

1. **A pan duro, diente agudo.**

Comments: Note the nice assonance (*duro...agudo*) shared between the adjectives. “*A pan duro, diente agudo*” lit. “To hard bread, a sharp tooth.” Supply the following to make sense of the proverb: “[**Come el**] *pan duro, diente agudo [es necesario]*.” Compare this to the English saying, “If there’s a will, there’s a way.”

2. **Abre el ojo, que asan carne.**

Comments: “*Abre el ojo*” is a command: lit. “[You], open the eye.” Compare this proverb to the English saying “Keep your eye on the prize.” “*Que*” connects the two clauses and introduces reason/causality: lit. “because.” This proverb warns us to live a life with caution and vigilance.

3. **Acuéstate sin cena, amanecerás sin deuda.**

Comments: The verb “*amanecerás*” forms a promise for the near future, should one follow the command of the first clause. The proverb relies on the contrast of its lexical repetition “***sin cena...sin deuda.***” In other words, some sacrifices can pay off.

4. **A buen hambre, no hay pan malo.**

Comments: “*No hay*” introduces an existential clause: lit. “There is no...” Think of the English saying: “Beggars can’t be choosers.”

5. **Cada ollero alaba su puchero.**

Comments: There is a nice rhyme here “*ollero...puchero.*” “*Cada*” is used for masculine and feminine nouns; it does not have to match the grammatical gender of the noun which it modifies. “*su*” is a

masculine adjective, the shortened version of “*suyo*.” Think of the English saying “To each his own.”

6. Comida hecha, compañía deshecha.

Comments: The rhyme “*hecha...deshecha*” underscores the contrasting elements of the proverb; it also utilizes alliteration, “***Comida/compañía***.” It is best understood as a “When + past participle” structure. Supply a temporal adverb and verb for “*Comida hecha*,” i.e. “[Cuando] comida [está] hecha” / “When dinner is done.” The term “*compañía*” denotes friends/guests. Ergo, “*compañía deshecha*”: “the company is undone.” Compare this proverb to the British saying, “When good cheer is lacking, our friends will be packing.” This is applicable to people who surround themselves with those who only need favors.

7. Cuando comieres pan reciente, no bebas de la fuente.

Comments: There are two uses of the subjunctive mood in this proverb. The first is a hypothetical: “*Cuando*” + the future subjunctive (*comieres*). The second is a negative “tú” command: “*Bebas*.” The strange advice is to not eat hot “new” bread and (cold) water because it is bad for you: a proverb that is surely supported by dentists!

8. De trigo y avena, mi casa llena.

Comments: Supply the verb “to be” for “*mi casa [está] llena*”: lit. “my house is full.” The proverb reminds us that you can never have too much of a necessity!

9. El arroz, el pez, y el pepino nacen en agua y mueren en vino.

Comments: A nifty rhyme separates the contrasting elements of the proverb (*pepino...vino*). There is a nice contrast between the two verbs “*nacen / mueren*” that is pertinent for the message. The idea here is that each item in the list is born in water yet dies when they are cooked in wine.

10. Fortuna y aceituna, a veces mucha a veces ninguna.

Comments: Note the rhyme that separates the proverb:

“*aceituna...ninguna.*” Because the proverb lacks a main verb, you can supply the phrase “*hay veces que*” / “there are times that there is...” in place of “*a veces.*” It is implied that the two subjects “*Fortuna y aceituna*” are being compared. Since both fortune and olives are good things to have, the proverb reminds us that we must be willing to accept things as they come.

11. Gallina vieja hace buen caldo.

Comments: In other words, experience matters.

12. Hacerle morder el ajo.

Comments: “*Hacerle*” is a compound of the infinitive “*Hacer*” + the object pronoun “*le*,” lit. “To make him.” “*Morder*” is the complement to “*Hacerle*”, ergo “To make him bite...” Compare this to the English saying, “Give him something to cry about.”

13. Huevos solos, mil manjares y para todos.

Comments: Note the assonance between the contrasting elements of the proverb “*solos-todos.*” The proverb’s value is literal rather than metaphorical; it underscores the value of eggs in Spanish cuisine.

14. Huyendo del perejil, le nació en la frente.

Comments: “*Huyendo del*,” lit. “Fleeing from parsley.” The subject of the verb “*nació*” is “*perejil*.” “*Nació*” is best rendered as “it sprouted from [his] forehead” since it refers to a plant. Compare this to the saying “From the frying pan to the fire.”

15. La manzana podrida pierde su compañía.

Comments: “*Su*” is a feminine adjective; it is the shortened version of “*suya*” (see #5 above). This proverb warns us about being selective with the company we keep. Compare the saying “One rotten apple ruins the bunch.”

16. Las migajas del fardel a las veces saben bien.

Comments: “*del fardel*” is the equivalent of “*talega*,” lit. “of the knapsack/bag.” Compare this to the saying “Hunger is the best sauce.”

17. La verdad está en el vino.

Comments: The proverb has some nice alliteration “*verdad...vino*.” In other words, drunk remarks are sober thoughts. Compare this to the Latin saying “*In vino veritas*.”

18. Más vale pan con amor que gallina con dolor.

Comments: “*Más vale*,” lit. “is more valuable.” “*Que*” joins the two parts of comparison (*con amor...con dolor*). Also, note the nice rhyme: *amor...dolor*.

19.No le tengan miedo al chile aunque lo vean colorado.

Comments: This proverb uses the subjunctive mood in two different ways. First, we have a negative command: “*No le tengan miedo*,” lit. “Do not have fear...” The indirect object pronoun “*le*” modifies “*al chile*,” lit. “to the chile,” and it is used for emphasis. The second use of the subjunctive is hypothetical: “*Aunque*” takes the subjunctive (*lo vean*), it translates to “even if it looks...”

20.Ni tu pan en tortas, ni tu vino en botas.

Comments: Note the rhyme (*tortas...botas*). We have a negative correlative conjunction in this proverb (*ni tu...ni tu*): lit. “neither your...nor your.” “*Pan en tortas*,” lit. “bread in cakes.” “*En botas*,” lit. “wineskin.” Here we are advised not to splurge money on items that are extravagant (no matter how delicious!)

21.Pan negro y vino azedo sustentan la casa.

Comments: “*Pan negro*,” lit “black bread” refers to bread that has been burnt and is no less palatable than “*vino azedo*,” lit. “sour wine.” The coupling of these two items, then, is associated with bitterness (literal and metaphorical). Thus, this saying is applied to a covetous person.

22.Pan y vino un año tuyo, y otro de tu vecino.

Comments: The verb “to be” is implied: “Pan y vino [**están**] un año tuyo, y otro de tu vecino”: “Bread and wine are yours one year, and others your neighbor’s.” Here the advice is that the fortune of the harvest is fickle.

23. Poder comer el pan con cortezas.

Comments: Unlike a full length proverb, we would consider this a “proverbial phrase.” This is often directed at those who are no longer children and have life experience.

24. Pues tenemos hogazas, no busquemos tortas.

Comments: “*Pues*” functions adverbially here, lit. “Well, we have...” The advice here is a command (*no busquemos*), “Let us not look...” For a similar message, see #20 above.

25. Revolver el ajo, o el caldo.

Comments: Here is another proverbial phrase that lacks a clear subject and verb. Treat “*Revolver*” as an English gerund “-ing,” lit. “Disturbing the garlic.” This is also a popular idiom in Spanish that translates to “to stir up trouble.” Compare this to the saying “Adding fuel to the fire.”

26. Sal vertida nunca bien cogida.

Comments: Note the rhyme (*vertida...cogida*). “*Sal vertida*,” lit. “Spilt salt.” The verb “to be” is implied: “*Sal vertida [es] nunca bien cogida*.” This proverb warns us that we cannot heal all damage dealt by our own trespasses.

27. Sobre brevas vino bebas.

Comments: “*Sobre brevas*,” lit. “Upon figs.” The advice is a command in the subjunctive: “*bebas*.” There is some alliteration and assonance in this proverb, too: “*brevas...bebas*.” The value is more literal than metaphorical: figs complement wine.

28. Toda es nada, sino trigo y cebada.

Comments: Note the rhyme (*nada...cebada*). This proverb's metaphorical value reminds us that you have all you really need with "*trigo y cebada*." For a similar message, see #8 above.

29. Una manzana al día mantiene al médico en la lejanía.

Comments: "*En la lejanía*," lit. "at a distance." Also, note the rhyme (*día...lejanía*). Compare the English saying "An apple a day keeps the doctor away."

30. Un huevo quiere sal y fuego.

Comments: This popular saying is applied to those who are romantically or sexually interested in someone. Just like eggs that are accompanied with salt and heated up with fire, so, too, is this person by their object of infatuation.