

Irish Proverbs and Old Irish Sayings

It's easy to halve the potato where there's love.

May you have a bright future - as the chimney sweep said to his son. Irish Proverb

Mere words do not feed the friars. Irish Proverb

Nature breaks through the eyes of the cat. Irish Proverb

Necessity is the mother of invention. Irish Proverb

Necessity knows no law. Irish Proverb

Need teaches a plan. Irish Proverb

Patience is poultice for all wounds. Irish Proverb

People live in each other's shelter. Irish Proverb

Praise the young and they will blossom Irish Proverb

What's good for the goose is good for the gander.

Every patient is a doctor after his cure.

Soft words butter no parsnips but they won't harden the heart of the cabbage either.

You'll never plow a field by turning it over in your mind.

There are finer fish in the sea than have ever been caught.

A tyrone woman will never buy a rabbit without a head for fear its a cat.

A windy day is not the day for thatching.

The old pipe gives the sweetest smoke.

Marriages are all happy its having breakfast together that causes all the trouble.

A scholars ink lasts longer than a martyrs blood.

A turkey never voted for an early Christmas.

Take gifts with a sigh most men give to be paid.

What butter and whiskey will not cure there's no cure for.

The Irish forgive their great men when they are safely buried.

The longest road out is the shortest road home.

The older the fiddle the sweeter the tune.

Its no use boiling your cabbage twice.

There's no need to fear the wind if your haystacks are tied down.

Do not mistake a goats beard for a fine stallions tail.

Drink is the curse of the land. It makes you fight with your neighbor. It makes you shoot at your landlord and it makes you miss him.

If you lie down with dogs you'll rise with fleas.

A wild goose never reared a tame gosling.

A boys best friend is his mother and there's no spancel stronger than her apron string.

There never was an old slipper but there was an old stocking to match it.

Firelight will not let you read fine stories but its warm and you wont see the dust on the floor.

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Humor to a man is like a feather pillow. It is filled with what is easy to get but gives great comfort.

Many an Irish property was increased by the lace of a daughter's petticoat.

The best way to keep loyalty in a man's heart is to keep money in his purse.

A narrow neck keeps the bottle from being emptied in one swig.

A trout in the pot is better than a salmon in the sea.

If the knitter is weary the baby will have no new bonnet.

Its for her own good that the cat purrs.

Even a tin knocker will shine on a dirty door.

An old broom knows the dirty corners best.

One beetle recognizes another.

To the raven her own chick is white.

When the sky falls we'll catch larks.

Any man can lose his hat in a fairy-wind.

If you have one pair of good soles its better than two pairs of good uppers.

It s no use carrying an umbrella if your shoes are leaking.

It's difficult to choose between two blind goats.

A silent mouth is sweet to hear.

It's as hard to see a woman crying as it is to see a barefooted duck.

He'd offer you an egg if you promised not to break the shell.

Its a bad hen that won't scratch herself.

No matter how often a pitcher goes to the water it is broken in the end.

There was never a scabby sheep in a flock that didn't like to have a comrade.

A nod is as good as a wink to a blind horse.

The fox never found a better messenger than himself.

There'll be white blackbirds before an unwilling woman ties the knot.

Show the fatted calf but not the thing that fattened him.

A buckle is a great addition to an old shoe.

In winter the milk goes to the cow's horns.

Men are like bagpipes no sound comes from them until they're full.

Snuff at a wake is fine if there's nobody sneezing over the snuff box.

You must crack the nuts before you can eat the kernel.

He got it from nature as the pig got the rooting in the ground.

Often a cow does not take after its breed.

What would a young cat do but eat mice?

Nature will come through the claws, and the hound will follow the hare.

If you put a silk dress on a goat he is a goat still.

Every bird as it is reared and the lark for the bog.

What is in the marrow is hard to take out of the bone.

The wood will renew the foliage it sheds.

What will come from the briar but the berry.

A handstaff of holly, a buaitin of hazel, a single sheaf and a clean floor.

One who is without cows must be his own dog. A blind man can see his mouth.

You never miss the water till the well has run dry.

A king;s son is not nobler than his food.

Keep your tongue in your jaw and your tow in your pump.

Pity the man who has a stranger's spancel on him.

To every cow its calf; to every book its copy.

Watching is a part of good play.

By degrees the castles are built.

When the apple is ripe, it will fall.

Patience cures many an old complaint.

The one who waits the fine day, will get the fine day.

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Patience and forbearance make a bishop of his reverence.

Patience can conquer desiny.

Patience is a plaster for all sores.

For what cannot be cured patience is best.

There is not a tree in heaven higher than the tree of patience.

Patience is a virtue that causes no shame.

Time and Patience would bring the snail to Jerusalem.

Everyone praises his native land.

Nobody ever bought peace but the man who hadn't got it.

Peace(quietness) is worth buying.

The world's quiet and the pig is in the sty.

Least said soonest mended.

No matter who succeeds or fails, the peacemaker will always suffer.

To the fighting man peace is sure.

The end of a feast is better than the beginning of a fight.

An eye is blind in another man's corner.

One eye in the corner is sharper than two about the house.

He's more to be pitied than laughed at.

Don't tell your complaint to one who has no pity.

A poem ought to be well made at first, for there is many a one to spoil it afterwards.

It's better than it's want.

Have it yourself, or else do without it.

Better the certainty of the straddle (packsaddle) than the mere loan of a saddle.

Possession is nine-tenths of the law.

Better own a trifle than want a great deal.

A wren in the hand is better than a crane to be caught.

Possession satisfies.

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

It's better than the loan you couldn't get.

Half a loaf is better than no bread.

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The person who doesn't scatter the morning dew will not comb gray hairs

What whiskey will not cure, there is no cure for.

Twenty years a child; twenty years running wild; twenty years a mature man --and after that, praying.

Be neither intimate nor distant with the clergy.

It is in the shelter of each other that the people live.

It is better to be a coward for a minute than dead for the rest of your life.

A small debt makes a man your debtor, a large one your enemy.

God often pays debts without money.

Every invalid is a physician.

Strife is better than loneliness.

It is easy to halve the potato where there is love.

Good luck beats early rising.

When the apple is ripe it will fall.

When you are right no one remembers; when you are wrong no one forgets.

Nature breaks through the eyes of the cat.

Bulls get rich, bears get rich, but pigs get slaughtered An Irishman is never at his best except when fighting.

If you want an audience start a fight.

Better be quarrelling than lonesome.

There is hope from the sea, but none from the grave.

God likes help when helping people.

A silent mouth is melodious.

All sins cast long shadows.

Everyone is wise until he speaks.

Marry a mountain girl and you marry the whole mountain.

The work praises the man.