

PROVERBS

1. **When in Rome, do as the Romans do.**

This means when you visit a different or foreign place, act as people around you act, or follow the customs and traditions of the people who live there. This proverb is often shortened to: When in Rome. This proverb might be useful if you visit a new place.

2. **All roads lead to Rome.**

This proverb can have two similar meanings. First, it means that there are many different ways to get to the same goal. It can also mean that many different methods can be used to get the same result.

3. **The early bird catches the worm.**

This proverb can have two meanings. First, if you want to do well at something, you should wake up early and start before others. Second, if you want to do better than others at something, you should be the first to take the opportunity. Someone who wakes up early is often simply called: An early bird.

4. **Don't count your chickens before they hatch.**

This means that even though you think your plans will be successful, they might not work out. Therefore you shouldn't think about what you will do after you succeed until you have actually been successful. This proverb is often shortened to: Don't count your chickens. You might use this proverb if your friend is talking about spending their salary from a job they haven't got yet!

5. **Actions speak louder than words.**

This proverb can mean that it is better to do something about a problem rather than just talk about it. It can also mean that just saying that you will do something doesn't mean much. It is better and more meaningful to actually do it.

6. **All things come to those who wait.**

This proverb is sometimes changed to "Good things come to those who wait", or simply "All good things". All of these mean to be patient. If you are patient, you will be eventually satisfied or the thing you are waiting for will happen.

7. **You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink.**

This means that you can present someone with an opportunity, but you can't force them to accept your help. Sometimes the word "him" is used instead of the word "it" in this proverb.

8. **Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.**

This means don't be ungrateful when you are given a gift. The reason it is said is that people look in a horse's mouth to see its age and health. So if someone was given a horse, and they looked in its mouth, it would be considered rude.

9. **Better late than never.**

This proverb means that doing something late is better than not doing it at all. If a student submits homework late, the teacher might use this proverb!

10. **Bad news travels fast.**

People tend to talk about trouble or misfortune, so bad news is usually heard by many people quickly

11. **A stitch in time saves nine.**

This proverb means that an action done now will save you from more serious trouble later. It is better to deal with a problem straight away, because if you don't, things will get worse and the problem will take longer to deal with.

12. More haste, less speed.

This means that if you need to act quickly, you shouldn't rush too much. If you do act too quickly you are likely to make careless mistakes.

13. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

This proverb means that different people have different ideas about what is beautiful.

14. One man's trash is another man's treasure.

This proverb means that something one person thinks is worthless may be considered valuable by someone else, or different people have different ideas about what is valuable.

15. A day late and a dollar short.

This is said when someone does work that is not on time and the standard is not good enough. It is also used when something is not good enough to be useful.

16. A penny saved is a penny earned.

This means that it is just as useful to save money that you already have as it is to try to earn more.

17. You can't judge a book by its cover.

This means that sometimes things look different than they really are. For example: A café that looks old might have delicious food.

18. A watched pot never boils.

This means that time feels longer when you're waiting for something to happen.

19. Ask a silly question and you'll get a silly answer.

This proverb literally means that if you ask a foolish question, you are likely to get a foolish answer. It is often used in a humorous way.

20. There is one born every minute.

This can mean that there are many fools in the world. It is something that you might say about someone who you think has been very silly.