

Actions speak louder than words.

It is safer to rely on what people do than on what they say.

All for one and one for all.

Every member supports the group and the group supports every member. This saying is used by members of a group when they want to express their loyalty to each other. The proverb itself comes from the book "The Three Musketeers," by Alexandre Dumas, a nineteenth-century French author.

All's well that ends well.

In any effort, what matters is a good outcome.

An apple a day keeps the doctor away.

Apples help keep us healthy.

April showers bring
May flowers.

Unpleasant things may bring about good things just as rainy days cause flowers to bloom later on.

Beauty is only skin deep.

People should be judged not by their appearance but by their inner qualities.

Beggars can't be
choosers.

People who have very little can't be fussy about what they get.

The best-laid plans of mice
and men oft go awry.

No matter how carefully you plan, something may still go wrong.

Better late than never.

It is better to do something after it was supposed to be done than not to do it at all.

Better safe than sorry.

Be careful before you act, or you may suffer later.

The bigger they are, the harder they fall.

The more powerful and successful people are, the more spectacular is their downfall.

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

What you already have is more dependable than something that you only hope to get.

Birds of a feather flock together.

People are attracted to others who are like themselves.

Count your blessings.

Be happy for what you have. Think of the good things in your life instead of the bad.

Curiosity killed the cat.

People should mind their own business.

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Treat other people with the same kindness that you would like them to show to you. This saying comes from the Bible and is known as the Golden Rule. Similar sayings occur in Confucianism and Buddhism as well as in Judaism and Christianity.

A dog is man's best friend.

A dog is even more faithful to its owner than human friends are.

Don't count your chickens
before they hatch.

Don't assume that you'll get the things you want before you actually have them.

Don't cry over spilt milk.

It doesn't do any good to be unhappy about something that has already happened.

Don't cut off your nose
to spite your face.

Don't take some action in anger that will hurt you more than it hurts someone else.

Don't judge a book by its cover.

Don't judge the value of a thing simply by its appearance.

Don't lock the stable door after the horse is stolen.

After the damage has already been done, it's pointless to take the actions that could have prevented it.

Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.

*If you get something for nothing, don't complain if it's not exactly what you want.
The proverb refers to the practice of deciding how much a horse is worth by looking at its teeth to estimate its age.*

Don't put all your eggs in one basket.

*Don't make all your plans depend on one thing, because that one thing could go wrong and destroy your plans.
It's safer to depend on several things; it's better to depend on two friends than just one.*

Don't put the cart
before the horse.

Begin at the beginning; do things in their proper order.

Early to bed and early to rise
makes a man healthy, wealthy,
and wise.

This saying was written by Benjamin Franklin in "Poor Richard's Almanack."

Every cloud has a silver
lining.

There is something good in every misfortune.

Fish out of water.

You can feel awkward when you are out of your familiar environment.

A fool and his money
are soon parted.

Foolish people spend their money as soon as they get it.

A friend in need is a
friend indeed.

Someone who helps us when we are in trouble is a real friend.

God helps those who
help themselves.

Don't expect to get what you want without working hard for it yourself.

The grass is always
greener on the other side.

Some people are never satisfied with what they have; they always think that others are more fortunate.

Great oaks from little
acorns grow.

Great things or great people often have humble beginnings.

Half a loaf is better
than none.

To have something is better than to have nothing at all.

Haste makes waste.

If you do something too quickly, you will make even more work for yourself.

He who hesitates is lost.

A person who spends too much time thinking about what to do misses the chance to act at all.

He who laughs last
laughs best.

People may be laughed at when they try to achieve a goal, but when they succeed, they will be able to laugh at those who laughed at them.

Hitch your wagon
to a star.

Aim high; hope for great things. This advice was written by the American poet and essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson.

If at first you don't
succeed, try, try again.

Never give up.

If the shoe fits,
wear it.

If a description of you is true, then you must accept it - even if you don't like it.

If wishes were horses,
then beggars would ride.

If wishing could make things happen, we would all have everything we wanted.

Laugh, and the world laughs with
you; weep, and you weep alone.

Most people would rather be around happy people than sad ones; so happy people have many friends, and sad people are often alone.

A leopard cannot
change his spots.

People cannot change their basic nature - that is, the way they are deep inside.

Let bygones be bygones.

Don't hold grudges; let past offenses stay in the past.

Lightning never strikes
in the same place.

Good luck or bad luck never comes to the same person twice in exactly the same way. (In the actual world, lightning can strike twice in the same place.)

Little strokes fell
great oaks.

Persistent effort can accomplish great things, just as a person can chop down even the largest tree by staying at the task long enough.

Live and learn.

We should learn from our mistakes.

Live and let live.

We should live the way we choose and allow others to do the same.

Look before you leap.

We should know what we are getting into before we act.

Make hay while the sun shines.

When you have a chance to do something, do it; you will not have the chance forever.

Many hands make light work.

Large tasks become easier when they are divided among several people.

Mind your p's and q's.

Be on your best behavior. This saying is taken from a teacher's warning to keep handwriting neat by not mixing up the lowercase letters p and q.

A miss is as good as a mile.

If you fail at a task, it doesn't matter if you almost succeeded; losing a game by one point is still losing.

Money is the root of all evil.

Most wrongdoing occurs because people are greedy for money and the things it will buy. This saying is taken from the New Testament, which says, "For the love of money is the root of all evils." (1 Timothy 6:10)

The more the merrier.

If many people take part in something, it will be more fun than if just a few participate. This saying is often used to welcome people who would like to join in an activity.

Necessity is the mother of invention.

When people really need something, they will think of a way to get it.

It's never over til it's over.

*Until a competition (such as a game or an election) has come to an end, you can never predict the winner. Things can always change at the last minute.
This proverb also appears as "It's not over till it's over."*

Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today.

Don't put off doing the things you have to do.

It's never too late to mend.

It's never too late to change your ways.

Nothing will come of nothing.

You won't gain anything if you don't contribute or do your part. This proverb from ancient times was used by William Shakespeare in his play "King Lear."

Once bitten, twice shy.

If you've done something that has made you suffer, you will avoid doing it in the future, just as you would shy away from an animal that had bitten you.

One rotten apple spoils the whole barrel.

One bad person can ruin a larger group of people.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

It's better to make the small effort to plan ahead so that things don't go wrong rather than do a lot of fixing up afterward. Another proverb that expresses the same idea is "A stitch in time saves nine."

A penny saved is a penny earned.

Money not spent is money in one's pocket.

A picture is worth a
thousand words.

A visual image can give people a better sense of something than the written word.

A place for everything and
everything in its place.

Things should be kept in order.

Practice makes perfect.

Doing something over and over makes one better at it.

Practice what you preach.

You yourself should follow the advice you give others.

Procrastination is the thief of time.

Putting off doing something makes us lose valuable time. Procrastination is a "thief" because it "steals" time away from us.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating.

If you want to find out if something is good, you must try it yourself.

The road to hell is paved with good intentions.

Good intentions don't matter if wicked actions result. People should be judged by their actions not their intentions.

Rome wasn't build in a day.

It takes a long time to achieve anything worthwhile.

Seeing is believing.

This proverb is usually said when you doubt a thing is true, but you will believe it when it is shown to be true.

The show must go on.

*People are counting on us to do this, and we must not disappoint them.
This proverb is an old show business saying, meaning that nothing must stop a performance from going on as scheduled.*

A stitch in time saves nine.

It's easier to take precautions rather than try to fix things after they go wrong (just as, by putting a single stitch in a garment, a person may prevent a tear that would take nine stitches to close). The same idea is expressed in the proverb, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

Strike while the iron is hot.

You should act on an opportunity as soon as it arises, just as a blacksmith shapes iron by striking it with their hammer when it is red hot.

There's more than one
way to skin a cat.

There are usually several ways to accomplish a particular task.

There's no place like home.

One's home is the best place to be.

Time heals all wounds.

As time passes, people get over insults, injuries, and hatreds.

Truth is stranger than
fiction.

Sometimes the things that happen in real life are stranger than the things that take place in imaginary stories.

Two heads are better than one.

Some problems can be solved more easily by two people working together than by one person working alone.

Two wrongs don't make a right.

A wrongdoing shouldn't be answered by more wrongdoing. For example, if someone hurts you in some way, that doesn't mean that it's right for you to be hurtful in return.

Waste not, want not.

If we don't waste the things we have, we won't lack (want) the things we need.

A watched pot never boils.

When we impatiently wait for something to happen, it seems to take forever.

Well begun is half done.

Getting off to a good start on some task means that you've already accomplished a lot.

What will be, will be.

Some things will happen no matter what we do, so we should accept life as it comes. This proverb appears in Spanish as Lo que será, será, and in Italian as Che sarà, sarà.

When in Rome, do as the Romans do.

You should adapt yourself to the ways of the people around you.

When it rains, it pours.

When bad luck comes, it seems that a lot of bad things happen at once.

Where there's a will,
there's a way.

If you really want to do something, you will find a way to accomplish it.

You can lead a horse to water,
but you can't make him drink.

You can give someone an opportunity, but you can't make him take advantage of it.

You can't teach an old dog
new tricks.

A person who has had one way of doing something for a long time won't want to do it any other way.