

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.		
Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me.	Giving second opportunities to the wrong person	Trust- Too naive
No flies get into a closed mouth.	No gossiping	Trustworthy
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.	Having too much time on one's hand can lead to poor choices	Self-management
Curses, like chickens, come home to roost.		
Don't bite off more than you can chew.	Do not try to do too many things if you cannot handle them	Balance
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.		

Our Favorite Proverbs

Proverb	Message	Values