

**PROVERBS**  
**(and their meanings)**

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Proverbs are short and pithy sayings that express some traditionally held truth. They are usually metaphorical and often, for the sake of memorability, alliterative.

1. (A) nimble sixpence is better than slow shilling
  - a capable person, even if he is slow or not well qualified, is more valuable than an inefficient person who may be highly qualified
2. (It is) never too late to repent
  - it is never too late to say you are sorry, and to change your ways
3. (One is) never too old to learn
  - there is no age limit to acquiring knowledge
4. (The) meek shall inherit the earth
  - the humble and the downtrodden but not the proud or the mighty will be rewarded with the best at the end of time
5. (The) race is to the swift
  - people who are able to overcome life's troubles quickly or do things quickly have the advantage over others
6. A bad workman always blames his tools
  - a careless or unskilled worker blames bad work on his tools rather than himself
7. A bird in hand is worth two in the bush
  - something that one already has is better than going after something seemingly more worthwhile that one may not be able to get
8. A burnt child dreads fire
  - a bad experience or a horrifying incident may scar one's attitude or thinking for a lifetime
9. A cat may look at a king
  - anyone has the right to look at or speak to anyone else without having to worry about status, position, upbringing, etc.
10. A chain is no stronger than its weakest link
  - the success of a group or team depends on the full commitment of every member
11. A chicken and egg question
  - a mysterious question which can't be answered
12. A closed mouth catches no flies
  - it is better not to say anything than to say something that might get you into trouble
13. A constant guest is never welcome
  - we are apt to grow to dislike friends who visit us too often
14. A contented mind is a perpetual feast
  - contentment of mind is the cause of lasting happiness
15. A drowning man will clutch at a straw
  - a desperate person will do anything to save himself
16. A fool and his money are soon parted
  - a person who spends his money foolishly will soon be penniless
17. A friend in need is a friend in deed
  - a friend who helps when one is in trouble is a real friend

18. A friend to all is a friend to none

- a person who makes himself close to everyone probably cannot be trusted by any one

19. A good beginning makes a good ending

- something that starts off right will probably succeed all the way and end on the right note

20. A good name is sooner lost than won

- it takes a long time to build up a good reputation which can be easily destroyed by misconduct

21. A good name is better than riches

- a good reputation is precious, difficult to earn and cannot be bought

22. A great talker is a great liar

- a smooth and persuasive talker may be a good liar

23. A house divided against itself cannot stand

- discord breaks up families

24. A hungry man is an angry man

- a person who does not get what he wants or needs is a frustrated person and will be easily provoked to rage

25. A job worth doing is a job worth doing well

- when you do something you should do it well as you can

26. A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step

- to progress at anything, you first need to get started

27. A leopard cannot change its spots

- a person's nature cannot change

28. A leopard cannot change its spots

- an unpleasant or irritable person does not change easily

29. A light purse makes a heavy heart

- we cannot be cheerful when we have financial problems

30. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing

- knowing only a little about something can cause you to distort the truth or overestimate, misunderstand something

31. A loaded wagon makes no noise

- people who are very rich do not feel the need to speak about their wealth as they do not feel threatened in any way

32. A man is as old as he feels

- a person's age is immaterial – it is only when he thinks and feels that he is ageing that he actually becomes old

33. A man is known by the company he keeps

- you can tell about a person by observing who he spends time with

34. A man is ruled by his passions

- your character, personality, attitude, etc. can be overtaken by your emotions if they are strong enough

35. A man's home is his castle

- you feel most secure, free and in control in your own home

36. A miss is as good as a mile

- something that one already has is better than something that one may not

37. A new broom sweeps clean

- a person newly appointed is always eager and enthusiastic in his work

38. A nod is as good as a wink

- a hint or suggestion can be accepted and acted upon without further elaboration

39. A penny saved is a penny gained  
- by being thrifty one will be able to save up
40. A pot of milk is ruined by a drop of poison  
- something bad no matter how small can ruin all your plans, successes, etc.
41. A rolling stone gathers no moss  
- a person who never settles in one place or who often changes his job will not succeed in life; one who is always changing his mind will never get anything done
42. A rose by any other name would smell just as sweet  
- it is not what a thing is called that matters, but what it is
43. A small leak will sink a great ship  
- small problems are worth the time to fix as they can eventually cause great damage
44. A stitch in time saves nine  
- by taking immediate action we can prevent a fault, damage or trouble from getting worse
45. A straw will show which way the wind blows  
- a small incident can reveal an important event
46. A thing of beauty is a joy forever  
- it means that though something beautiful may not last, the happy memory of it will live forever
47. A trouble shared is a trouble halved  
- your troubles seem half as great when you discuss them with someone else
48. A watched pot never boils  
- if you watch or wait for something to get done or to happen it seems to take forever
49. A wise man changes his mind sometimes, a fool never  
- it is wise to reconsider your plans, ideas, actions in the light of new information rather than to blindly stick to an earlier decision
50. A word spoken is past recalling  
- what has been said cannot be taken back, so think before you speak
51. A word to the wise is enough  
- you need not be long-winded when speaking to intelligent people or those who understand you well
52. Absence makes the heart grow fonder  
- one usually desires another more when he or she is far away
53. Actions speak louder than words  
- children usually learn from the examples set by their elders than from what they are told; a person's character is judged by the things he does and not by what he says; actions give evidence or proof of
54. Advice most needed is least heeded  
- people tend to ignore or overlook the help or advise they need the most
55. After a storm, comes a calm  
- every problem eventually comes to an end, so cheer up
56. All for one and one for all  
- people who are committed to working together for a positive outcome
57. All good things come to an end  
- every event, no matter how enjoyable, must end at some point
58. All that glitters is not gold  
- do not be deceived by things or offers that appear to be attractive
59. All the world loves a lover  
- everyone loves to see people in love

60. All things come to him who waits

- you will get what you want if you are willing to wait for it patiently

61. All's fair in love and war

- where powerful emotions are concerned, there can be no firm rules of behaviour

62. All's fish that comes the net

- when something comes our way we should consider how it might be useful or benefit us

63. All's well that ends well

- a happy ending to a difficult situation can help you forget or disregard the earlier trouble

64. An apple a day keeps the doctor away

- it means that apples are so nutritious they keep you in the peak of health

65. An army marches on its stomach

- you need to eat for energy to complete your tasks

66. An empty bag will not stand upright

- quality comes with effort

67. An exception to the rule

- something does not conform to or agree with a rule

68. An idle brain is the devil's workshop

- one who has nothing to do will be tempted to do many mischievous acts

69. An ounce of discretion is worth a pound of wit

- it is better to be careful and discrete than to be clever

70. An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure

- it is even better to be cautious and prevent a misfortune or an accident from happening

71. Any time means no time

- when an event is not decided on or planned earlier it will never take place

72. Appearances are deceptive

- what looks good may not really be so

73. April showers bring May flowers

- unpleasant events can sometimes lead to better things

74. As soon as a man is born, he begins to die

- death is the destiny of every man

75. As the twig is bent so the tree is inclined

- a child shows some resemblance to his parents

76. As you make your bed so must you lie

- you must accept the consequences of your act

77. As you sow, so you shall reap

- one will either enjoy or suffer the consequences of his earlier actions or inactions

78. Ask no questions and hear no lie

- do not force a person into telling you a lie by forcing him to talk about something he does not want to talk about

79. Avoid evil and it will avoid thee

- stay away of trouble, and trouble will not follow you

80. Bad is never good until worse happens

- a bad situation you have been complaining about will suddenly seem a blessing when something worse happens

81. Bad news travels fast

- people seem to hear bad news very fast

82. Barking dogs seldom barks  
- those who make loud threats seldom carry them out
83. Be careful what you wish for, you might just get it  
- what you wish for may not really be what is good for you
84. Be on the safe side  
- to take special precautions to avoid making a mistake
85. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder  
- what is beautiful to a person may not be beautiful to others
86. Beauty is only skin-deep  
- looks are not the most important thing about a person
87. Beggars can't be choosers  
- someone in need should be grateful for what is given to him—even if it's not what he wants or expects
88. Behind every successful man is a woman  
- a man's strongest and most loyal supporters are usually his mother and/or his wife
89. Better a mouse in the pot than no meat at all  
- to have something, no matter how little or poor in quality, is better than to have nothing at all
90. Better late than never  
- to do something that is right, profitable, or good a little late is still better than not doing it at all
91. Better safe than sorry  
- it is wise to take precautions rather than be upset that you did not prepare for an eventuality after something has happened
92. Better the devil you know than the devil you don't know  
- the problems you are facing at present may not be as bad as those in the you are planning to move to
93. Better to be alone than in bad company  
- it is better to be by yourself than to be with people who are bad influence
94. Better to die with honour than live with shame  
- it is more honourable to do the right thing even if you will be punished or have to die for it than to live as a coward or a liar
95. Between the devil and the deep sea  
- to choose between two equally bad alternatives in a serious dilemma
96. Between the rock and a hard place  
- to be in difficult situation from which there seems to be no escape
97. Birds of a feather flock together  
- people of the same sort of character or belief always go together
98. Bite off more than one can chew  
- to try to do something one is unable to do or incapable of doing
99. Bitter pills may have blessed effects  
- something may be unpleasant or painful, but it can help you in the long run
100. Blood is thicker than water  
- family ties are stronger than any other
101. Books and friends should be few but good  
- you do not need to have too many friends or read too many books in order to live a balanced, fulfilled and complete life as long as the friends and books you do have are full of substance
102. Boys will be boys  
- often applied to men who act childishly

103. Brain is better than brawn  
- intelligence is more valuable than physical strength
104. Bread always falls buttered-side down  
- of two possibilities, it often seems that the more negative one will occur
105. Brevity is the soul of wit  
- when you want to sound clever, it is better to be brief rather than long-winded
106. Burn the candle at both ends  
- those who are always busy and seem to get little rest
107. Business before pleasure  
- it is better to finish your work before you have a good time
108. Buy a pig in a poke  
- buy something without examining it for faults or checking to see if they are really getting what they believe they have purchased
109. By timely mending save much spending  
- fix a problem as soon as you discover it to save money, expense, worry, etc. having to deal with it later when it has become a bigger problem
110. Call a spade a spade  
- if you say that someone calls a spade a spade, you mean that they speak frankly and directly, often about embarrassing or unpleasant subjects; an informal expression
111. Catch as catch can  
- to do anything or use any means to achieve an aim or reach a goal
112. Catch not at the shadow and lose the substance  
- we should not waste time on trivial aspects of a matter and neglect the essential matter itself
113. Chance favours the prepared mind  
- you should always be prepared to act so that when opportunities present themselves, you are ready to seize them
114. Charity begins at home  
- a person's first obligation should be to help the member of his own family before he can begin thinking of talking about helping others
115. Cheapest is dearest  
- some items may save you money because they are cheap, but their quality may be poor, and this may cost you a lot of money in repairs and getting replacements later
116. Children should be seen and not heard  
- to stop a child from asking questions, talking, or making unnecessary noise
117. Christmas comes but once each year  
- an excuse to indulge in food and drink and spend money during the Christmas
118. Cleanliness is next to Godliness  
- to be clean and tidy is just as important as being spiritually good and religious
119. Clothes make the man  
- the way you dress tells people something about you, and can influence their opinion of you
120. Comparisons are odious  
- it is bad to compare people to one another
121. Confessed faults are half-mended  
- when you own up to a fault, mistake or wrongdoing, you are halfway to changing into a better person
122. Courtesy costs nothing  
- politeness should be a way of life for everyone

123. Cowards die many deaths  
- a coward is afraid of everything, and therefore, faces every problem or challenge with great fear
124. Crime does not pay  
- however much you may earn or make as a criminal, a life of crime does not pay because the law will catch up with you eventually
125. Cross the stream where it is shallowest  
- don't make things difficult for yourself; always find the simplest means of achieving your objective
126. Cry over spilled milk  
- it's pointless to get upset or feel regret about a loss or mistake that can't be undone
127. Curiosity killed the cat  
- to warn people not to show too much interest in affairs that don't concern them
128. Curses are like chickens, they come home to roost  
curses you place on others may find their fulfilment in you, so it is best not to curse anyone
129. Cut off your nose to spite your face  
- when people are dissatisfied or angry, they sometimes react by doing foolish things that prove harmful to themselves
130. Cut your coat according to your cloth  
- live within your income; don't be too ambitious in your plans
131. Danger and delight grow on the same stalk  
- some pleasures will lead you to danger
132. Dead men tell no lies  
- (often used as an argument for killing someone whose knowledge of a secret may cause one loss or get into serious trouble.)
133. Death is the great leveller  
- death, which comes to everyone without discrimination, makes everyone equal
134. Deeds are fruits, words are but leaves  
- taking action is far better than just talking about problems or negative situations
135. Desperate times call for desperate measures  
- sometimes, a situation is so urgent or unexpected that you have to resort to doing things you normally would not
136. Different strokes for different folks  
- you need different plans or strategies in managing different people as people are different in personality and temperament
137. Diligence is the mother of good fortune  
- working hard will bring you riches and success
138. Discretion is the better part of valour  
- if you say discretion is the better part of valour, you mean that avoiding a dangerous or unpleasant situation is sometimes the most sensible thing to do
139. Distance leads enchantment to the view  
- when you are free of a problem or far away from troublesome people, you begin to feel that things were not so bad after all
140. Divide and rule  
- a method of ruling or managing people where you separate them into different groups to make sure they do not join forces against you
141. Do as I saw, and not as I do  
- do something as you have seen it done although it may be different from your own way of doing it

142. Do not cross a bridge till you come to it  
- do not worry about something before it has happened
143. Do not have many irons in the fire  
- if we attempt to do too much at once, we shall not do anything properly
144. Do not ride the high horse  
- do not be arrogant
145. Do unto others as you would others do unto you  
- treat others as you would like them to treat you
146. Doctors make the worst patients  
- it is difficult advising people on matters they are supposed to be experts on because they believe they know better
147. Dog eat dog  
- in competitive situations where each person has his own interests at heart, it is usually the strong and the determined who succeed
148. Don't count chickens before they are hatched  
- do not make plans based on something that has not happened
149. Don't go near the water until you learn how to swim  
- do not try to do something before you have learnt how to do it or before you are ready for it
150. Don't judge a book by its cover  
- do not be deceived by appearances
151. Don't make a mountain out of a molehill  
- do not make a big fuss or issue over something minor or small
152. Don't mend what isn't broken  
- do not change things that are working fine as they are
153. Don't put all your eggs in one basket  
- one should not risk everything he has in a single venture
154. Don't shut the barn door after the horse is gone  
- prepare for emergencies and eventualities before they happen
155. Don't teach your grandmother how to suck eggs  
- do not be presumptuous and teach an experienced person how things should be done
156. East or west, home is best  
- you feel safest, most comfortable and most at peace in your own home
157. Eat to live, but do not live to eat  
- man was created for a divine purpose and he has a destiny with his Creator – he was not born just to enjoy food
158. Empty vessels make the most noise  
- those people who have a little knowledge usually talk the most and make the greatest fuss
159. Even a broken/stopped clock is right twice a day  
- no one is ever wrong all the time
160. Even a dog can distinguish between being stumbled over and being kicked  
- do not let people bully you, but be alert to when you are being taken advantage of
161. Even Homer sometimes nods  
- even the best of us are liable to make mistakes
162. Every ass loves to hear himself bray  
- conceited people love to boast about their achievements

163. Every bird loves to listen to himself sing  
- people who know they are good at something tend to boast about their ability
164. Every cloud has a silver lining  
- if you say that every cloud has a silver lining, you mean that every sad or unpleasant situation has a positive side to it. If you talk about silver lining you are talking about something positive that comes out of a sad or unpleasant situation
165. Every dog has its day  
- everyone will get a period of success or satisfaction during his lifetime
166. Every family has a skeleton in the cupboard  
- every family has their secrets
167. Every flow must have its ebb  
- life has its ups and downs, neither good fortune nor ill fortune lasts forever
168. Every man has his faults  
- no one is perfect
169. Every man has his price  
- if you offer someone enough money, he will be willing to do anything for you
170. Every man is his own worst enemy  
- a lot of people tend to hurt their own chance at success because of negative-mindedness, fear, ignorance, unresolved issues
171. Every man must carry his own cross  
- everyone has to carry his burden or responsibilities in life
172. Every oak must be an acorn  
- everything has to have a small beginning
173. Every picture tells a story  
- every situation has an explanation
174. Everyone can find fault, few can do better  
- it is easier to find fault in other peoples actions or methods than to do it properly or correctly
175. Everyone wants to go to heaven, but no one wants to die  
- everyone wants to enjoy success, but few are willing to work hard or take the risks involved in achieving it
176. Example is better than precept  
- it is better to show by example than to advise, order or tell people to be upright
177. Experience is the best teacher  
- the best way to learn a job is to do it
178. Experience is the mother of wisdom  
- you become wiser as you gain more experience in life
179. Facts are stubborn things  
- you cannot change the facts of a case
180. Failure teaches success  
- people can learn from their failures and mistakes
181. Faint heart never won fair lady  
- to succeed in life one must have the courage to pursue what he wants
182. Fair exchange is no robbery  
- a contract is fair as long as both parties understand and agree to the conditions willingly; after a deal is closed neither side can turn around and say that he was unfairly treated
183. Faith will move mountains  
- miracles will happen when you believe that they will

184. Familiarity breeds contempt  
- people tend to lose respect for people they are close to or in close company with all the time
185. Fear is stronger than love  
- fear is often a stronger emotion or motivation than even love
186. Fear of death is worse than death itself  
- fear is often a crippling emotion because it is so powerful
187. Fine feathers make fine birds  
- you can pretend to be rich, famous, etc. By dressing the part
188. Fine words butter no parsnips  
- just talking about something is not going to get the job done
189. Fire is a good servant but a bad master  
- fire, like any other man made tool or device, will serve man well only when it is controlled and used wisely
190. First come, first served  
- the first in line will be attended to first
191. First deserve, then desire  
- before you begin to hope about possessing something, make sure you are qualified for it
192. First things first  
- do the more urgent and important things first
193. First think, and then speak  
- think about what you are going to say before you speak
194. Flattery brings friends, truth enemies  
- people like to hear good things said about them although they may not be the truth
195. Fling/throw mud at someone  
- to say evil or bad things about someone and in doing so, to damage his or her reputation
196. Fool me once, shame on you, fool me twice, shame on me  
- you should be alert to people trying to get the better of you
197. Fools rush in where angels fear to tread  
- foolish people tend to act too hastily and do things that wise people would avoid
198. Forewarned is forearmed  
- we can prepare for something if we know beforehand the dangers and risks
199. Forgive and forget  
- excusing or pardoning someone for doing something
200. Fortune knocks once at every man's door  
- everyone gets at least one good opportunity in his lifetime; everyone has the opportunity to be successful in life
201. Fretting cares makes grey hairs  
- worrying is a negative activity that can age you prematurely
202. Garbage in, garbage out  
- if the information or input you provide is wrong, the end result will also be below par or flawed
203. Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime  
- it is better to teach people how to be independent by teaching them how to do things for themselves than to do everything for them
204. Give and take is fair play  
- you should be willing to give in partly to others if you want them to give in partly to you
205. Give credit where credit is due  
- appreciate someone for the good work he has done

206. Give him an inch and he'll want a yard  
- some people always take advantage of favour that is shown them
207. Give someone enough rope and he will hang himself  
- if we allow someone to continue in his bad ways he'll eventually bring about his own downfall or ruin
208. Give the devil his due  
- be just and fair-minded, even to the one who does not deserve much or who is unfriendly or unfair; we should punish a person according to his wrongdoings
209. Go from sublime to the ridiculous  
- move from one situation which is wonderful or perfect to another which is absurd or awful
210. God helps those who help themselves  
- God only helps those people who work hard and make an honest effort
211. Good fences make good neighbours  
- respect people's privacy and their territory
212. Good wine needs no bush  
- products of good quality do not need a lot of advertising, as their quality alone shows their worth
213. Great haste makes great waste  
- if one does things hastily he will make a lot of mistakes – he will need to spend a lot of time correcting those mistakes later
214. Great minds think alike  
- wise people will normally think and behave alike in certain situations
215. Great talkers are little doers  
- those people who talk a lot and are always teaching others usually do not do much work
216. Green leaves and brown leaves fall from the same tree  
- everyone has a common beginning, and therefore, no one is above another
217. Grin and bear it  
- to put up with discomfort or a bad situation without complaining
218. Habit is second nature  
- an act done repeatedly and often enough will sooner or later become a habit or second nature
219. Half a loaf is better than none  
- it's better to have or receive less than one desires than to have or receive nothing at all
220. Happy wife, happy life  
- if you have a happy or a good life partner, you will be happy and contented
221. Hard words break no bones  
- ignore insults as they cannot physically harm you, and will only harm you emotionally if you let them
222. Haste makes waste  
- things that are done in a hurry are usually done sloppily, and may contain careless mistakes
223. Have an old head on young shoulders  
- youngsters who possess qualities of wisdom one would only expect to find in experienced older people
224. Have eyes in the back of one's head  
- an ability to know what is happening not within the scope of one's vision
225. He is rich who owes nothing  
- a person who owes no one a debt is free of worry, and therefore, rich, in a sense
226. He is the best general who makes the fewest mistakes  
- a good leader rarely makes mistakes

227. He knows most who speaks last  
- the one who waits to listen to what others have to say before speaking has a better understanding of a situation
228. He laughs best who laughs last  
- a person who does his best is the one who will get the greatest satisfaction in the end
229. He that goes a-borrowing, goes a-sorrowing  
- do not make borrowing a habit as you will suffer for it in the end
230. He that is master of himself, will soon be master of masters  
- self-discipline will help you achieve greatness
231. He that knows nothing doubts nothing  
- an ignorant person usually raises no questions because he is not aware that problems exist
232. He that plants thorns must never expect to gather roses  
- if you do evil, do not expect good to come to you
233. He who dares, wins  
- you can only win or succeed if you are willing to take risks
234. He who fails to prepare, prepares to fail  
- lack of preparation will cause you to lose or fail
235. He who hesitates is lost  
- you will lose opportunities if you are indecisive and not fast enough to grab them
236. He who knows does not speak. He who speaks does not know  
- it is an ironic situation when someone who should speak up does not while the person who should not, does
237. He who likes borrowing dislikes paying  
- people who tend to borrow often are usually slow in settling debts
238. He who lives too fast, goes to his grave too soon  
- if you do not allow yourself to rest once in a while when you lead a fast-paced life, you will suffer from stress, burnout and illness
239. He who pays the piper calls the tune  
- the person who pays for something has the right to do as he wants
240. He who serves two masters must lie to one  
- you cannot effectively or fully serve two people as your attention, loyalty, commitment, etc. will be split between the two
241. He who sleeps forgets his hunger  
- sleeping is a good way to forget you are hungry, especially when there is no food for you and you have no money to buy any
242. He who stands for nothing will fall for everything  
- a person with no principles or opinions of his own will tend to go along with anything anyone tells him, and can, therefore, be easily cheated
243. He who sups with the devil has need of a long spoon  
- if you keep company with or work for dangerous or evil people, you will need to be very careful
244. He who will steal an egg will steal an ox  
- a person who steals small things is likely to steal big things too
245. Health is better than wealth  
- it is better to be healthy than rich, as without a healthy body you can do nothing, and cannot enjoy your wealth

246. Hide your light under a bushel  
- concealing your talents, skills or abilities
247. History tends to repeat itself  
- what has happened once is liable to happen again
248. Hitch one's wagon to a star  
- to move forward in a way to improve your chances of achieving success
249. Home is where the heart is  
- no matter where you are, 'home' is where you feel most comfortable and content
250. Honesty is the best policy  
- being honest is believed to be the best route to take
251. Honey catches more flies than vinegar  
- use the right incentives to motivate people to do something
252. Hope for the best, expect the worst  
- never lose hope, but be prepared with an alternative if things do not go as planned
253. Hope is life  
- To live is to always be hopeful
254. Hope is the last thing that we lose  
- people are by nature hopeful, and must always be so because when we lose hope, we lose the will to live
255. Hope springs eternal  
- hope is something that never dies, and people should never lose hope
256. Hunger is the best spice  
- when you are really hungry, everything tastes good, and you eat up everything placed in front of you
257. If at first you don't succeed try, try and try again  
- never stop trying to succeed at something
258. If it's not one thing it's another  
- the troubles seem to go on and on without end
259. If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch  
- those without knowledge should not try to teach the ignorant
260. If the shoe fits, wear it  
- if something said about you is true, you should accept it
261. If wishes were horses, beggars would ride  
- it is easy to wish for things, but wishes do not often come true
262. If wishes were horses, beggars would ride  
- if we could get the things we wanted just by making a wish, everyone would have all he ever wanted
263. If you are in a hole, stop digging  
- do not create more trouble for yourself when you are already facing some
264. If you buy cheaply, you pay dearly  
- cheap goods are usually not the best in terms of quality
265. If you buy quality, you only cry once  
- Items of good quality may be expensive, but they will last you a long time
266. If you can't lick them, join them  
- if you cannot defeat an opponent or get him to change his ideas, plans or way of doing things, the best thing is to change your ideas, plans, etc.
267. If you can't take the heat, get out of the kitchen  
- if you cannot handle something, give it up

268. If you don't buy a ticket, you can't win the raffle  
- if you don't take the risk, you cannot expect success
269. If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all  
- avoid being negative
270. If you keep your mouth shut, you won't put your foot in it  
- keep quiet, and you will say nothing wrong
271. If you want a thing done right, do it yourself  
- do not rely on others to complete your work for you
272. If you were born to be shot, you'll never be hanged  
- you cannot escape your fate
273. Ignorance is bliss  
- you can be happy when you do not know there are problems around you
274. Ignorance of the law excuses no man  
- not knowing what you did was wrong does not excuse you from suffering the penalty
275. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery  
- when someone copies what you do, it means they really admire you or the way you do things
276. In for a penny, in for a pound  
- if we decide to do something, we should commit ourselves to it boldly and completely
277. It is best to be on the safe side  
- play safe and be prepared for the worst to happen
278. It is useless to flog a dead horse  
- it is no use spending your time and energy on an activity or belief that is already widely rejected or outdated
279. It never rains but it pours  
- events, especially misfortunes, always come together and not one at a time
280. It takes all sorts to make a world  
- you should not expect everyone to think and act as you do
281. It takes two to make a quarrel  
- both parties in a quarrel should share the blame or take responsibility for it; no one can start a quarrel all by himself
282. It takes two to tango  
- it takes two individuals to do certain things
283. It's an ill wind that blows nobody any good  
- a bad or evil occurrence
284. It's better to give than to receive  
- giving is more blessed than receiving
285. It's better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all  
- do not be afraid to fall in love
286. It's never too late to mend  
- it is never too late to correct one's mistakes or faults
287. It's no use crying over spilt milk  
- it is pointless to feel remorseful over a thing lost that can never be found or a mistake done that can never be corrected or rectified
288. Jack of all trades and master of none  
- it is a person who can do almost anything, but he rarely excels in any of them

289. Jam tomorrow and jam yesterday, but never jam today  
- what you early hope for does not seem to be happening
290. Judge not, that ye be not judged  
- do not judge others as you are not perfect yourself, so be merciful in the hope that others will show you mercy one day
291. Jump from the frying pan into the fire  
- to go from a bad position to a worse one
292. Keep no more cats than will catch mice  
- do not acquire more than what you need
293. Keep the wolf from the door  
- to avoid hunger and poverty
294. Keep your friends close and your enemies closer  
- keep track of what your enemies are up to for your own protection
295. Kill not the goose that laid the golden egg  
- do not be so foolish as to destroy the source of your good fortune out of pride, greed, anger, etc.
296. Kill two birds with one stone  
- complete two tasks with one action
297. Kindle not a fire you cannot put out  
- do not start something you cannot control or resolve
298. Kindness begets kindness  
- when you are kind to people, they will be kind to you in return
299. Knowledge is power  
- the more you learn, the greater influence you have over others
300. Laugh and grow fat  
- laughter creates a sense of well-being and happiness
301. Laugh and the world laughs with you  
- when someone is in a happy, cheerful mood, people like being with him
302. Laughter is the best medicine  
- being cheerful is good for your total well-being
303. Laughter is the shortest distance between two people  
- laughter is the best way to break the ice between strangers or enemies
304. Learn to walk before you run  
- do not rush into things before you are ready
305. Least said, soonest forgotten  
- the less we say about it the sooner the incident will be forgotten
306. Let bygones be bygones  
- one should consider forgiving one's and forget all the bad deeds done by others
307. Let him who is without sin cast the first stone  
- you qualify to judge someone only if you yourself are faultless
308. Let not the pot call the kettle black  
- a person who has a fault should not point out the same fault in another; do not criticize another person as you may have the same weakness
309. Let sleeping dogs lie  
- one should preferably avoid discussing issues that are likely to create trouble
310. Let the buyer beware  
- always be aware of what you are getting yourself into

311. Let us go hand in hand, not one before another  
- face problems together in unity, and not alone or in a spirit of enmity
312. Life is just a bowl of cherries  
- life is full of happiness and pleasure
313. Lightning never strikes twice in the same place  
- the same misfortune will probably not occur again in the same place or to the same people
314. Like a bull in a china shop  
- a clumsy or tactless person
315. Like cures like  
- people who have been through something are usually able to help others with the same problem
316. Like father, like son, like mother, like daughter  
- used to describe a child's behaviour when he or she acts like the father or mother
317. Little boys should be seen and not heard  
- children should not interrupt when adults are talking
318. Little by little and bit by bit  
- if you persevere at something, you will gradually accomplish it
319. Little enemies and little wounds must not be despised  
- do not ignore people you have angered or hurt, however small the slight or injury, as they can harm you one day if they choose to bear you a grudge
320. Little strokes fell great oaks  
- continuous effort, however small the mount, will help you achieve your greatest dreams and ambitions
321. Little things please little minds  
- childish people are thrilled by childish, petty things
322. Live and learn  
- learn as much as you can from life
323. Live and let live  
- get on with your own affairs and let others get on with theirs
324. Lock the stable door after the horse has bolted  
- once a mistake has been made or an error committed, it's too late to take precautions to prevent it from happening
325. Long absent, soon forgotten  
- if you are away for too long, people may forget you
326. Look after the pence, and the pounds will look after themselves  
- take care of the details and the bigger issues will be solved
327. Look at the bright side  
- be optimistic
328. Look at the sunny side of life  
- be positive in life
329. Look before you reap  
- avoid acting hastily, without considering the possible consequences
330. Look on the bright side  
- be positive
331. Loose lips sink ships  
- people who talk too much may give away important secrets that could harm themselves or others
332. Losers weepers, finders keepers  
- if someone loses something, he weeps—but if someone finds it, he keeps it

333. Love conquers all  
- love motivates people to make things work
334. Love covers a multitude of sins  
- when you treat people with love, compassion, kindness, forbearance, etc. you make up for a lot of your own faults because it is right to love people
335. Love makes the world go round  
- love is the important thing in life that makes life meaningful
336. Love me, love my dog  
- if we want a person's friendship we must accept them totally, faults and all
337. Love sees no faults  
- real love does not take into account the flaws of a person
338. Love will find a way  
- love motivates people to look for solutions to all problems
339. Make hay while the sun shines  
- seize opportunities
340. Man cannot live by bread alone  
- it takes more than food to complete your life
341. Many hands make light work  
- many people sharing a job or tasks make easier work of it
342. Marry in haste, repent at leisure  
- do not rush into marriage because if you marry the wrong person, you will spend the rest of your life regretting it
343. Measure twice, cut once  
- consider your options carefully in order to make a good decision
344. Mirrors do everything we do, but they cannot think for themselves  
- man-made devices have their limits, and cannot do everything humans can
345. Misery loves company  
- unhappy people seem to like to make others unhappy too
346. Misery makes strange bedfellows  
- when unhappy people make friend with others they would not usually befriend
347. Money cannot buy happiness  
- you cannot buy joy, peace, contentment, etc.
348. Money is the root of all evil  
- Crimes and wickedness are associated with money
349. Money isn't everything  
- riches cannot solve all your problems or bring you joy, peace, contentment
350. Money makes the world go round  
- people work hard and go through a lot of pain just to earn more money as if it is what keeps them going
351. Monkey see, monkey do  
- people without minds of their own tend to blindly do and say what others do
352. More haste, less speed  
- the more you hurry, the slower you seem to progress because hurrying causes you to make mistakes
353. Nature, time and patience are three great physicians  
- the goodness of nature, time and being patient can bring healing
354. Necessity is the mother of invention  
- when a person is in great need of something, he will find a way of getting it

355. Never do things by halves

- one should not do an incomplete or imperfect job – certain tasks must not be left half done; they must be done away with immediately

356. Never do things in halves

- always complete a job as perfectly as you can

357. Never fall out with your bread and butter

- do not quarrel with the people who pay you your salary or with your customers

358. Never give advice unless asked

- do not assume that people need your help or that you all the answers to help them, it is better to wait until you are asked for help

359. Never let the right hand know what the left hand is doing

- be discreet in all you do, do not tell others your deeds, especially your good deeds

360. Never put off until tomorrow what you can do today

- do not delay doing tasks and assignments

361. Never say die

- never give up

362. Never say never

- always leave room for change

363. Never speak ill of the dead

- do not talk badly about the departed

364. Never trouble trouble till trouble troubles you

- do not go looking for trouble

365. No man can serve two masters

- you can only be faithful to one boss, leader, etc.

366. No man is an island

- everyone needs the companions of others

367. No man is content with his lot

- most people seem to be dissatisfied with what they have, and want other things

368. No man is indispensable

- no man is so useful to others that people cannot do without him

369. No money no justice

- in a corrupt legal system, you can bribe lawyers and judges to win a case for you

370. No news is good news

- when there is no news, it is likely that everything is all right

371. No pain no gain

- you must be ready to make sacrifices to get what you want badly

372. No revenge is more honourable than the one not taken lips sink ships

- however tempted you may be to retaliate, try not to because revenge is a negative pursuit

373. No rose is without a thorn

- nothing on earth is perfect

374. No time like the present

- now is the best time to do something

375. Nothing comes free

- unfortunately, everything in life has a price attached to it

376. Nothing succeeds like success

- when a person starts being successful, he is likely to continue being successful

377. Nothing ventured, nothing gained  
- one must take risks in order to succeed at anything
378. Old habits die hard  
- it is difficult to change a long-time habit
379. Once beaten twice shy  
- if a person has been tricked once he will more be careful and alert the next time
380. One good turn deserves another  
- always be ready to know kindness to people who have been kind to you
381. One man's junk is another man's treasure  
- people have different tastes, preferences, perceptions of the same thing
382. One man's loss is another man's gain  
- what is a disadvantage to one person can be an advantage to another
383. One man's meat is another man's poison  
- no two persons are alike – everyone has his own preferences, likes and dislikes
384. One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter  
- there are always two sides to an argument and two perspectives to consider
385. One swallow doesn't make a summer  
- one success doesn't guarantee complete success
386. Opportunity only knocks once  
- seize an opportunity when it occurs for it may never happen again
387. Opportunity seldom knocks twice  
- you must be ready to grab an opportunity when it comes your way
388. Out of sight, out of mind  
- you will soon forget friends you do not meet or keep in contact with
389. Patience is a virtue  
- patience is an advantage and a good trait to nurture in yourself
390. Politics makes a strange bedfellows  
- in politics, people who have always been opponents often work together at different times for their own interests
391. Possession is nine points of the law  
- in dispute over property ownership, the person in possession of something is sometimes said to have nine-tenths a chance of winning it in a legal argument
392. Poverty is no crime  
- the poor should not be despised
393. Practice makes perfect  
- it is believed that if one practices a certain skill often, he will excel in it
394. Practice what you preach  
- do what you advise others to do
395. Prevention is better than cure  
- it is better to be careful beforehand than to try to solve a problem after it has arisen
396. Pride comes before a fall  
- an extremely proud person runs the risk of being humbled in front of everyone
397. Procrastination is the thief of time  
- to delay doing your work only wastes your time
398. Promises are like pie crust  
- most promises cannot be kept

399. Prosperity makes friends, adversity tries them  
- if you are rich and successful, you will attract many friends, but if you should suffer hardship or have misfortune (adversity), your friends will quickly depart
400. Put a beggar on horseback, and he will ride to the Devil  
- sometimes, giving a person more than he needs or knows what to do with does not help him but instead, encourages him to go overboard
401. Put a quart into a pint pot  
- doing something that's impossible
402. Rats desert a sinking ship  
- when things go wrong in an organisation, people tend to abandon it
403. Repeating a lie doesn't make it true  
- saying something is true when it is not just because you would like to believe it is so does not change the facts
404. Revenge is sweet  
- some people feel good to be able to get back at someone who has hurt them
405. Revenge is the dish best served cold  
- revenge works well when the target least expects it
406. Robbing Peter to pay Paul  
- (this is quoted when one takes another loan to pay off another loan) taking from one to give another
407. Rome was not built in a day  
- any great plan or big dream cannot be achieved overnight or easily
408. Same meat, different gravy  
- the same thing presented differently
409. Scratch something and you'll find a something  
- when you know a person better, you will realize that he is not all he seems to be
410. See which way the wind is blowing  
- test how things stand
411. Seek, and ye shall find  
- when you set out to look for the truth with all your heart, you will find it
412. Self-trust is the first secret of success  
- you need to believe in your abilities first of all in order to succeed in life
413. Set a thief to catch a thief  
- use the skill and experience of one wrongdoer to catch another
414. Silence gives consent  
- if you do not protest, object or say anything in response to a proposal, plan, etc. it means you are agreeable to it
415. Six of one and half a dozen of the other  
- the same or nearly the same in one case as the other
416. Slow and steady wins the race  
- do things at your own pace and ability, and you will succeed in time
417. Smile, and the world smiles with you; cry, and you cry alone  
- people are usually ready to share in your happiness but not in your sadness
418. Someone's bark is worse than his bite  
- people sometimes bark but in time we learn they're not always as frightening as they seem
419. Something is better than nothing  
- be thankful that you do have something, and do not complain about how little you have

420. Spare the rod and spoil the child  
- a child who is not punished and showed the error of his ways will become unruly
421. Speak of the devil and he's sure to appear  
- what you say when you are talking of someone, and he appears
422. Speak when you are spoken to  
- respond when you are asked a question
423. Speech is silver, silence is golden  
- talk may be beneficial, but sometimes acquiescence may be the best option to take
424. Starve a cold, feed a fever  
- the best way to treat a cold is to skip a meal or two; the best way to treat fever is to have a light meal
425. Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me  
- the unkind words of small-minded people should not upset or depress you
426. Still waters run deep  
- one who is usually silent and goes about his business quietly may be a very wise person
427. Stolen fruit is the sweetest  
- things that are forbidden to you seem to be the most exciting or tempting
428. Strike while the iron is hot  
- seize a good opportunity as quickly as possible
429. Success is a journey, not a destination  
- the most treasured part of an achievement is the experience and lessons you learn in the process
430. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof  
- do not be troubled about the problems you may face tomorrow, as you have enough to contend with today
431. Take care of the pence and the pounds will take care of themselves  
- pay attention to the details and the larger issues will work out well enough
432. Talk is cheap  
- talk that is not backed up with action is useless
433. Teach an old dog new tricks  
- it is impossible to change someone's ways or habits, especially if he is old and resists change
434. Tell the truth to shame the Devil  
- tell the truth all the times
435. That's where the shoe pinches  
- that's the source or cause of a problem or an annoyance
436. The acorn never falls far from the tree  
- children tend to resemble their parents
437. The best fish swim near the bottom  
- the best things are hard to come by
438. The best laid schemes of mice and men often fail  
- no matter how well planned, your arrangements can go wrong because you do not control all events and cannot see into the future
439. The best of friends must part  
- even good friends sometimes need to part, if only for a while
440. The best things come in small packages  
- expensive things which are considered among the best things, can come in small packages
441. The best things in life are free  
- the most important things in life such as love, kindness, generosity, etc. are free

442. The bigger they are, the harder they fall  
- the bigger a problem the greater its impact
443. The blind leading the blind  
- a person helping or advising someone knows as little about the subject as the person who is being advised
444. The buck stops here  
- it means final decision or total responsibility for an action
445. The calm comes before the storm  
- there is usually peace before disaster strikes
446. The cure is worse than the disease  
- some solutions seem worse than the problem
447. The customer is always right  
- the guiding principle of the service industry is that the customer must be satisfied, so never upset or contradict a customer
448. The darkest hour is just before the dawn  
- relief or victory comes just after the worst phase of a bad situation
449. The darkest hour is that before dawn  
- even when things seem at their very worst, they may shortly improve
450. The devil finds work for idle hands  
- unless one keeps busy doing useful or constructive things he could be tempted into mischief or evil
451. The devil has the best tunes  
- to do something unworthy because it gives you pleasure
452. The eyes are the window of the soul  
- a person's eyes express his true feelings, thoughts, etc.
453. The fat is in the fire  
- it is too late to do anything about a situation
454. The first step is the hardest  
- starting is often the most difficult part of doing a job
455. The first step to health is to know that we are sick  
- you have to be willing to admit there is a problem before you can change yourself, a bad situation, etc.
456. The head and feet keep warm, the rest will take no harm  
- if you take care of the important matters, everything else will fall into place
457. The journey is the reward  
- the most valuable, fulfilling and exciting part of achieving something is the work and effort put into the endeavour
458. The last straw that broke the camel's back  
- the final thing that, when added to a bad or unpleasant situation, causes failure or ruin
459. The least said, the soonest mended  
- the less you say during a quarrel, the greater chance there is for you to patch up later
460. The longest day must have an end  
- all difficult jobs or situations also have an end
461. The longest mile is the last mile home  
- the nearer you are to your destination, the further away from you it seems
462. The more acquaintance, the more danger  
- the more casual friends you have, the greater the possibility that you will be led astray, betrayed etc.
463. The more one knows, the less one believes  
- the more information you have about something, the more unsure or suspicious you can become of it

464. The more things change, the more they stay the same  
- some changes are only outward, the actual problems remain the same
465. The more you get, the more you want  
- the more you have, the more you want to have because greed grows in you
466. The more you know, the more you know you don't know  
- the more knowledge you acquire, the more aware you are of how little you know about life
467. The mountain labours and brings forth a mouse  
- to work hard and long on a project that turns out to be pretty useless
468. The nails that sticks out gets pounded  
- people who stand out in a group because they are different or because they raise questions, issues are quickly pressured into conforming with the rest of the group
469. The nearer the bone, the sweeter the meat  
- the closer you get to your goal or objective, the more thrilled or excited you get
470. The only free cheese is in the mouse trap  
- be careful when people offer you something for nothing, as they may be trying to trap or cheat you
471. The only stupid question is the one that is not asked  
- the more questions you ask, the more you learn, so do not be shy or afraid to ask questions
472. The pen is mightier than the sword  
- the written word is more to be feared than physical violence
473. The proof of the pudding is in the eating  
- how good something is can only be verified by evaluating it
474. The rain falls on the just and the unjust alike  
- no matter how good or bad a person, he must still face the everyday problems that confronts us all
475. The road to hell is paved with good intentions  
- a person's good intentions are not enough to guarantee success
476. The sins of the fathers will be visited upon the children  
- people will be punished for the wrongs committed by their parents, forefathers, or those who have preceded them
477. The sky is the limit  
- there is no upper limit to something
478. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak  
- to do something unworthy just because it gives you the pleasure
479. The start of a journey should never be mistaken for success  
- do not assume you have succeeded at something when you have only just started on it
480. The thin end of the wedge  
- that something can appear to be small and of no particular importance – yet it can turn out to be the beginning of a major problem
481. The truth hurts  
- hearing the truth can sometimes be painful, especially when you have been believing something else for a long time
482. The truth is in the wine  
- people speak more freely when they are drunk, often revealing secrets
483. The truth will out  
- truth about something will eventually be discovered or made known
484. The way to a man's heart is through his stomach  
- most men love to eat so feed your husband well and he will always love you

485. The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong  
- only a morally strong person is able to forgive people who have hurt him
486. The wish is father to the thought  
- often, you think about and eventually act upon what you wish for
487. There are no endings, only new beginnings  
- do not think of an ending as the end of something but as the beginning of a new cycle or phase
488. There are no small parts, only small actors  
- a good actor is able to make any role interesting and realistic, no matter how insignificant it may be
489. There are none so blind as those that will not see  
- people, who never admit they might be wrong, refuse to listen to the opinions or ideas of anyone
490. There are none so deaf as those who will not hear  
- people sometimes hear only what they want to hear
491. There are two sides to every question  
- there are always two ways of looking at something
492. There is many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip  
- anything can go wrong at any time before a matter is settled
493. There is many a true word that is spoken in jest  
- a remark, such as something about a person's character, that is said jokingly, is often true to some extent
494. There is no honour among thieves  
- you cannot trust a thief
495. There is no place like home  
- even a simple home is the best place in the world for the people who live in it
496. There is no point arguing with the barrel of a gun  
- it is pointless trying to argue with a very angry or violent person
497. There is no such thing as a free lunch  
- nothing comes free
498. There is no venom like that of the tongue  
- the cruel things people sometimes say to one another can hurt more than the deadliest poison can
499. There is nothing new under the sun  
- there is nothing in the world that has not been seen, heard, discovered, experienced before
500. There is one law for the rich, and another for the poor  
- when the law is unjust and does not treat people fairly, but considers their wealth and status before deciding to help them
501. There only only twenty-four hours in a day  
- time is a limited resource, so use it wisely
502. There's a time and a place for everything  
- act according to the occasion
503. There's more than one way to skin a cat  
- there is more than one way of getting a job done
504. There's no fool like an old fool  
- when an older person acts silly, he appears really ridiculous because at his age, he is expected to be wise and sensible
505. There's no smoke without fire  
- rumours do not spread unless there is some element of truth in them
506. There's safety in numbers  
- you are safer when others are around

507. They who dance must pay the fiddler

- you must be ready to accept the consequences of your actions

508. Think before you speak

- think before you say anything so that you do not say something foolish or hurtful

509. Those who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones

- people with obvious faults should not criticize the faults of others because they are themselves targets for criticism

510. Time and tide wait for no one

- time is precious, once it is past no one can go back and claim it thus everyone should be mindful of how his time is spent

511. Time cures all things

- with time, people are likely to forgive and forget hurts

512. Time flies

- time seems to move very fast when you are having fun or doing something urgent

513. Time heals old wounds

- the passing of time helps us to forget things that have caused us pain or made us unhappy

514. Time is a great healer

- time allows people to forgive and forget past hurts, injuries and loss as memories fade, and people become wiser and more mature

515. Time is money

- time is valuable, especially to business people, and should not be wasted

516. Time the deed to the need

- offer help when it is needed, and not when it is convenient for you

517. To err is human, to forgive is divine

- it is only normal for man to make mistakes and do wrong, but for one to forgive another for his wrong is indeed great and gracious act

518. To put the cart before the horse

- to do something in an incorrect order

519. To understand all is to forgive all

- when you know why a person behaves in a certain way, you can forgive him what he does and says

520. Tomorrow is another day

- tomorrow is a new day which gives you the opportunity to start over

521. Tomorrow never comes

- if you do not do something today you will probably not do it the next day

522. Too many cooks spoil the broth

- too many people doing the same thing at the same time will not be successful

523. Truth is stranger than fiction

- real life can be more incredible than anything which can be imagined

524. Try not to become a man of success but a man of value

- good character and moral strength are more valuable than material success

525. Turn up like a bad penny

- something or someone disliked just won't go away

526. Two heads are better than one

- it is always better to get the view of another than to rely entirely on one's own judgment

527. Two things prolong your life; a quiet heart and a loving wife

- inner peace and a reliable life partner are a blessing to anyone

528. Two wrongs do not make a right  
- if a person does something to harm or offend us, that's wrong. If we do something to harm them back, that's wrong too.
529. Two's company, three's a crowd  
- it is always fun while there are only two people whereas the third person is an unwelcome intrusion
530. Uneasy is the head that wears the crown  
- notable or important people are often concerned about losing their positions
531. United we stand, divided we fall  
- unity brings strength to a team
532. Unity is strength  
- unity brings strength to a team
533. Variety is the spice of life  
- life becomes very monotonous without some break or change in the daily routine
534. Virtue is its own reward  
- you should not expect payment for doing things that you should do or for acting in a morally correct way
535. Walls have ears, shoes have tongues  
- be careful what you say and who you speak to
536. Waste not, want not  
- if we're careful and waste nothing we'll never go without things we need
537. We never miss the water till the well is dry  
- people do not notice or appreciate an advantage, strength until the suddenly, etc. lose it
538. We never miss the water till the well is dry  
- you only realize the importance of something when it is gone
539. Wear out one's welcome  
- one is no longer welcome, usually because he has become a nuisance
540. What goes around, comes around  
- how you treat people is how you will eventually be treated
541. What goes up must come down  
- things will return to their natural state eventually
542. What is learnt in the cradle lasts to the tomb  
- everything you learn in life stays with you till you die
543. What you lose on the swings you gain on the roundabouts  
- the disadvantages you suffer in one area are equalled or cancelled by the advantages you win in others
544. What you saw is what you reap  
- you have to face the consequences of your actions
545. What's done can't be undone  
- in life there are some things once done or decisions once made cannot be changed; malicious words once uttered or harmful actions once done cannot be taken back
546. What's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander  
- what is good for one person ought to be good enough for anyone else
547. When in Rome do as the Romans do  
- when one is in a new place, country or situation he must adapt himself to the new manners and customs
548. When one sows the wind one reaps the whirlwind  
- when you live too fast-paced or dangerous a life, be prepared for trouble or danger

549. When poverty comes in the door, love flies out the window  
- as soon as a happily married couple begin having financial problems and the bills pile up their love will disappear
550. When the cat is away the mice will play  
- when law enforcers are not present, certain public members will take the opportunity to break the law
551. When the going gets tough, the tough gets going  
- often, when things become difficult, people who seemed strong or who promised to help you leave you because they cannot take the pressure
552. Where there's a will there's a way  
- when a person really wants to do something, he will find a way of doing it
553. Who keeps company with wolves, will learn to howl  
- if we associate with bad companions we, too, will become bad
554. Wilful waste makes woeful want  
- do not waste anything thoughtlessly because you may need it later
555. Winning isn't everything  
- success is not everything, what you learn in the process of becoming successful is more important
556. Worship the ground somebody walks  
- very much in love with somebody
557. You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink  
- we can help, show or encourage someone to do something but we can't make him do what he is unwilling or unable to do
558. You can't have things both ways  
- you cannot avoid making a choice in some situations
559. You can't have your cake and eat it  
- you must choose between two things as it is impossible to have both at the same time
560. You can't make an omelette without breaking eggs  
- you have to sacrifice something in order to gain something else
561. You can't please everyone  
- you cannot make everyone happy at the same time – someone is going to be unhappy with your actions
562. You can't shoe a running horse  
- if you want to help, or if you are in trouble, you will need to stop and ask for help
563. You cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear  
- you cannot change a person's real character
564. You could go a lot further and fare a lot worse  
- you are better off now because things could have been worse for you
565. You need to bait the hook to catch the fish  
- you need to prepare the necessary materials or items before you can actually get something done
566. You pays your money and you takes your chances  
- a humorous way of saying that we sometimes must trust in luck when buying something
567. You will never know till you have tried it  
- you have to experience something yourself before you know what it is all about
568. You win some, you lose some  
- in life, you have to expect to win and lose
569. Youth and age will never agree  
- the young and the old do not always see eye to eye

(SOURCE: INTERNET)