

## Cross-Cultural Sayings and Proverbs

Cultural values are often explicitly stated in sayings and proverbs. Some have similar versions in multiple cultures and languages but others are specific to an individual culture. Read the following sayings. Choose 3-5 and summarize the meaning and write a list of associated values. When you finish, add your own favorite sayings and proverbs from your culture. To make it fun, translate them into English so you can share them with the group when we return to the main room.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see a list of 200 values

| Proverb                                                                | Message                                                                                                                        | Values   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| The nail that sticks up feels the hammer first.                        |                                                                                                                                |          |
| To speak and eat fish, you must be careful.                            | Overconfidence makes people fail faster.                                                                                       | prudence |
| Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me.                | You can forgive once, but not twice. You don't want a second chance to be a fool.                                              | wisdom   |
| No flies get into a closed mouth.                                      | Our culture gossips, when you spread a false word about someone, it can be turned to you. You can be in trouble for gossiping. |          |
| A word is not a sparrow; once it flies out of you, you can't catch it. |                                                                                                                                |          |
| Better take what is certain than aim for the uncertain.                |                                                                                                                                |          |
| Just because you wake up early, the dawn won't happen any sooner.      |                                                                                                                                |          |
| An ounce of protection is worth a pound of cure.                       |                                                                                                                                |          |
| Idle hands are the devil's plaything.                                  |                                                                                                                                |          |
| Curses, like chickens, come home to roost.                             |                                                                                                                                |          |
| Don't bite off more than you can chew.                                 |                                                                                                                                |          |
| Don't toot your own horn. (Don't blow your own trumpet.)               |                                                                                                                                |          |

|                                  |                                                                                   |  |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| If it ain't broke, don't fix it. |                                                                                   |  |
| Fortune favors the brave.        |                                                                                   |  |
| It takes two to tango.           |                                                                                   |  |
| Practice what you preach.        | What you do should reflect what you say. Demonstrate by actions instead of words. |  |

### Our Favorite Proverbs

| Proverb                            | Message | Values |
|------------------------------------|---------|--------|
| Al mejor mono se le cae el zapote. |         |        |
|                                    |         |        |
|                                    |         |        |
|                                    |         |        |