

English proverbs

A

- **Ability can take you to the top, but it takes character to keep you there.**
 - **Zig Ziglar, in *See You at the Top* (1975), p. 380**
- **Absence makes the heart grow fonder.**
 - **From *Isle of Beauty* by Thomas Haynes Bayly**
- **Absence makes the heart grow fonder but makes the mind forget.**
- **The acorn (apple) never falls far from the tree.**
- **Act today only, tomorrow is too late**
- **Action is the proper fruit of knowledge.**
- **Actions speak louder than words. (a common English saying)**
- **Advice most needed is least heeded.**
- **After dinner sit a while, after supper walk a mile.**
- **All cats love fish but hate to get their paws wet.**
- **All flowers are not in one garden.**
- **All for one and one for all.**
 - **Alexandre Dumas, *The Three Musketeers***
- **All frills and no knickers.**
- **All fur coat and no knickers.**
- **All good things must come to an end.**
- **All hat and no cattle.**
- **All's fair in love and war.**
- **All's well that ends well.**
 - **A play by William Shakespeare**
 - **Variant: All is well that ends well. - *Divers Proverbs*, Nathan Bailey, 1721 [1]**
- **All roads lead to Rome.**
- **All sizzle and no steak.**
- **All that glisters is not gold.**
 - **William Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*, act II, scene 7.**
 - **Often corrupted to: All that glitters is not gold.**
- **All the world is your country, to do good is your religion.**
- **All things come to those who wait.**
- **All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.**
 - **All play and no work makes Jack a mere toy.**
- **Always care about your flowers and your friends. Otherwise they'll fade, and soon your house will be empty.**

- **An apple a day keeps the doctor away.**
 - Originated in the 1900s as a marketing slogan dreamt up by American growers concerned that the temperance movement would cut into sales of apple cider. (Michael Pollan, *The Botany of Desire*, Random House, 2001, ISBN 0375501290, p. 22, cf. p. 9 & 50)
 - Cf. *Notes and Queries magazine*, Feb. 24, 1866, p. 153: "Eat an apple on going to bed, // And you'll keep the doctor from earning his bread." [2]
- **An army marches on its stomach.**
- **April showers bring May flowers.**
- **As fit as a fiddle.**
- **As soon as a man is born, he begins to die.**
- **As you make your bed, so you must lie in it.**
 - Similar to *You reap what you sow*
- **Ask me no questions, I'll tell you no lies.**
 - Cf. Oliver Goldsmith's *She Stoops to Conquer* (1773): "Ask me no questions, and I'll tell you no fibs"
- **Aught for naught, and a penny change.**
- **An expert is the one who knows more and more about less and less.**

B

- **Bad news travels fast.**
- **A bad penny always turns up.**
- **A bad settlement is better than a good lawsuit.**
- **A bad workman blames his tools.**
 - George Herbert reports early English variants in *Jacula Prudentum; or, Outlandish Proverbs, Sentences, Etc.* (1640):
 - Never hand an ill workman good tools.
 - An ill labourer quarrels with his tools.
 - *The Works of George Herbert in Prose and Verse*; 1881, New York: John Wurtele Lovell, Pub.; pp. 440 & 454
 - Compare the older French proverb:
 - *Outil: ... Meſchant ouvrier ne trouvera ia bons outils: Prov.* A bungler cannot find (or fit himself with) with good tools.
 - Randle Cotgrave, *A Dictionarie of the French and English Tongues* (1611)
 - Galen explains clearly, if less succinctly, in *De Causis Procatarticis* (2nd c. A.D.), VI. 63–65:

- **They blame their tools: why did the carpenter make the bed so badly, if he was any good? He will reply: "Because I used a poor axe and a thick gimlet, because I did not have a rule, I lost my hammer, and the hatchet was blunt", and other things of this kind. And the scribe, asked why he wrote so badly, will say that the paper was rough, the ink too fluid, the pen blunt, that he did not have a smoother, so that he could not write any better. Once again, this man holds his material responsible, and blames his tools as well, in mentioning the pen and smoother. And who does not know that artisans make themselves responsible for the deficiencies in their work too, when they cannot pin the blame on material and tools?**
 - ***Galen On Antecedent Causes*, Tr. R. J. Hankinson, Cambridge University Press, 1998, ISBN 0521622506, p. 90–93**
- **The ball is in your court.**
- **Barking dogs seldom bite.**
- **Barking up the wrong tree.**
- **Be careful before every step.**
- **Be careful what you wish for, you just might get it.**
- **A bean in liberty is better than a comfit in prison.**
- **Before criticizing a man, walk a mile in his shoes.**
- **Beggars can't be choosers.**
- **Beginning is half done.**
 - **Quoted by Dr. Robert Schuller, West Coast clergyman.**
- **The belly has no ears.**
 - ***This Proverb intimates, that there is no arguing the Matter with Hunger, the Mother of Impatience and Anger. - Divers Proverbs, Nathan Bailey, 1721 [3]***
 - ***I don't argue with the body Jerry. It's an argument you can't win. - Kramer***
- **A bellyful is one of meat, drink, or sorrow.**
- **A bellyful of food is a good one.**
- **The best is yet to come.**
- **The best of friends need not speak face to face.**
- **The best things come in small packages.**
- **The best things in life are free.**
- **Better is the enemy of good.**
- **Better late than never.**
- **Better safe than sorry.**

- **Better the devil you know (than the one you don't).**
- **Better to have it and not need it than to need it and not have it.**
- **Better to remain silent and be thought a fool, than to open your mouth and remove all doubt.**
 - **Variant: Better to remain silent and thought a fool, than to speak out and remove all doubt. (often attributed to Abraham Lincoln but taken from Solomon's Proverbs)**
- **Beware of Greeks bearing gifts.**
 - **From Virgil's Aeneid Book II, line 48: *timeo Danaos et dona ferentes*. Translation: I fear the Grecians even when they offer gifts.**
- **Beware of the Bear when he tucks in his shirt.**
- **Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, and inwardly are ravening wolves. (Matthew; bible quote)**
- **A big tree attracts the woodsman's axe.**
- **A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.**
 - **John Bunyan cites this traditional proverb in *The Pilgrim's Progress*, (1678):**
 - **So are the men of this world: They must have all their good things now; they cannot stay till the next year, that is, until the next world, for their portion of good. That proverb, "*A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush*," is of more authority with them than are all the divine testimonies of the good of the world to come.**
- **Birds of a feather flock together.**
 - **Variant: Birds of the same feather flock together.**
- **Bitter pills may have blessed effects.**
- **Blood is thicker than water.**
- **Blood will out.**
- **Bloom where you are planted.**
- **A blow with a word strikes deeper than a blow with a sword.**
 - **Robert Burton cites this traditional proverb in *The Anatomy of Melancholy* (1621):**
 - **It is an old saying, "*A blow with a word strikes deeper than a blow with a sword*:" and many men are as much galled with a calumny, a scurrilous and bitter jest, a libel, a pasquil, satire, apologue, epigram, stage-play or the like, as with any misfortune whatsoever.**
 - **Part I, Section II, Member IV, Subsection IV**
 - **Compare: "The pen is mightier than the sword."**

- Contrast: "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me."
- **Born with a silver spoon in his/her mouth.**
- **Boys will be boys.**
- **Brag is a good Dog, but Holdfast is a better**
 - ***This Proverb is a Taunt upon Braggadoccio's, who talk big, boast, and rattle:
It is also a Memento for such who make plentiful promises to do well for the future but are suspected to want Constancy and Resolution to make them good. - Divers Proverbs, Nathan Bailey, 1721 [4]***
- **Brain is better than brawn.**
- **Bread is the staff of life.**
- **Break the Law as the Law should be beaten.**
- **A burnt child dreads the fire.**
 - **Chinese Version: One bitten by a snake for a snap dreads a rope for a decade.一朝被蛇咬, 十年怕井繩**
 - **Indian Version: The one burnt by hot milk drinks even cold buttermilk with precaution. Transliteration: Doodh ka jala chhanchh ko bhi phoonk phoonk ke peeta hai.**
 - **Cf. "Once bitten, twice shy"**
 - ***This Proverb intimates, That it is natural for all living Creatures, whether rational or irrational, to consult their own Security, and Self-Preservation; and whether they act by Instinct or Reason, it still tends to some care of avoiding those things that have already done them an Injury. - Divers Proverbs, Nathan Bailey, 1721 [5]***
- **Buy the best and you only cry once.**
- **Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder**
- **Beauty lies in Simplicity**

C

- **The calm (comes) before the storm.**
- **A camel is a horse designed by committee.**
- **A candle that burns twice as bright burns half as long**
- **A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle.**
 - **Attributed to Mevlana Celaledin-i Rumi**
- **A cat may look at a king.**
- **A chain is as strong as its weakest link.**
 - **Variant.: A chain is no stronger than its weakest link.**

- Cf. Thomas Reid *Essays on the Intellectual Powers of Man*, 1786, Vol. II, p.377, Essay VII, *Of Reasoning, and of Demonstration*, ch. 1: "In every chain of reasoning, the evidence of the last conclusion can be no greater than that of the weakest link of this chain, whatever may be the strength of the rest." [6]
- The child is father to the man.
- A closed mouth catches no flies.
- A closed mouth don't get fed
- Clothes make the man.
- A coin of gold is delighting in a bag of silver coins
- Cometh the hour, cometh the man.
 - (Some information about the phrase and about its use by a 1940's cricketer)
- A constant guest is never welcome.
- A coward dies a thousand times before his death. The valiant never taste of death but once.
 - From William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*^[1]
- The cure is worse than the disease.
- The customer is always right.
- Cleaning the house when kids are growing, is like shoveling snow when it's still snowing.

D

- Damned if you do, damned if you don't.
 - Lorenzo Dow (d. 1834).^[2]
- Desperate times call for desperate measures.
- The difference between a man and a cat or a dog is that only a man can write the names of the cat and the dog.
- Different strokes for different folks.
- Discretion is the better part of valour.
 - Derived from "The better part of valour is discretion, in the which better part I have saved my life." Falstaff in Shakespeare's *Henry IV, Part 1*.
- Does a one-legged duck swim in circles?

--alternate saying for "Does a bear shit in the woods" and a common response to an obvious answer yes to a silly question.

- Do it today, tomorrow it may be against the law.
- Don't ask God to guide your footsteps if you're not willing to move your feet.
- Don't bark if you can't bite.

- Don't bite off more than you can chew.
- Don't bite the hand that feeds you.
- Don't bring a knife to a gun fight.
- Don't burn your bridges.
- Don't burn the candle at both ends.
- Don't count your chickens before they're hatched.
- Don't cross a bridge before you come to it.
- Don't cry over spilt milk.
- Don't cut off your nose to spite your face.
- Don't dig your grave with your own knife and fork.
- Don't enter your nose in the affairs of others.
- Don't fall before you're pushed.
- Don't have too many irons in the fire.
- Don't judge a book by its cover.
- Don't judge a man by the size of his hat, but by the angle of his tilt.
- Don't let procrastination eat your own clock.
- Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.
- Don't make a mountain out of a molehill.
- Don't mend what ain't broken.
 - Alternatively, If it ain't broke, don't fix it.
 - Alternatively, Leave well enough alone.
- Don't put all your eggs in one basket.
- Don't put the cart before the horse.
 - Cf. Dan Michael of Northgate, *Ayenbite of Inwyt* (1340):
 "Many religious folk *set the plough before the oxen.*"
 (Middle English: "Moche uolk of religion zetteþ þe zuolz
 be-uore þe oxsen.")
- Don't raise more Demons than you can lay down.
- Don't shut the barn door after the horse is gone.
- Don't spit into the wind.
 - Or, Don't piss into the wind.
- Don't spoil the ship for a ha'p'orth of tar.
 - A ha'p'orth (pronounced *haypeth*) is a halfpenny-worth,
 i.e. a very small amount.
- Don't take life too seriously; you'll never get out of it alive.
- Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater.
- Don't try to teach a pig to sing. It doesn't work, and you'll annoy the pig.
- Don't worry, God has a plan.

- Jiv

- Absence makes the heart grow fonder.

- **Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.**
 - **Based on the Bible (Matthew 7:12; Luke 6:31).**^[3]
- **Doctors make the worst patients.**
- **The dog is nude though the clothing cost a penny.**
- **Doubt is the beginning, not the end, of wisdom.**
- **A drop of knowledge is greater than an ocean of strength.**
- **A dull pencil is greater than the sharpest memory.**

E

- **Each to his own taste**
 - **French: *Chacun à son goût***
 - **Alternatively: *à chacun son goût* - "To each his own".**
- **The early bird catches the worm. But the second mouse gets the cheese.**
- **The early bird gets (or catches) the worm.**
- **Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise. (attributed to Benjamin Franklin, Poor Richard's Almanac)**
- **Education is a progressive discovering of our own ignorance.**
<W. Durrant>
- **Education makes machines which act like men and produces men who act like machines**
- **Effort is important, but knowing where to make an effort makes all the difference!**
- **An empty vessel makes the most noise**
- **The ends justify the means.**
 - **Ovid, *Heroides* (c. 10 BC): *Exitus acta probat*. See also: Means and ends.**
- **The enemy of my enemy is my friend.**
- **An Englishman's home is his castle.**
 - **Variant of "A man's home is his castle."**
- **Enjoy what you don't know.**
- **Even a broken clock is right twice a day.**
- **Even a dog can distinguish between being stumbled over and being kicked.**
- **Even a dog can make it to the top when there's a flood.**
- **Even an old dog likes to be patted on the head and told, "Good boy!" -Justice Holmes**
- **Even the best perfumes of the world lose their fragrance when you are not around me.**
- **Every cloud has a silver lining.**
- **Every dog has its day.**

- Variation on a quote from *Hamlet*: "...whatever Hercules says, the cat will mew and dog will have its day."
- Every rose has its thorn.
- Everyday living is life lessons. by Allen Zimama.
- Everyone talks of changing the world, but no one talks of changing himself.[Leo Tolstoy]
- Everyone wants to go to heaven, but no one wants to die.
- Everything can be justified until it happens to you.
- Everything changes; everything stays the same.
- Everything good in life is either illegal, immoral, or fattening.
- Everything in its own time.
- Everything with time
- The exception proves the rule.
 - Often mistakenly referred to as a misquote. In reality, the Latin *probate* may mean either to probe or to prove. The key is that prove in this case carries the older meaning of to test, as in the phrases proving (testing) ground or the proof (test) of the pudding is in the eating.
- An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.
 - Biblical reference.
 - A response, often attributed to Mahatma Gandhi, is "An eye for an eye will make the whole world blind."

F

- Failure is not falling down, you fail when you don't get back up.
- Failure is the first step to success.
- Failure is the stepping stone for success.
- Faint heart ne'er won fair lady.
- Fall down seven times, stand up eight.
 - Translation of the Japanese proverb "Nana korobi ya oki", often associated with Daruma figurines.
- Falling down does not signify failure but staying there does.
- Familiarity breeds contempt.
- Fifty percent of something is better than one hundred percent of nothing.
- Fine feathers make fine birds.
- Fine words butter no parsnips.
 - Cf. Actions speak louder than words.
- Fingers were invented before knives and forks.
- First come, first served.
- First deserve, then desire.
- The first step to health is to know that we are sick.
- First things first.

- **A fool and his money are soon parted.**
- **Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me.**
- **Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.**
 - **Alexander Pope, "An Essay on Criticism"**
- **For some men [and / or women] experience is a slow teacher.**
- **For want of a nail the shoe is lost, for want of a shoe the horse is lost, for want of a horse the rider is lost.**
 - **Proverb reported by George Herbert, *Jacula Prudentum* (1651), #495**
- **Forewarned is forearmed.**
- **Forgive, but don't forget.**
- **Fortune favours the brave.**
- **A fox smells its own lair first. Or: A fox smells its own stink first.**
- **Fretting cares make grey hairs.**
- **A friend in need is a friend indeed.**
- **From those to whom much is given, much is expected.**
 - **Biblical quote Luke 12:48**

G

- **Garbage in, Garbage out.**
 - **Sometimes abbreviated GIGO.**
- **Get four Episcopalians together and a fifth will always appear. (Humor intended!)**
- **Give a dog a bad name and hang him.**
- **Give a dog a bad name and he'll live up to it. (or repay you for it)**
- **Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.**
- **Give a man a match, he shall be warm for a moment. Light a man on fire and he shall be warm for the rest of his life.**
- **Give and take is fair play.**
- **Give, and ye shall receive.**
 - **Luke 6:38**
- **Give credit where credit is due.**
 - **Derived from Romans 13:7**
 - **Variant: Give the Devil his due.**
- **Give him an inch and he'll take a yard.**
 - **Variant: Give the Camel an inch and it will take an ell.**
 - **Variant: Give him an inch and he'll take a mile.**
- **Give people a common enemy and hopefully they will work together**
- **Give respect, take respect.**

- **Go with the flow**
- **God cures and the physician takes the fee.**
- **God don't like ugly and he ain't stuck on pretty.**
- **God takes care of drunks.**
- **A good beginning makes (for) a good ending.**
 - **Chinese Version: A good beginning is half a succession**
- **Good eating deserves good drinking.**
- **A good enemy is a better person than a false friend.**
- **Good fences make good neighbors.**
 - **Robert Frost, "Mending Wall"**
- **A good man in an evil society seems the greatest villain of all.**
- **Good men are hard to find.**
- **A good surgeon has an eagle's eye, a lion's heart, and a lady's hand.**
- **Good wine needs no bush.**
 - **It was customary since early times to hang a grapevine, ivy or other greenery over the door of a tavern or way stop to advertise the availability of drink within.**
- **The grass is always greener on the other side...**
- **Great cry little wool.**
- **Great events cast their shadows before them.**
- **Great minds think alike, but fools seldom differ.**
- **Great oaks from little acorns grow.**
- **Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds.**
 - **Albert Einstein**
- **The greatest pleasure in life is doing what people say you cannot do..**
- **The greatest thing that could happen in my lifetime is for all my ideas to be stolen.**
- **Green leaves and brown leaves fall from the same tree.**
- **Grow where you are planted.**
- **A guilty conscience needs no accuser.**
- **Guns for show, knives for a pro.**

H

- **A half truth is a whole lie.**
- **(You can't) Have your cake and eat it too**
 - **Cf. George Herbert *The Sizz* "Wouldst thou both eat thy cake and have it"**
- **The head and feet keep warm, the rest will take no harm.**
- **He doesn't boast who does the most**

- He laughs best who laughs last
- He who dares wins
- Health is wealth
- Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned
- Heritage is invaluable
- Hindsight is always twenty-twenty
 - 20-20 refers to perfect vision.
- Home is where the heart is
- Haste makes waste.
- Hung like a Horse (Vulgar)
- He who hesitates is lost.

I

- I came, I saw, I conquered
 - Said by Julius Caesar, spoken as *Veni, Vidi, Vici* during a message to the Roman senate
- I complained I had no shoes until I met a man who had no feet.
- I have the whole world against me, I show my back and the whole world is following me.
- I know I know nothing
 - From Socrates defence speech "Scio, nescio"^[not in citation given]
- I think, therefore I am
 - Descartes' most famous statement (*Cogito Ergo Sum* in Latin)
- I wants, don't gets.
 - An alternative used in the black British community is: "Ask it, Ask it don't get... Get it, get it don't want."
- I was born on a Friday, but not last Friday.
 - Alternative: I wasn't born yesterday.
- Idle hands are the devil's playthings.
 - Variation: The devil makes work for idle hands.
- If a job is worth doing, it is worth doing well.
- If a thing's worth doing, it's worth doing badly.
- If all else fails, try the obvious.
- If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.
 - Cf. William Edward Hickson's *Try and Try again*
"Tis a lesson you should heed:
Try, try, try again.
If at first you don't succeed,
Try, try, try again"
- If God had wanted man to fly, he would have given him wings.
- If in doubt go left.

- **If in doubt, pick "C"**
- **If it ain't broke, don't fix it.**
 - **Variation: If it isn't broken, don't fix it.**
- **If it can't be cured, it must be endured.**
 - **From *Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie**
- **If it's too good to be true, then it probably is.**
- **If it's worth doing, it's worth doing well.**
 - **Variation: If it's worth doing, it's worth over-doing.**
- **If life gives you lemons, make lemonade.**
- **If something can go wrong, it will.**
 - **Murphy's Law**
- **If the mountain won't come to Muhammad, Muhammad must go to the mountain.**
 - **"If the mountain won't come to Muhammad, Muhammad must go to the mountain", Answers.com**
- **If the shoe fits, wear it.**
- **If wishes were fishes, we'd all cast nets.**
- **If wishes were horses, beggars would ride.**
- **If you believe that dreams can come true be prepared for the occasional nightmare.**
- **If you buy cheaply, you pay dearly.**
 - **Alternatively: You get what you pay for**
- **If you buy quality, you only cry once.**
- **If you can't be good, be careful.**
- **If you can't be good, be good at it.**
- **If you can't beat them, arrange to have them beaten.**
- **If you can't beat them, join them.**
- **If you can't take the heat, get out of the kitchen.**
- **If you cross your bridges before you come to them, you will have to pay the toll twice.**
- **If you don't buy a ticket, you can't win the raffle.**
- **If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all**
- **If you don't know where you're going, any train will get you there.**
- **If you fake it, you can't make it.**
- **If you fall off a cliff, you might as well try to fly. After all, you got nothing to lose.**
- **If you keep your mouth shut, you won't put your foot in it.**
- **If you love somebody, let them go, for if they return, they were always yours. And if they don't, they never were.**
- **If you snooze you lose**
- **If you sup with the devil, use a long spoon**
- **If you trust before you try, you may repent before you die. - *Divers Proverbs*, Nathan Bailey, 1721 [7]**

- **If you fail to plan, then you plan to fail.**
- **If you want a thing done right, do it yourself.**
- **If you want breakfast in bed, sleep in the kitchen.**
- **If you want to judge a man's character, give him power.**
- **If you were born to be shot, you'll never be hanged.**
- **If you're in a hole, stop digging.**
- **If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem.**
- **If you're prepared to be confused, be prepared for a sore bum**
- **Ignorance is bliss.**
 - **Common mal-shortening of "Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise.**
 - **Thomas Gray, "Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College" [[8]]**
- **Impossible itself says I'm Possible**
- **In for a penny, in for a pound.**
 - **Alternate version: In for a dime, in for a dollar.**
- **In one ear and out the other.**
 - **Cf. Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*: "One eare it heard, at the other out it went"**
- **In order to get where you want to go, you first have to leave where you are.**
 - **From Sandy Elsberg's *Bread Winner, Bread Baker*; Upline Press, Charlottesville, VA; 1977, p. 80**
- **In the end, a man's motives are second to his accomplishments.**
- **In the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is king.**
- **In the law there are no small cases, only small lawyers.**
 - **Ben Harlow**
- **In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity**
 - **Emerson**
- **In the mind of thieves the moon is always shining.**
 - **Marathi proverb.**
- **Infatuations are a plenty. Love is rare. - Pashi**
- **Insanity is doing the same thing over and over, expecting different results.**
 - **Alternatively "Stupidity is doing the same thing over and over, and expecting different results"**
- **Is the Pope a Catholic?**
 - **Do bears shit in the woods?**
- **It ain't over till the fat lady sings.**
 - **Variation: Church ain't over until the fat lady sings.**
 - **Attributed as an old Southern saying in Smith & Smith, *Southern Words and Sayings* (1976), according to**

Quinion, Michael (21 August 1999). "It Ain't Over Till the Fat Lady Sings". *World Wide Words*. Retrieved on 2007-01-23.

- **It's a blessing in disguise.**
- **It's a cracked pitcher that goes longest to the well.**
- **It's a good horse that never stumbles.**
- **It's a long lane that has no turning.**
- **It's a poor job that can't stand at least one supervisor.**
- **It's always darkest before the dawn**
- **It's always the baker's children who have no bread.**
- **It's an ill wind that blows no good.**
- **It's better to be safe than sorry.**
- **It's better to be silent and thought a fool, than to speak up and remove all doubt.**
- **It is better to die on one's feet than live on one's knees.**
- **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 have something you don't need than to need something you don't have.**
- **It's better to want something you can't have than have something you don't want.**
- **It's cheaper to keep her.**
- **It's easier to ask forgiveness than permission.**
 - **Attributed to Grace Hopper**
- **It's easy to be wise after the event.**
- **It's never too late to mend.**
- **It's no use crying over spilt milk.**
- **It ain't over till it's over.**
 - **Yogi Berra**
 - **Often attributed to sportscaster Dan Cook (1978)**
- **It is not so much the gift that is given but the way in which the gift is driven.**
- **It's not the size of the boat, it's the motion of the ocean.**
- **It's often a person's mouth broke their nose.**
- **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.**
- **It is through the small things we do that we learn, not the big things**

- **It never rains, but it pours.**
 - ***Alternatively:* When it rains, it pours.**
- **It pays to pay attention.**

- **It takes all sorts to make a world.**
 - ***Alternatively:* It takes all sorts to make the world go round.**
 - ***Alternatively:* It takes all kinds to make the world go round.**
- **It takes both rain and sunshine to make rainbows**
- **It takes two to lie — one to lie and one to listen.**
- **It takes two to make a quarrel.**
- **It takes two to tango.**

J

- **Jack of all trades and master of none. (18th Century)**
- **Joan is as good as my lady in the dark. (17th Century)**
- **A journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step.**
 - **Laozi, *Tao Te Ching*, Ch. 64, line 12. 千里之行，始于足下**
- **Justice delayed is justice denied.(Legal Proverb, India)**
- **Justice pleaseth few in their own house.**

K

- **Keep some till more come.**
- **Keep your mouth shut and your eyes open. (18th Century)**
- **Keep your friends close, but your enemies closer**
- **Keep your mouth shut and your ears open.**
- **The key to all action lies in belief.**
- **Kindness, like grain, increase by sowing.**
- **A kingdom is lost for want of a shoe.**
 - **See: "For want of a nail the shoe is lost, ..."**
- **Knaves and fools divide the world.**
- **Knowledge creates mysteries.**
- **Knowledge is power. (17th Century)**
- **Kindness, like a boomerang, always returns**

L

- **Laugh and the world laughs with you. Cry and you cry alone.**
 - **Laugh and the world laughs with you. Cry and your mascara runs. - variation by advice columnist Ann Landers.**
- **Laugh when you're happy, cry when you're sad, and do both when you're the happiest you've ever been.**
- **Laughter is the best medicine for them who do not know how to laugh.**

- **Laughter is the shortest distance between two people.**
- **The law is a jealous mistress.**
 - **- Professor Ferdinand Fairfax Stone, Tulane Law School, early and mid 1960s.**
- **Law is the solemn expression of legislative will.**
- **Lead to Success, Follow to Failure**
- **Learn to walk before you run.**
- **Least said sooner mended.**
- **Leave it alone and it will grow on its own.**
- **Let him who is without sin cast the first stone.**
 - **Jesus Christ**
- **Let sleeping dogs lie.**
 - **From *Troilus and Criseyde* (bk. III, 764) by Geoffrey Chaucer - *Chaucer wrote this in just the reverse form -- 'It is nought good a slepyng hound to wake.'***
- **Let the cobbler stick to his last.**
- **Let us go hand in hand, not one before another.**
- **A lie can be halfway around the world before the truth gets its boots on.**
 - **Charles Spurgeon. A great lie may be widely accepted before the truth comes to light.**
- **Lie down with dogs, wake up with fleas.**
- **Life begins at forty.**
- **Life does not come with any guarantees**
- **Life imitates art**
- **Life imitates chess - Garry Kasparov**
- **Life is ten percent what happens to you and ninety percent how you respond to it.**
 - ***Unkown origin, though sometimes attributed to Lou Holtz or Chuck Swindoll***
- **Life is a perception of your own reality.**
- **Life is just a bowl of cherries.**
- **Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get.**
 - **- *From the film, Forrest Gump***
- **Life is too short to drink bad wine.**
- **Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans.**
 - ***Attributed to John Lennon***
- **Life is what you do while you're waiting to die.**
 - **Quote from song sung by Zorba from the musical 'Zorba' by Kander and Ebb**
- **Life is what you make of it. Always has been, always will be.**

- *Unkown origin, though sometimes attributed to Eleanor Roosevelt or Grandma Moses*
- Life's battle don't always go to the stronger or faster man, but sooner or later the man who wins is the one who thinks he can.
- Lightning never strikes twice in the same place.
- Like cures like.
- Like father, like son.
- Like water off a duck's back.
- Little bean comes around his little salary
- Little by little and bit by bit.
- Little enemies and little wounds must not be despised.
- A little knowledge is a dangerous thing.
 - A little Learning is a dangerous Thing;
 Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian Spring:
 There shallow Draughts intoxicate the Brain,
 And drinking largely sobers us again. ~ Alexander Pope
- A little pot is easily hot.
- Live and let live.
 - Alternative: Live simply to let others simply live.
- A loaded wagon makes no noise.
- Long absent, soon forgotten.
- The longest mile is the last mile home.
- Look after the pennies and the pounds will look after themselves.
- Look before you leap.
- Look on the sunny side of life.
- Loose lips sink ships.
- Love is a bridge between two hearts.
- Love is anger disappointed.
- Love is blind.
- Love is like war, Easy to start, Hard to end, Impossible to forget.
- Love is not finding someone to live with; it's finding someone whom you can't live without.
- Love is stronger than any addiction, baby. Hell, it is one. - Madea
- Love laughs at locksmiths.
- Luck favors the prepared - Louis Pasteur
- Luck is a mirror of hard work - Beslin
- Lead by example

M

- **Make a Friend when you don't need One (from Urim)**

- **Make hay while the sun shines.**
- **Making a rod for your own back.**
- **Make the best of a bad bargain.**
- **A man is known by the company he keeps.**
- **Man is truly himself when he's alone.**
- **Man wasn't born to suffer but to carry on.**
- **A man's home is his castle.**
 - **William Blackstone refers to this traditional proverb in *Commentaries on the Laws of England* (1765–1769), Book 4, Chapter 16:**
 - **And the law of England has so particular and tender a regard to the immunity of a man's house, that it stiles it his castle, and will never suffer it to be violated with impunity: agreeing herein with the sentiments of ancient Rome, as expressed in the works of Tully; *quid enim sanctius, quid omni religione munitius, quam domus unusquisque civium?***
 - **Translation: What more sacred, what more strongly guarded by every holy feeling, than a man's own home?**
- **Manners maketh the man.**
 - **From 'Manners makyth man' - the motto of William of Wykeham(1320 - 1404)**
- **Many a true word is spoken in jest**
- **Many hands make light work**
- **Many things are lost for want of asking.**
- **Many words will not fill a bushel.**
 - ***This Proverb is a severe Taunt upon much Talking.* - *Divers Proverbs*, Nathan Bailey, 1721 [9]**
- **Marriage equals hell and bankruptcy.**
- **Marry in haste, and repent at leisure.**
- **Meaner than a junk-yard dog.**
- **Meaning of life is not meaningful -- Allen Zimama**
- **Measure twice, cut once.**
- **Mind your P's and Q's.**
 - **British: Mind your manners (origin theories)**
- **Mirrors do everything we do, but they cannot think for themselves.**
- **Misery loves company.**
- **Misfortunes never come singly.**
- **A miss by an inch is a miss by a mile.**
 - **Meaning: A miss is a miss regardless the distance**

- Cf. *Scottish Proverbs Collected and Arranged by Andrew Henderson, 1832, p.103: "An inch o' a miss is as gude as a span."* [10]
- **Missing the wood for the trees.**
- **Money can't buy everything, but everything needs money**
- **Money cannot buy happiness.**
- **Money for old rope.**
 - **In the days of wooden-hulled sailing ships, ropes that were worn could be sold for use as caulking or as filling for fenders, and so the ship's owner was paid even for *old rope*.**
- **The money is burning a hole in my pocket.**
- **(love of) Money is the root of all evil.**
- **Money makes the mare go.**
- **Money makes the world go around.**
- **Money talks; mine always says, "Good-bye!"**
- **Money talks.**
 - **Variant: Money talks, bullshit walks.**
 - **Related: Talk is cheap.**
 - **Related: Actions speak louder than words.**
- **Monkey see, monkey do.**
- **Morals are for others to follow.**
- **More haste, less speed.**
- **The more things change, the more they stay the same.**
 - **From the French: *Plus ça change, c'est la même chose*.**
- **The more you know, the more you know you don't know.**
- **The more you study, the more you know. The more you know, the more you forget. The more you forget, the less you know. The less you know the more you study.**

N

- **The nail that sticks up will be hammered down.**
- **Nature never did betray the heart. that loved her.**
- **Nature, time, and patience are three great physicians.**
- **Necessity is the mother of invention.**
- **Necessity is the mother of all invention, but Laziness is the father. -[Benjamin Franklin]**
- **Ne'er cast a clout till May be out.**
- **Never change, for the sake of others. There will be no one like you if you change. (GPL)**
- **Never judge a book by its cover.**
- **Never leave a woman to do a man's work.**

- alternate version, Never let a monkey to do a man's job, Never send a woman to do a man's job
- Never let a man do a woman's job.
- Never let the right hand know what the left hand is doing.
- Never lie to your doctor.
- Never lie to your lawyer.
- Never look a gift horse in the mouth.
- Never put off till (until) tomorrow what you can do today.
- Never say die.
- Never say never.
- Never smash a glass over a brick donkey.
- Never trouble trouble 'til trouble troubles you.
- A new broom sweeps clean.
- A night with Venus and a life with mercury.
 - Anti-promiscuity adage, alluding to a 18th-century mercury-based folk treatment for syphilis
 - Cited in Bartz, Diane (30 October 2006). "Har, me hearties! Excavating Blackbeard's ship". Reuters (via *Yahoo! News*). Retrieved on 2006-11-01.
- No man can serve two masters.
 - Christian New Testament
- No man is an island
- No man is content with his lot.
- No money, no justice.
- No need to cry over spilled milk.
- No news is good news.
- No pain, no gain.
- No time like the present.
- *Noblesse oblige*.
 - French expression: the nobility is obligated to care for the lower classes.
- Nobody leaves us, we only leave others.
- Not enough room to swing a cat
- Nothing succeeds like success.
- Nothing to be feared in life, but understood.
- Nothing ventured, nothing gained.
 - Variant: Nothing ventured, nothing have. - *Divers Proverbs*, Nathan Bailey, 1721 ..[11]
- Now the shit has really hit the fan.
- Now we have doors so we can hide.

O

- An old dog will learn no tricks.

- *Divers Proverbs*, Nathan Bailey, 1721[12]
- Old is Gold
- On your feet lose your seat.
- One good turn deserves another.
 - *Divers Proverbs*, Nathan Bailey, 1721[13]
- One grain of sand can tip the scale.
- One hand washes the other.
 - From the Latin MANUS MANAM LAVAT, meaning "Hand washes hand," or "One hand washes the other"; or impliedly, "You scratch my back, and I'll scratch yours."
- One man's junk is another man's treasure.
- One man's meat is another man's poison.
- One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter. - Ronald Reagan
- One might as well be hanged for a sheep as a lamb. - English, 17th century
- One murder makes a villain, millions a hero.
- One rotten apple will spoil the whole barrel.
 - Cf. Dan Michael of Northgate, Ayenbite of Inwyt (1340): "A rotten apple will spoil a great many sound ones." (*Middle English: "A roted eppel amang þe holen: makeþ rotie þe yzounde."*)
- One scabbed sheep mars the whole flock.
 - *This Proverb is apply'd to such Persons who being vicious themselves, labour to debauch those with whom they converse.* - *Divers Proverbs*, Nathan Bailey, 1721 [14]
- One should not think, when one is not equipped for the job.
- One swallow doesn't make a summer.
- Once bitten, twice shy
 - William Caxton, the first English printer, gave the earliest version of this saying in 'Aesope' (1484), his translation of Aesop's fables: 'He that hath ben ones begyled by somme other ought to kepe hym wel fro(m) the same.' Centuries later, the English novelist Robert Surtees referred to the saying in 'Mr. Sponge's Sporting Tour' (1853) with '(He) had been bit once, and he was not going to give Mr. Sponge a second chance.' The exact wording of the saying was recorded later that century in 'Folk Phrases of Four Counties' (1894) by G.G. Northall and was repeated by, among others, the English novelist Joseph Conrad (1920, 'The Rescue'), the novelist Aldous Huxley (1928, 'Point Counter Point'), and the novelist Wyndham Lewis (1930, 'The Apes of God'). 'Once bitten,

twice shy' has been a familiar saying in the twentieth century. From *Wise Words and Wives' Tales* by Stuart Flexner and Doris Flexner (Avon Books, New York, 1993).

- **A variation, once burned, twice shy, is also traced back to Mr. Sponge's Sporting Tour. Once burned was First attested in the United States in 'Dead Sure' (1949) by S. Sterling. The meaning of the saying is One who had an unpleasant experience is especially cautious. From the *Random House Dictionary of Popular Proverbs and Sayings* by Gregory Y. Titelman (Random House, New York, 1996).**
- **Once in a lifetime comes often, so be prepared.**
- **Only a coward will write an anonymous letter. -President Franklin D. Roosevelt**
- **Only bad drivers cut corners.**
- **The only free cheese is in the mouse trap.**
 - **Russian saying.**
- **Only losers say "Winning isn't everything."**
- **The only stupid question is the one that is not asked.**
- **Only the good die young**
- **The only thing you get from picking bottoms (ie. of the stock market) is a smelly finger.**
- **Opinions are like assholes: everyone has one and they usually stink.**
- **Opportunity knocks only once.**
- **Opportunity is waiting, you need but to open the door.**
- **An ounce of discretion is worth a pound of wit.**
- **An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.**
- **Our costliest expenditure is time. <Theophrastus>**
- **Our greatest glory is not in never falling but in rising every time we fall.**
 - **Confucius**
- **Out of sight... Out of mind**
 - **Cf. Fulke Greville's sonnet "And out of minds as soon as out of sight"**
- **Out of small acorns grow mighty oaks.**
- **Owt for Nowt**
 - **Northern English, Anything for nothing...**

P

- **Paddle your own canoe.**
- **Pain is only weakness leaving the body.**
 - **U.S. Marines proverb**

- The pain of the little finger is felt by the entire body.
- A paragraph should be like a lady's skirt: long enough to cover the essentials but short enough to keep it interesting.
- Patience is a virtue.
- The pen is mightier than the sword.
- A penny earned is a penny lost; a penny shared is a penny well-spent.
- A penny saved is a penny earned.
 - **Attributed to Benjamin Franklin, *Poor Richard's Almanac*, but actually 17th c. English**
- Penny wise, pound foolish.

- People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.
 - ***Variation:* Whose house is of glasse, must not throw stones at another.**
 - **George Herbert, *Outlandish Proverbs*, 1640; cited in "Proverbs 120". *The Yale Book of Quotations*. 2006. pp. p. 613. ISBN 0-300-10798-6.*** George Herbert, *Jacula Prudentum*, 1651, number 196**
- Perfect Planning Prevents Piss Poor Performance. (a.k.a The six P's)
- Persistence becomes Reality.
- "A person who laughs may not be happy, but he's hide the sadness in his heart". (Al Sagheer, Suhail)
- A picture is worth a thousand words.
 - (Originally a marketing slogan, promoting magazine display ads.)
- A pint of plain is yer only man.
- The pitcher which goes too often to the well gets broken.
- Please don't retouch my wrinkles. It took me so long to earn them.
- **POETIS MENTIRI LICET.**
 - Latin for "Poets are allowed to lie."
- Politeness cost nothing and gains everything. <M.W. Montagu>
- Politics makes strange bedfellows.
- A poor man does not learn from his mistakes. A good man does learn from his mistakes. A wise man learns from the mistakes of others.
 - Bryan Strain
- Power tends to corrupt; absolute power corrupts absolutely.
 - Attributed to Lord Acton
- Practice before you preach.
 - ***Variation:* Practice what you preach**
- Practice make man perfect.

- **Prevention is better than cure.**
 - ***Variation:*** An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.
- **Pride comes before a fall**
- **Prior preparation prevents poor performance.**
- **The proof of the pudding is in the eating.**
- **Procrastination is the thief of time.**
- **Proverbs are long life experiences, told in one short sentence.**
- **Proverbs run in pairs.**
 - **Meaning:** Every proverb seems to be contradicted by another proverb with an opposed message, such as "too many cooks spoil the broth" and "many hands make light work."
- **Put a beggar on horseback and he'll ride it to death.**
- **Put a beggar on horseback and he'll ride to the devil.**
- **Put a cat amongst the pigeons.**
- **Put it in song, put it in drink; but never, ever put it in ink!**
 - **Reportedly said by Earl K. Long, Governor of Louisiana**

R

- **Rather be a dog in peace, than to be a man in chaos (war).**
 - **Chinese Origin-**宁为太平犬，莫为乱世人
- **Reality is not only stranger than we imagine, it is stranger than we can imagine.**
- **Reality is often stranger than fiction**
- **Repetition is the mother of memory.**
 - **Latin: *REPETITIO MATER MEMORIAE***
- **Revenge is a dish best served cold.**
- **A rising tide lifts all boats.**
 - **This traditional proverb is sometimes attributed to John F. Kennedy because he repeated it several times, but he disclaimed originality in his address in the Assembly Hall at the Paulskirche in Frankfurt, West Germany, 25 June 1963:**
 - **As they say on my own Cape Cod, a rising tide lifts all the boats.**
- **The road to hell is paved with good intentions.**
 - **Earlier variants of this proverb are recorded as *Hell is paved with good intentions.* recorded as early as 1670, and an even earlier variant by Saint Bernard of Clairvaux *Hell is full of good intentions or desires.***

- Similar from Latin: "The gates of hell are open night and day; Smooth the descent, and easy is the way" — Virgil, the *Aeneid* Book VI line 126
- Robbing Peter to pay Paul
- A rolling stone gathers no moss.
 - Early versions include:
 - *Saxum volutum non obducitur musco*
 - A rolling stone does not gather moss.
 - Publius Syrus (var. Publilius), *Sententiae* (c. 42 BC), Maxim 524
 - *Musco lapis volutus haud obducitur.*
 - A rolling stone is not covered with moss.
 - Desiderius Erasmus, *Adagia* (1500–1536), III, iv
 - *The rolling stone never gathereth moss.*
 - The rolling stone never gathers moss.
 - John Heywood, *Proverbs* (1546), Part 1, Ch. 11
- Rome wasn't built in a day
- The rotten apple injures its neighbors.
- Rules were meant to be broken.

S

- Same meat, different gravy.
- Same trouble, different day.
- Say something nice or say nothing at all.
- Seek and ye shall find.
 - Christian New Testament
- Seek water in the sea.
- Self trust is the first secret of success.
- Sell a man a fish, he eats for a day, teach a man how to fish, he eats for the rest of his life.
 - Karl Marx
- Set a thief to catch a thief.
- Shallow graves for shallow people.
- Ships happen. -Navy saying.
- Shit or get off the pot.
- Silence is golden.
- Simple minds think alike. (William Truong)
 - Alternative: Simple minds, simple pleasures.
- Six of one, half a dozen the other.
- Slow and steady wins the race.
 - Variant: Slowly but surely wins the race.
- Smile, and the world smiles with you; cry, and you cry alone.

- **So close, yet so far.**
- **Some days you get the bear, other days the bear gets you.**
- **Someone who gossips to you will gossip about you.**
- **Something is better than nothing.**
- **Something worth doing is worth doing well.**
- **Something well done need not be done again.**
- **A son is a son 'till he gets him a wife; a daughter's a daughter all her life.**
- **Spare the rod, spoil the child.**
- **Speak the truth, but leave immediately**
- **The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.**
 - **Gospel of Matthew 26:41**
- **The squeaky wheel gets the grease.**
- **The start of a journey should never be mistaken for success.**
- **Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me.**
 - **Contrast: "A blow with a word strikes deeper than a blow with a sword."**
- **A still tongue makes a wise head.**
 - **From Lewis the (Black) Barber; Lake Charles, LA; who always told people, "Never let the right hand know what the left hand is doing; a still tongue makes a wise head; still water runs deep."**
- **Still waters run deep.**
- **A stitch in time saves nine.**
 - **Cf. *Gnomologia: Adagies and Proverbs Collected by Thomas Fuller, 1732, Vol. II, p. 283, Nr. 6291* : "A Stitch in Time // May save nine." [15]**
- **Stolen fruit is the sweetest.**
- **Straightn not the dog's tail even in the bamboo hollow.**
- **The straw that broke the camel's back.**
- **Strike while the iron is hot.**
- **Success (only) comes after every necessary precaution.**
 - **Only time will tell (what was, or wasn't, necessary).**
- **Success grows out of struggles to overcome difficulties.**
- **Success is a journey not a destination.**
- **Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.**

T

- **Take an old dirty, hungry, mangy, sick and wet dog and feed him and wash him and nurse him back to health, and he will never turn on you and bite you. This is how man and dog differ.**
 - **(Possibly Lord Byron)**

- **Take care of the pennies and the pounds will take care of themselves.**
- **Take it with a grain of salt.**
 - **(See Wikipedia article.)**
- **Taking care of business.**
- **Talk of the devil and he's sure to appear.**
- **Talk the hind legs off a donkey.**
- **Talking a mile a minute.**
- **Talking nineteen to the dozen.**
- **That which does not kill you, makes you stronger.**
 - **Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Twilight of the Idols* (1888)**
- **The worth of a thing is what it will bring.**
- **There is luck in odd numbers.**
- **The teacher has not taught, until the student has learned.**
- **There are no endings: only new beginnings.**
- **There are no facts; only interpretations of facts.**
- **There are no small parts, only small actors.**
- **There are so many things to say that are better left unsaid.**
- **There are three types of lies - lies, damned lies, and statistics.**
- **There's a method in his madness.**
- **There is a thin line between love and hate**
- **There's always a calm before a storm.**
 - **or The calm before the storm.**
- **There's many a slip 'twixt cup and lip.**
 - **This comes from a Greek legend, as follows: One of the Argonauts returned from his voyage, and went home to his winery. He called for the local soothsayer, who had predicted before his voyage that he would die before he tasted another drop of his wine, from his winery. As he finished saying this, he raised a cup filled with wine to his lips, in toast to the soothsayer, who said something in reply. Just then, he was called away to hunt a wild boar that was approaching, and died in his attempt to kill it. The phrase that the soothsayer said is translated best as, There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip.**
- **There's money in muck.**
 - **or Where there's muck there's brass.**
- **There's more than one way to skin a cat.**
- **There's no accounting for taste.**
 - **From the Latin: *De gustibus non est disputandum.***
- **There's no arguing with the barrel of a gun.**
- **There's no peace for the wicked**
- **There's no place like home.**
- **There is no point of knowledge or wisdom if not dotted.**

- There's no point in washing clean things.
- There's no such thing as a free lunch.
- There's no time like the present.
- There is only eight years between success and failure in politics.
 - Jim Brown, Louisiana statesman
- A thief thinks everyone steals.
- Think before you speak.
- Thinking the worst always prepares you for the worst.
- This, too, shall pass.
- Those who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.
- Those who run with pigs, smell like pigs.
- Time and tide wait for none.
- Time flies.
 - Latin: *Tempus fugit!*
- Time flies when you're having fun.
- Time is gold. (more commonly: *Time is money.*)
- Time will tell.
- 'Tis better to have loved and lost than to have never loved at all.
 - (Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem "In Memoriam:27")
- Tit for tat.
- To each, his own.
- To err is human; to forgive, divine. (Pope, *Essay on Criticism*)
- To have the fulfilled life, you must question the unanswerable and learn nothing.
- To know the road ahead ask those coming back.
- To put something in a new jacket.
- Tomorrow is another day.
- Too many Chiefs and not enough Indians.
- Too many cooks spoil the broth.
- Too much of one thing, good for nothing.
- Trapped between a rock and a hard place.
- Tread on a worm and it will turn.
 - *This Proverb is generally used by Persons who have received gross insults and Injuries from others (which they have for some time bore with Patience) to excuse their being at last transported to some Warmth of Resentment and Passion. - Divers Proverbs, Nathan Bailey, 1721 [16]*
- Trouble shared is trouble halved.
- The truth is in the wine.
- Truth is stranger than fiction.

- "Truth is always strange — stranger than fiction." Lord Byron, *Don Juan*
- The truth shall set you free, or The truth will set you free.
 - In the Bible, John 8:32.
- Truth will out.
- Try not to become a man of success but a man of value.
- Try try but don't cry.
- Two heads are better than one.
- Two things prolong your life: A quiet heart and a loving wife.
- Two wrongs don't make a right.
- Two's company; three's a crowd.
- Two sides of the same coin

U

- An unasked question is the most futile thing in the world
- Unprepare to prepare, be prepared to be unprepared
 - supposedly said by W.B.Govo in 1916
- Use it or lose it
- Use it up, wear it out, make do with, or do without
 - Great depression era proverb.

V

- The value is determined by the agreement of two people.
- Variety is the spice of life.
 - An early version is found in William Cowper, *The Task* (1785), Book II, "The Timepiece", lines 606–7:
 - Variety's the very spice of life,
That gives it all its flavour.
- Vengeance is mine, thus saith the Lord.
- Virtue which parleys is near a surrender. - *Divers Proverbs*, Nathan Bailey, 1721 [17]
- Vision without action is a daydream. Action without vision is a nightmare. (Japanese proverb)

W

- Walk softly, carry a big stick.
 - Variant of an African proverb that was made famous in the U.S. by Teddy Roosevelt, "Speak softly and carry a big stick; you will go far".
- Walk the walk and talk the talk.
- Waste not, want not.

- **A watched pot never boils.**
- **The way to a man's heart is through his stomach.**
- **We are all on this earth, we can't get off so get on.**
- **We can't always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.**
 - **By: Franklin D. Roosevelt**
- **We have nothing to fear but fear itself.**
 - **By: Franklin D. Roosevelt**
- **We must take the bad with the good.**
 - **Variant: We must take the bitter with the sweet.**
- **We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean, but the ocean would be less without that drop.**
- **We tend to be perfect. That's why when we make mistakes we are hard on ourselves.**
- **The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.**
 - **Attributed to Mahatma Gandhi**
- **Well begun is half done.**
 - **Variant: Well begun is half ended.**
 - ***Divers Proverbs*, Nathan Bailey, 1721 [18]**
- **"Well done" is better than "well said".**
- **What a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive. (A lie will always spawn a bigger lie.)**
- **What goes around comes around.**
- **What goes up must come down.**
- **What you see is what you get.**
- **What you sow is what you reap.**
 - **Similar to *You reap what you sow***
 - **Based on the Bible (Gal. 6:7): "for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." [19]**
- **What's good for the goose is good for the gander.**
- **When a thing is done advice comes too late.**
- **When in Rome, do as the Romans do.**
- **When one door closes, another door opens.**
- **When the cat is away, the mice will play.**
- **When the going gets tough, the tough get going.**
- **When you lie on roses while young, you'll lie on thorns while you're old.**
- **Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise. [[20]]**
 - **Thomas Gray, "Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College"**
- **Where there's a will, there's a way.**
- **Where vice goes before, vengeance follows after.**
 - ***Divers Proverbs*, Nathan Bailey, 1721 [21]**
- **The whole dignity of man lies in the power of thought.**

- B. Pascal
- The whole is greater than its parts.
- Those whom the gods wish to destroy they first make mad.
 - Anonymous ancient proverb, often wrongly attributed to Euripides. The version here is quoted as a "heathen proverb" in *Daniel, a Model for Young Men* (1854) by William Anderson Scott. The origin of the misattribution to Euripides is unknown. Several variants are quoted in ancient texts, as follows.
 - *Variants and derived paraphrases:*
 - For cunningly of old
was the celebrated saying revealed:
evil sometimes seems good
to a man whose mind
a god leads to destruction.
 - Sophocles, *Antigone* 620-3, a play pre-dating any of Euripides' surviving plays. An ancient commentary explains the passage as a paraphrase of the following, from another, earlier poet.
 - When a god plans harm against a man,
he first damages the mind of the man he is plotting against.
 - Quoted in the scholia vetera to Sophocles' *Antigone* 620ff., without attribution. The meter (iambic trimeter) suggests that the source of the quotation is a tragic play.
 - For whenever the anger of divine spirits harms someone,
it first does this: it steals away his mind
and good sense, and turns his thought to
foolishness,
so that he should know nothing of his mistakes.
 - Attributed to "some of the old poets" by Lycurgus of Athens in his *Oratio In Leocratem* [*Oration Against Leocrates*], section 92. Again, the meter suggests that the source is a tragic play. These lines are misattributed to the much earlier semi-mythical statesman Lycurgus of Sparta in a footnote of recent editions of *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations* and other works.
 - The gods do nothing until they have blinded the minds of the wicked.

- Variant in "*Dictionary of Quotations (Classical)* (1906), compiled by Thomas Benfield Harbottle, p. 433.
- Whom Fortune wishes to destroy she first makes mad.
 - Publilius Syrus, Maxim 911
- The devil when he purports any evil against man, first perverts his mind.
 - As quoted by Athenagoras of Athens
[citation needed]
- quem Iuppiter vult perdere, dementat prius.
 - "Whom Jupiter wishes to destroy, he first sends mad"; neo-Latin version. "A maxim of obscure origin which may have been invented in Cambridge about 1640" -- Taylor, *The Proverb* (1931). Probably a variant of the line "He whom the gods love dies young", derived from Menander's play *The Double Deceiver* via Plautus (*Bacchides* 816-7).
- quem (or quos) Deus perdere vult, dementat prius.
 - "Whom God wishes to destroy, he first sends mad."
- Whom the gods would destroy, they first make mad.
 - This variant is spoken by Prometheus, in *The Masque of Pandora* (1875) by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
- Those whom the gods would destroy, they first make mad.
 - As quoted in *George Fox Interpreted: The Religion, Revelations, Motives and Mission of George Fox* (1881) by Thomas Ellwood Longshore, p. 154
- Those whom God wishes to destroy, he first makes mad.
 - As quoted in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations* 16th edition (1992)
- Nor do the gods appear in warrior's armour clad
To strike them down with sword and spear
Those whom they would destroy
They first make mad.
 - Bhartr̥hari, 7th c. AD; as quoted in John Brough, *Poems from the Sanskrit*, (1968), p, 67
- Willful waste makes woeful want.
- Winners don't quit, thats why they win.

- **Winners make it happen, losers let it happen**
- **Winners never quit and quitters never win.**
- **Winning is earning. Losing is learning.**
- **Winning isn't everything... It's the only thing.**
- **The wish is father to the thought.**
- **A woman is like a tea bag; you'll never know how strong she is until she's in hot water**
- **A woman's work is never done.**
 - **From a folk rhyme - "A man may work from sun to sun, but woman's work is never done."**
- **Women need men like a fish needs a bicycle.**
- **A word spoken is past recalling.**
- **Words uttered only causes confusion. Words written only causes history.**
- **Working hard or hardly working?**
- **The world is your oyster.**
- **Worship the Creator not His creation.**
- **The worst good day is always better than the best bad day.**
- **The worst way to miss someone is to be sitting right beside them knowing you can't have them.**
- **Write injuries in the sand, kindnesses in marble.**

Y

- **You always admire what you really dont understand.**
- **You always find something in the last place you look.**
- **You can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink.**
- **You reap what you sow.**
 - **Similar to *What you sow is what you reap***
- **The younger brother the better gentleman.**
 - ***Divers Proverbs*, Nathan Bailey, 1721 [22]**
- **You can't mend a broken egg.**