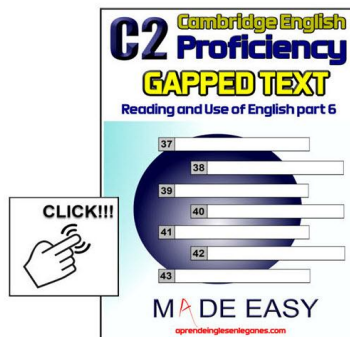


16 POPULAR ENGLISH PROVERBS

Speakers tend to use proverbs to comment on a situation, often at the end of a true story someone has told, or in response to some event.



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

Do not risk losing something you already have by trying to get something you think might be better.

- I'll hold onto this job offer. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

Don't count your chickens before they hatch.

Don't rely on things happening, as they may not.

- I know you're excited about the job offer, but don't count your chickens before they hatch.

Don't put all your eggs in one basket.

Don't invest all your efforts or attention in just one thing.

- Investing in different stocks is a good strategy; don't put all your eggs in one basket.

Every cloud has a silver lining.

There is something positive to be found in every difficult or challenging situation.

- Although she lost her job, she found a new opportunity. Every cloud has a silver lining.

Look before you leap

Check that something is not going to cause problems or have a bad result before you do it.

- Before making a major purchase, it's important to look before you leap

Many hands make light work.

A lot of people helping make a job easier.

- We divided the tasks among the group, and with everyone's help, the project was completed quickly. Many hands make light work.

Never judge a book by its cover.

Don't judge people/things by their outward appearance.

- I initially thought he was unfriendly, but after getting to know him, I realized that you should never judge a book by its cover.

Never look a gift-horse in the mouth.

Never refuse something good that is offered to you.

- Even though the gift wasn't exactly what I expected, I graciously accepted it without questioning its value. Never look a gift-horse in the mouth.

One swallow doesn't make a summer.

One positive sign does not mean that all will be well.

- The team won the first match, but one swallow doesn't make summer.
- She received one positive review, but one swallow doesn't make a summer.

People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones. Don't judge others for faults you also possess.

- It's ironic how she lectures others on their spending habits when she herself is drowning in debt. People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.

Take care of the pennies and the pounds will take care of themselves. Take care of small sums of money and they will become large sums.

- I make sure to save money by avoiding unnecessary expenses. Take care of the pennies and the pounds will take care of themselves.

There's no smoke without fire. Where there's smoke, there's fire.

Rumours are usually based on some degree of truth.

- There have been rumours circulating about layoffs in the company, and where there's smoke, there's fire.

Too many cooks spoil the broth.

Too many people interfering is counterproductive.

- The committee meeting was unproductive as too many people kept interrupting and offering conflicting opinions. Too many cooks spoil the broth.

We'll cross that bridge when we come to it.

We'll deal with that problem when it actually happen.

- I'm not sure how we'll handle the situation if it arises, but we'll cross that bridge when we come to it.

You can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink. You can try to persuade someone to do something, but you can't force them.

- The teacher presented the material, but some students refused to engage. You can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink.

You can't have your cake and eat it too.

You can't have everything you want; sometimes, choices or compromises need to be made.

- You can't have your cake and eat it - if you want more local services, you can't expect to pay less tax.