to a light heart
A hedge between keeps friendship green
A helping hand is no farther than at the end of your sleeve

**A house is not a home
A huge part of real love is constant forgiveness
A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step
A lender nor borrower be
A leopard cannot change its spots
A little of what you fancy does you good
A long way to go
A man comes from the dust and in the dust he will end - and in the meantime
it is good to drink a sip of vodka
A man in love is a fool, and an old man in love is the greatest fool of all
A man is at his tallest when he stoops to help a child
A man is judged by his deeds, not by his words
A man is known by the company he keeps
A Man of Words and Not of Deeds is Like a Garden Full of Weeds
A man that breaks his word bids other be false to him
A man walks, God places the feet
A miss is as good as a mile
A miss is as good as a mr
A new broom sweeps clean
A new broom sweeps clean, but the old brush knows all the corners
A nod is as good as a wink to a blind man
A penny always turns up
A person who can smile when things go wrong has found someone to blame it
on
A picture paints a thousand words
A place for everything and everything in its place
A positive pessimist is better than a negative optimist
A problem is a chance for you to do your best
A problem shared is a problem halved
A proverb is a true word
A proverb never lies, it is only its meaning which deceives
A quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping on a rainy day
A reed before the wind lives on, while might oaks do fall
A rolling stone gathers no moss
A ruler who oppresses the poor is like a driving rain that leaves no crops
A scalded cat fears cold water
A shining example
A short absence quickens love, a long absence kills it
A slap on the back is only a few inches away from a kick in the butt
A slip of the tongue is no fault of the mind and he who laughs is very unkind
A sly rabbit will have three openings to its den
A Small Spark Makes a Great Fire
A soft answer turneth away wrath**

**A sprat to catch a mackerel
A spy with flatulence will always blow his cover
A squirrel is just a rat with good PR
A stitch in time saves nine
A tidy house holds a bored woman
A volunteer is worth twenty pressed men
A watched pot never boils
A whistling woman and a crowing hen are neither fit for God or men
A wise head keeps a still tongue
A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son grief to his mother
A wonder lasts but nine days
A worry shared is a worry halved
Aaah, a man who runs through airport swing-doors is going to Bangkok
Abandon ship
Absence makes the heart grow fonder
Abundance, like want, ruins many
Accidents happen
Accidents will happen in the best regulated families
Actions speak louder than words
Admiration is the daughter of ignorance
Adversity doesn't build character, it reveals it
Adversity Makes Strange Bedfellows
After a famine in the stall comes a famine in the hall
After all is said and done, more is said than done
After dark all cats are leopards
After dinner rest a while, after supper walk a mile
After the game, the king and the pawn go into the same box
After the storm comes the calm
Age before beauty
Age has no friend but the wrinkles of the mind
Age is a very high price to pay for maturity
Agree, For The Law is Costly
All are not cooks that walk with long knives
All beginning is difficult The first million is the hardest
All good things come to he who waits
All good things must come to an end
All in good time
All is for the best in the best of the possible worlds
All lay loads on a willing horse!
All over the place
All roads lead to Rome
All sunshine makes a desert
All that glitters is not gold**

**All the world loves a lover
All things are possible with god
All things come to those who wait
All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy
All you need is love
Although the Sun May Shine, Leave Not Thy Cloak at Home
Always the bridesmaid, never the bride
An ant may well destroy a whole dam
An apple a day
An apple a day keeps the doctor at bay
An apple a day keeps the doctor away
An English Summer, Three Hot Days and a Thunderstorm
An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth
An old fox is not easily snared
An old Ox makes a straight furrow
An ounce of practice is worth a pound of precept
Angry Men Make Themselves a Bed of Nettles
Another day, another dollar
Any fool can criticise, condemn and complain and most fools do
Any port in a storm
Anybody can make history Only a great man can write it
Appearances are deceptive
April is the cruellest month
Art has no enemy but ignorance
Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity
As busy as a bee
As delicate as a baby's eye lashes
As dirty as a pig
As dry as chapped lips
As is the gardener, so is the garden
As safe as houses
As soft as velvet
As strong as love
As useful as a chocolate fireguard (or teapot)
As wrinkled as an elephant's hide
As you make your bed, so must you lie in it
As you sow, so shall you reap
Ask a silly question and you get a silly answer
Ask no questions and hear no lies
At the end of the game, the King and the pawn go back in the same box
Attack is the best form of defence
Back to the future
Bad news travels fast**

Barking dogs seldom bite
Be a good sport - wherever you go
Be first at the feast, and last at the fight
Be just before you are generous
Be kind to people on the way up, you may need them when you are on your way down
Beautiful is not what is beautiful, but what one likes
Beauty and Honesty Seldom Agree
Beauty is in the eye of the beholder
Beauty is only skin deep
Beauty without virtue is a flower without perfume
Beer before wine is fine Wine before beer makes you feel queer!
Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy
Bees that have honey in their mouths have stings in their tails
Before enlightenment, I chopped wood and carried water; after enlightenment, I chopped wood and carried water.
Beggars and borrowers cannot be choosers
Believe nothing of what you hear, and only half of what you see
Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife
Better a meal of vegetables where there is love than a fattened calf with hatred
Better a poor man whose walk is blameless than a rich man whose ways are perverse
Better an open enemy, than a false friend
Better bend than break
Better die with honor than live with shame
Better do it than wish it done
Better late than never
Better one house spoiled than two
Better safe than sorry
Better to aim high and miss, than to aim low and reach target!
Better to be alone than in bad company
Better to be envied than pitied
Better to be lowly in spirit and among the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud
Better to be safe than sorry
Better to have loved and lost, than never have loved at all
Better to light a candle than to curse the darkness
Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife
Better to meet a bear robbed of her cubs than a fool in his folly
Better to remain silent and appear a fool, than to open your mouth and remove

all doubt
Better wed over the mixen than over the moor
Beware of Greeks bearing gifts
Big bad wolf
Birds of a feather flock together
Bitter pills may have blessed effects
Blessings Are Not Valued Until They Are Gone
Blethers say nought
Blood is thicker than water
Blue are the hills that are far away
Books and friends should be few and good
Borrowed Garments Never Fit Well
Box of tricks Boxed in
Boys will be boys
Bread is the staff of life
Broken in two
Bus stop
Business before pleasure
Catch not at the shadow and lose the substance
Centre parting
Charity begins at home
Charity covers a multitude of sins
Cheats never prosper
Children Have Wide Ears and Long Tongues
Children should be seen and not heard
Christmas comes but once a year
Christmas comes but once a year, but Hallmark makes sure it lasts three months
Civility costs nothing
Cleanliness is next to Godliness
Clothes make a man
Coin a phrase
Cold hands, warm heart
Come out to play
Common fame is seldom to blame
Confession is good for the soul
Confidence is a plant of slow growth
Constant dripping wears away the stone
Corporations have neither bodies to be punished nor souls to be damned
Count your blessings
Cultivate money and you grow rich, Cultivate mind and you raise culture
Curiosity killed the cat
Curses, like chickens, come home to roost

Cut your coat according to your cloth
Daddies know best
Danger can never be overcome without taking risks
Dead men tell no tales
Death is the great leveller
Death pays all debts
Desperate Diseases Call for Desperate Remedies
Diamonds cut diamonds
Different strokes for different folk
Diligence is the mother of good fortune
Discretion is the better part of valour
Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow
Distance lends enchantment to the view
Distance makes the heart grow fonder
Divide and rule
Do as I say, and not as I do
Do as you would be done by
Do not look where you fell, but where you slipped
Do not praise yourself while going into battle; praise yourself coming out of battle
Do not search for a calf under an ox
Do not use a hatchet to remove a fly from a friend's forehead
Do not wear out your welcome
Do right and fear no man
Do unto others as you would like them to do unto you
Don't answer back
Don't talk back
Don't count the days, make the days count!
Don't make love at the garden gate, love is blind but the neighbour's ain't
Don't teach your grandmother to suck eggs
Doubt is the beginning not the end of wisdom
Draw a line under
Draw Not Your Bow Till the Arrow is Fixed
Dream of a funeral and you hear of a marriage
Due to the presence of fools, wise people stand out
Dump husband in September, you have to get rid of the spiders
Early to bed and early to rise, make a man healthy, wealthy and wise
Easy come, easy go
Easy peasy
Eat well, stay fit, die anyway
Empty sacks will never stand upright
Enough is as good as a feast

Even a clock that does not work is right twice a day
Even in laughter the heart may ache, and joy may end in grief
Every Ass Loves to Hear Himself Bray
Every bird loves to hear himself sing
Every body wants to go to heaven but nobody wants to die
Every cloud has a silver lining
Every Cook Praises His Own Broth
Every cross has its inscriptions
Every devil has not a cloven hoof
Every dog has his day
Every family has a skeleton in the cupboard
Every flow hath its ebb
Every little helps
Every man has his price
Every picture tells a story
Every Soldier has the Baton of a Field Marshal in his Knapsack
Every step of life is a risk
Everyday is a fresh slate
Everyone stretches his legs according to the length of his coverlet
Everything comes to him who waits
Everything must have a beginning
Everything under the sun
Excess of ceremony shows want of breeding
Experience is a great servant
Experience is a wonderful thing It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again
Experience is better bought than taught
Experience is the best teacher
Face to face
Facts are stubborn things
Faint heart never won fair lady
Fair exchange is no robbery
Fair without , false within
Faith will move mountains
Fall seven times, stand up eight
Falling star
Familiarity breeds contempt
Fate leads the willing but drives the stubborn
Fear lends wings
Feed a cold starve a fever
Fight fire with fire
Fight truth decay, read the bible
Finders keepers, losers weepers

Fine feathers make fine birds
Fine words butter no parsnips
First come, first served
First Impressions are the Most Lasting
First in the queue
First things first
Fish and guests smell in three days
Fish are no respectors of human boredom, so why go angling
Flies Come to Feasts Unmasked
Flies never visit an egg that has no crack
Fogiveness is the fragrance the violet sheds on the foot that crushed it
Folly grows without watering
Fools and madmen speak the truth
Fools build houses, and wise men live in them
Fools rush in where angels fear to tread
Fools seldom differ
Football is a game of two halves
For better, for worse
For instance
For sale
Forbidden fruits create many jams
Forewarned is forearmed
Forgive and forget
Fortune favours the brave
Four poster bed
Four things drive a man out of his house: too much smoke, a dripping roof, filthy air and a scolding wife
Friends are made by many acts - and lost by only one
Friendship is like money, easier made than kept
From clogs to clogs in only three generations
From the sweetest wine the tartest vinegar
Fruit out of season, sorrow out of reason
Full of hope
Genius is an Infinite Capacity for Taking Pains
Gentle is that gentle does
Get up and go
Gie yer tongue mair holidays nor yer heid
Give a clown a finger and he will take your hand
Give and spend and God will send
Give credit where credit is due
Give Neither Counsel Nor Salt till You Are Asked For It
Gluttony kills more than the sword
Go along for the ride

Go to heaven for the climate and hell for the company
God could not be everywhere and therefore he made mothers
God defend me from my friends; from my enemies I can defend myself
God gives every bird its food, but does not always drop it into the nest
God help the poor, for the rich can help themselves
God helps those who help themselves
God is alive and well and working on something less ambitious
God is Always on the Side of the Big Battalions
God made the country and man made the town!
Golden dishes will never turn black
Good and quickly seldom meet
Good broth may be made in an old pot
Good fences make good neighbours!
Good friends are hard to find, harder to leave, and impossible to forget
Good looking
Good people are scarce
Good talk saves the food
Goodness is better than beauty
Grease is the only cure for a hangover
Great minds think alike
Great minds think alike, simple minds cant think of anything different
Great oaks from little acorns grow
Greedy folks have long arms
Grow your own dope - plant a man!
Growing pains
Gut No Fish Till You Get Them
Half a loaf is better than no bread
Handsome is as handsome does
Happiness is not a state of mind, but a manner of travelling
Happiness is wanting what you have - not having what you want
Happy is the bride the sun shines on
Hard work never did anyone any harm
Haste makes waste
Hasty climbers have sudden falls
Hate is like cancer slowly eating us away inside
Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers over all wrongs
Have you ever noticed? anybody going slower than you is an idiot, and anyone going faster than you is a maniac
He is always right who suspects that he makes mistakes
He is an ill companion that has a good memory
He is at Ease Who Has Enough
He Is Rich Enough That Wants Nothing
He knows best what good is that has endured evil

He Lives Long Who Lives Well
He That Brings Good News Knocks Hard
He that is master of himself, will soon be master of others
He that knows nothing, doubts nothing
He that plants a tree plants for posterity
He that stays in the valley shall never get over the hill!
He That Teaches Himself has a Fool for his Master
He That Will Not Be Counselling Cannot Be Helped
He travels fastest who travels alone
He who awaits much receives little
He who comes with a story to you will bring two away from you
He who dares wins
He who does not honour his wife dishonours himself
He who drinks Australian Thinks Australian
He who fights and runs away, lives to fight another day
He who flies high is a short step from a big fall
He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son
He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin
He who has once burnt his mouth always blows his soup
He who hesitates is lost
He who is ABSENT is always in the Wrong
He Who Keeps Company with the Wolf Will Learn How to Howl
He who knows better has never tried it
He who laughs last laughs longest
He who laughs last, thinks the slowest!
He who lives by the sword shall die by the sword
He who makes no mistakes, makes nothing
He who pays the piper calls the tune
He who plays with fire will get burnt
He who rides a tiger is afraid to dismount
He who sups with the devil should have a long spoon
He who wants to do good, knocks at the gate, he who loves finds the gates open
He who works his land will have abundant food, but the one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty
Head for cover
Head over heels
Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned
History repeats itself
Hole in one
Home is where the heart is

**Home is where you hang your hat
Home sweet home
Honesty is the best policy
Hope springs eternal
Hunger is the best sauce
I had no shoes and complained, until I met a man who had no feet
I pointed out to you the stars and all you saw was the tip of my finger
Idle people lack no excuses
If a son is uneducated, his dad is to blame
If anything can go wrong, it will
If Fortune calls, offer him a seat
If in doubt, mumble
If life deals you lemons make lemonade
If the Blind Lead the Blind, Both Shall Fall Into the Ditch
If the cap fits, wear it
If the mountain will not come to Mahomet, Mahomet must go to the mountain
If the wind will not serve, take to the oars
If there were no losers there could be no winners
If Wishes Were Horses, Beggars Would Ride
If you are planning for a year - sow rice, if you are planning for a decade - sow trees, if you are planning for a lifetime - educate people
If you believe everything you read, you better not read
If you educate a man you educate an individual but if you educate a woman you educate a family
If you get a good wife you will be happy, if you get a bad one you will become a philosopher
If you get it overnight, you can lose it just as quick
If you lie down with dogs you will come up with fleas
If you want a place in the sun, you must leave the shade of the family tree
If you wish to be loved, love
If you would enjoy the fruit, pluck not the flower
Ignorance is bliss
Ill-gotten gains never prosper
Imagination is the highest kite you can fly
Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery
In a battle between elephants, the ants get squashed
In April, a young man's thoughts turn to fancy!
In black and white
In for a penny, in for a pound
In the coldest flint there is hot fire
In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has
In the land of hope there is never any winter**

In the Land of the Blind the One Eyed Man is King
In vino veritas
Inverted comma
Is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness
It is nice to be important but it is more important to be nice
It is a long lane that has no turning
It is a silly fish that is caught twice with the same bait
It is better to love and lost than never to love at all
It is better to travel hopefully than to arrive
It is better to wear out than to rust out
It is easier to get forgiveness than permission
It is foolish to deal with a fool
It is good to be knowledgeable, but better to be lovable
It is good to have company in misery
It is in vain to cast your net where there is no fish
It is never too late to be what you might have been
It is possible to give without loving but it is impossible to love without giving
It is what is in the mind when sober, that comes out of the mouth when drunk
It never rains but it pours
It takes all sorts to make a world
It takes one bad apple to spoil the barrel!
It takes one day to destroy a house but to build a new one will take months, perhaps years
It takes one to know one
It takes two to make a quarrel
It takes two to tango
It will all come out in the wash
It will all come right in the wash
It's the thought that counts
Its a dogs life
Its a wise child that knows its own father
Its only rock n roll but I like it
Its too late to shut the stable door after the horse has bolted
Jack of all trades, master of none
Judge not that you be not judged
Just between you and me
Keep your chin up
Keep your eyes on the stars, and your feet on the ground
Keep your friends close but your enemies closer
Keep your powder dry
Kill not the goose that lays the golden egg
Kill two birds with one stone
Kiss and make up

Kiss and tell

Know which side your bread is buttered

Knowing is not enough; We must Apply Willing is not enough; We must Do

Laugh and the world laughs with you, cry and you cry alone

Laughter is the best medicine

Laughter is the closest distance between two people

Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth

Lean liberty is better than fat slavery

Lear from the past, Live for today Look for tomorrow, take a nap this afternoon

Learn to say no It will be of more use to you than to be able to read Latin

Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere

Least said soonest mended

Lend your money and lose your friend

Let bygones be bygones

Let sleeping dogs lie

Let the buyer beware

Life after death

Life begins at forty

Life is a mystery to be lived, not a problem to be solved

Life is beautiful

Life is just a bowl of cherries

Life is like a box of chocolates, sometimes hard, sometimes soft

Life is like a drawing pin - sharp at one end, and flat at the other

Life is like a good book, the more you get into it the more it makes sense

Life is like a horse race there are winners and losers

Life is not all beer and skittles

Life is one long catwalk

Lightning never strikes twice

Lightning never strikes twice in the same place

Like a roaring lion or a charging bear is a wicked man ruling over a helpless people

Like clouds and wind without rain is a man who boasts of gifts he does not give

Like father, like son

Like flogging a dead horse

Like music to my ears

Like the measles, love is most dangerous when it comes late in life

Line up in alphabetical order

Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise

Little and large

Little Strokes Fell Great Oaks

**Little things please little minds
Little white lie
Live and learn
Live and let live
Live to the point of tears
Long time no see
Look after number one
Look before you leap
Look both ways
Look good, feel good
Look on the bright side
Look the other way
Lookers on see most of the game
Lost in the post
Lots of people confuse bad management with destiny
Love conquers all
Love is an ideal thing, marriage a real thing
Love is blind
Love is like a fire, it can either warm your heart or burn your house down
Love is the strangest thing
Love laughs at the locksmiths
Love makes the world go round
Love many, trust few, but always paddle your own canoe
Love nature , live lightly
Love starts with a smile, grows with a kiss, and ends with a tear
Love thy neighbour as thy self
Love will find a way
Loving life is living life to the fullest
Lucky at cards, unlucky in love
Make hay while the sun shines
Make love not war
Man cannot live on bread alone
Man in the moon
Man who wants pretty nurse, must be patient
Manners maketh man
Many a mickle makes a muckle
Many a true word is spoken in jest
Many are called but few are chosen
Many hands make light work
Many people know how to say nothing; few know when
Many things are lost for want of asking
March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb
March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers**

Marry in haste, and repent at leisure
Melt the icy fingers of fear with the sunshine of hope
Men are from earth Women are from earth Deal with it
Merry Nights Make Sorry Days
Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places
Might is right
Mind your own business
Mini-skirt
Misery loves company
Money is the root of all evil
Money makes the world go around
More haste less speed
Mother knows best
Motivation is what gets you started habit is what keeps you going
Much too much
Murder will out
Necessity is the mother of invention
Needs must when the devil drives
Never be afraid to sit awhile and think
Never choose bedlinen or a wife by candlelight
Never eat an oyster unless there is an R in the month
Never go to bed on an argument
Never judge a book by its cover
Never judge by appearances
Never judge someone until you have travelled a mile in their shoes
Never look a gift horse in the mouth
Never make a mountain out of a molehill - The mountain will arrive soon enough
Never murder a man who is committing suicide
Never play leapfrog with a unicorn
Never put off til tomorrow what you can do today
Never put your tongue on an iceberg
Never say die
Never speak ill of the dead
Never stand on the tail of a hedgehog after midnight
Never the twain shall meet
Never too old to learn
Never trouble trouble till trouble troubles you
Night is the Mother of Counsel
No Good Building Without a Good Foundation
No great genius has ever existed without some touch of madness
No man is a hero to his valet

**No man is an island
No man is wise at all times
No matter how long a log stays in the water it does not become a crocodile
No news is good news
No one grows old by living; only by losing interest in living
No one is expected to achieve the impossible
No pain, no gain
No wind, no waves
None but the brave deserve the fair
None but the wearer knows where the shoe pinches
None so deaf as those who will not hear
Not to know is bad; not to wish to know is worse
Nothing is certain but death and taxes
Nothing is interesting if you are not interested
Nothing seems expensive on credit
Nothing succeeds like success
Nothing that is worth knowing can be taught
Nothing to worry about
Nothing ventured, nothing gained
Nowt so queer as folk!
Old fish and young flesh feed men best
Old friends and wine are best
Old habits die hard
Old sins cast long shadows
On cloud nine
On second thoughts
On the crest of a wave
On the Turf all men are equal, and under it
Once a word leaves your mouth, you cannot chase it back even with the
swiftest horse
Once bitten twice shy
Once in a blue moon
Once in a while, right in the middle of an ordinary life, love gives us a fairy tale
Once seen never forgotten
One beats the bush, another takes the bird
One cannot quarrel without an opponent
One foolish sheep will lead the flock
One for sorrow, two for joy, three for a girl, four for a boy, five for silver, six
for gold seven for a secret not to be sold Eight for heaven nine for hell and ten
for the devils own cell
One good turn deserves another
One good turn deserves half the blankets
One in a million**

**One mans loss is another mans gain
One mans meat is another mans poison!
One of these days is none of these days
One thing after another
One volunteer is worth ten pressed men
One who has the reputation of an early riser may safely lie in bed until noon
One years seeding means seven years weeding
Only fools and horses work
Only mad dogs and englishmen go out in the midday sun
Only time will tell
Only when all contribute their firewood can they build up a strong fire
Opportunities always look bigger going than coming
Opportunity makes a thief
Opportunity seldom knocks twice
Out of sight, out of mind
Out of the blue
Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings
Over the moon
Pain in the neck
Pain is so close to pleasure
Pain is temporary, victory is forever
Pardon all but theyself
Past cure, past care
Patience is a virtue
Patience is bitter, but it bears sweet fruit
Penny wise, pound foolish
People who think the world revolves around them have no sense of direction
Perfection is imperfect
Pick your friends like you pick your fruit
Plant the crab tree where you will, it will never bear pippins
Play with fire
Poor men seek meat for their stomach; rich men stomach for their meat
Possessions dwindle; I mourn their loss But I mourn the loss of time much more, for anyone can save his purse, but none can win back lost time
Possessions dwindle; I mourn their loss But I mourn the loss of time much more, for anyone can save his purse, but none can win back lost time
Practice makes perfect
Practice what you preach
Pretty as a picture
Prevention is better than cure
Pride comes before a fall
Procrastination is the thief of time
Promises are like babies Easy to make, hard to deliver**

Put the cat out
Quality is an excuse for lack of quantity
Quality is better than quantity
Quickly come, quickly go
Rain before seven, fine before eleven
Rain, Rain, go away, come back another day
Rained on ground hardens (Japanese Proverb)
Rats desert a sinking ship
Reading between the lines
Red in the face
Red sky at night
Red sky at night shepherds delight, red sky in the morning, shepherds warning
Red, white and blue
Revenge is a dish best served cold
Revenge is sweet
Right between the eyes
Righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a disgrace to any people
Robbing Peter to pay Paul
Saying is one thing; doing another
Second place is first loser
See Naples and die
Seeing is believing
Seldom seen, soon forgotten
Seven-fifths of all people do not understand fractions
Sex takes up the least amount of time and causes the most amount of trouble
Share and share alike!
Shopping is a therapy
Shut up and sit down
Sign on the dotted line
Silence is golden
Silence is the fence around wisdom
Sinking ship
Size matters
Sleep is better than medicine
Small talk
Small time crook
Smile and the world smiles with you, snore and you sleep alone
Smooth runs the water where the brook is deep
Smooth seas do not make skillful sailors
So long as you do your best in life, whatever happens will be for the best
Softly, softly, catchee monkey
Some are Wise and Some are Otherwise
Some are wise and some are otherwise

Sometimes the majority only means all the fools are on the same side
Spare the rod and spoil the child
Speak when you are spoken to
Split second timing
Spots before the eyes
St Swithins Day, if thou does rain, for forty days it will remain, St Swithins day
if thou be fair for forty days twill rain no more
Star turn
Sticks and stones may break my bones but names will never hurt me
Still waters run deep
Stir With a Knife, Stir Up Strife
Stone is heavy and sand a burden, but provocation by a fool is heavier than
both
Strangers are just friends you have not met yet
Strike while the iron is hot
Success has many fathers, while failure is an orphan
Sugar cube
Sunlight penetrates even the thinnest crack
Sweetheart
Swim in the sea
Sympathy without relief is like mustard without beef
Tailors and writers must mind the fashion
Take a hair of the dog that bit you
Take care of the pennies and the pounds will take care of themselves
Take heed of reconciled enemies and of meat twice boiled
Take your time and time will take you
Talk about things of tomorrow and the mice inside the ceiling laugh
Talk is cheap
Teachers open the door, but you must enter by yourself
Teaching of others teacheth the teacher
The Absent are Always Wrong
The Ass Loaded With Gold Still Eats Thistles
The best advice is found on the pillow
The best doctors are Dr Diet, Dr Quiet and Dr Merryman
The Best Fish Swim Near the Bottom
The best is yet to come
The best of men are but men at best
The best things come in small packages
The best things in life are free
The best throw of the dice is to throw them away
The Best Wine Comes Out of an Old Vessel
The bigger they are, the harder they fall
The birds and the bees

The cobra will bite you whether you call it cobra or Mr Cobra
The company makes the feast
The country is in ruins, and there are still mountains and rivers - japanese proverb
The course of true love never did run smooth
The darkest hour is just before dawn
The devil find work for idle hands to do
The Devil goes shares in gaming
The Devil rides upon a fiddlestick
The devil tempts all, but the idle man tempts the devil
The difficult we do at once, the impossible takes a little longer
The early bird catches the worm
The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese
The early worm enjoys a leisurely breakfast
The end justifies the means
The eyes are the window of the soul
The eyes speak as much as the mouth
The faintest ink is more powerful than the strongest memory
The Fairest Rose at Last is Withered
The Family That Prays Together Stays Together
The female of the species is more deadly than the male
The first faults are theirs that commit them, the second theirs that permit them
The first step is the hardest
The fish will soon be caught, that nibbles at every bait
The fruit does not fall far from the tree.
The Gods Send Nuts to those who have no Teeth
The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence
The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world
The higher the monkey climbs, the more he shows his tail
The higher the tree, the sweeter the plum
The higher you climb up the ladder, the more people can see your arse
The horses of hope gallop, but the asses of experience go slowly
The King can make a knight, but not a gentleman
The last drop makes the cup run over
The longest day must have an end
The longest rope has an end
The man who removes a mountain begins by carrying away small stones
The Mills of God Grind Slowly, Yet They Grind Exceedingly Small
The Moon does not heed the barking of dogs
The more one knows, the less one believes
The more the merrier
The more you get, the more you want

**The most beautiful women are made for lovers who lack imagination
The nearer the bone the sweeter the meat
The nearer to the church, the farther from God
The old believe everything, the middle aged suspect everything, the young
know everything
The One who tells the stories rules the world
The pen is mightier than the sword
The pot calls the kettle black
The price of greatness is responsibility
The price of liberty is eternal vigilance
The proof of the pudding is in the eating
The righteous man leads a blameless life; blessed are his children after him
The road to hell is paved with good intentions
The rotten apple injures its neighbours
The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak
The stick is the surest peacemaker
The tide never goes out so far but it always comes in again
The tongue ever turns to the aching tooth
The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue crushes
the spirit
The trouble with experience is that by the time you have it, you are too old to
take advantage of it
The truth will out
The West Wind Always Brings Wet Weather, The East Wind Wet and Cold
Together, the South Wind Surely Brings Us Rain, the North Wind Blows It Back
Again
The world is full of willing people: some willing to work and some willing to let
them
The young man thinks the old mans stupid but the old man KNOWS the young
man is
There are always ears on the other side of the wall
There Are No Atheists in Foxholes
There are none so blind as those that will not see
There are two sides to every question
There but for the grace of God go I
There is a skeleton in every cupboard
There is a time and a place for everything
There is a time to speak and a time to be silent
There is always some madness in love But there is also always some reason in
madness
There is always somebody worst of then yourself no matter how bad things
seem
There is an exception to every rule**

**There is more than one way to skin a cat
There is no accounting for taste
There is no difference between a wise man and a fool when they fall in love
There is no jollity but hath a smack of folly
There is no physician like a true friend
There is no such thing as a free lunch
There is no time like the present
There is safety in numbers
There will be rubs in the smoothest road
They Brag Most That Can Do the Least
They that dance must pay the fiddler
They that walk much in the sun will be tanned at last
Things can only get better
Things that come to those who wait may be things left by those who got there first
Think before you speak
Think Much, Speak Little and Write Less
Third time lucky
Those who cast the votes decide nothing Those who count the votes decide everything
Those who play the game do not see it as clearly as those who watch
Though the wound be healed, a scar remains
Three wise men
Time and tide wait for no man
Time is a great healer
Time to spare
Time waits for nobody
Tis better to get things for free, than to work up a sweat
To deceive oneself is very easy
To err is human, to forgive divine
To handle yourself, use your head; to handle others, use your heart
To have is to hold and to hold is to have
To know the road ahead, ask those coming back
To many people in a dustbin means there not much room in side
To say that a man cannot love one woman at a time is ridiculous It is like saying a musician needs more than one violin to play the same piece of music
To the jaundiced eye all things look yellow
To the victor the spoils
To the world you may be one person but to one person you may be the world
To thine own self be true
To whom God gives, to him also the people give
Tomorrow never comes
Too funny for words**

Too many chiefs and not enough indians
Too many clicks spoil the browse
Too many cooks spoil the broth
Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it
True blue will never stain
True love is like a teardrop in Niagra falls
True love never grows old
Trust is the mother of deceit
Try praying Nothing pleses God more than to hear a strange voice
Turn the other cheek
Two Dogs Fight for a Bone, and a Third Runs Away With it
Two fools in a house are too many
Two heads are better than one
Two peas in a pod
Two things a man should never be angry at: what he can help and what he cannot help
Two wrongs do not make a right
Two wrongs may not make a right but three rights make a left
Under the thorn grow the roses
United we stand, divided we fall
Unkissed, unkind
Up to a point
Use it or lose it
Use soft words and hard arguments
Variety is the spice of life
Virtue is its own reward
Virtues all agree, but vices fight one another
Visit your aunt, but not every day of the year
Wait and see
Walk before you can run
Walls have ears

Proverbs and their meaning

Alphabetical list of proverbs		
	Proverb	Explanation / Meaning
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 look 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 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) Three 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 dry March, a wet April and a cool May fill barn and cellar and bring much hay.		
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.		
A man can die but once.		
A man is as old as he feels himself to be.		
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 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.	
As you sow, so shall you reap	You have to accept the consequences of your actions.
B Bad news travels fast.	People tend to circulate bad news (accidents, illness etc.) very quickly.
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 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.
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.
C 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.

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.
E	Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise.	
	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.
	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 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 judgement.
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.	
	False friends are worse than open enemies.	
	Familiarity breeds contempt	Knowing somebody very well may lead to a lack of respect for them.
	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.
	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 act in situations that more intelligent people would avoid
	Friendship is love with understanding.	
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 and quickly seldom meet.	A well-done job takes time.
	Good management is better than good income.	

	Great minds think alike.	
	Great oaks grow from little acorns.	Large successful operations can begin in a small way.
	Grief divided is made lighter	
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.	
	Haste makes waste.	If something is done too quickly, it may be done carelessly and need to be redone.
	Hatred is a blind as love.	A person who feels hatred does not see any qualities in the person he/she hates.
	He has enough who is content.	
	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.
I	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.	
	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.
J	Justice delayed is justice denied.	If the law is applied too late, there is no justice.
K	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.
	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 people, they will be kind to you.

	Proverb	Explanation / Meaning
L	Laughter is the best medicine.	
	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.
	Let bygones be bygones.	Let's forgive and forget past quarrels.
	Liars need good memories.	
	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.
	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.
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; woman is the neck that turns the head.	
	Man proposes, God disposes.	Our destiny depends on God's will.
	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.
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.
	Nobody is perfect.	
	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.
O	Once bitten, twice shy.	After an unpleasant experience, people are careful to avoid something similar.
	One father is more than a hundred schoolmasters.	
	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 vague.
	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.
	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.
	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.
P	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.
	Procrastination is the thief of time	Delaying an action for too long is a waste of time.
	Put all your eggs in one basket	Risk everything by relying on one plan (by putting all one's money in one business).
R	Revenge is sweet.	There is satisfaction in returning an injury.
	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.
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.	
	Silence gives consent.	If you don't object to something it can be assumed that you agree with it.
	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.

	Stolen fruit is the sweetest.	What is forbidden is the most tempting.
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 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.	
	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.
	Trust not a horse's heel nor a dog's tooth.	
	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.
U	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.
V	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.
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.

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.	
Where there's life there's hope.	
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.	
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.
Y You are what you eat.	What you eat has an effect on your well-being.
You are never too old to learn.	
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.