


























Proverbs with meaning

Here is the treasure of English proverbs using which, you can make your speech effective & attractive

	A bad excuse is better than none.
	That means- Always give an excuse, even if it's a poor one.
	A bad penny always turns up.
	That means- An unwanted or disreputable person constantly comes back.
	A bad tree does not yield good apples.
	That means- A bad parent does not raise good children.
	A bad workman blames his tools.
	That means- Blaming the tool for bad workmanship is an excuse for lack of skill.
	A barking dog seldom bites.
	That means- Someone who constantly makes threats rarely carries them out.
	A bird in the hand is worth two in a bush.
	That means- It is better to keep what you have rather than to risk losing it by searching for something better.
	A black plum is as sweet as a white.
	That means- People should not be judged by their appearance.
	A broken friendship maybe soldered but will never be sound.
	Friendships can be rebuilt after a dispute but will never be as strong as before.
	A burnt child dreads the fire.
	That means- A bad experience will make people stay away from certain things
	A calm sea does not make a skilled sailor.
	That means- A person shows their competence or ability when difficulties
	A change is as good as a rest.
	That means- A change in routine is often as refreshing as a break or a holiday.


English Proverbs

	A fault confessed is half redressed.
	That means- Confession is the beginning of forgiveness.
	A day of sorrow is longer than a month of joy.
	Times goes by very quickly when you are happy and very slowly when you are sad.
	A drop of ink may make a million think.
	That means- A thought expressed in writing (perhaps published in a newspaper) can influence a large number of people.
	A fool at forty is a fool forever.
	That means- If a person hasn't matured by the age of 40, they never will.
	A friend in need is a friend indeed.
	That means- Someone who helps you when you are in trouble is a real friend.
	A friend to all is a friend to none.
	Someone who is a friend to everyone makes none of them feel special.
	A good beginning makes a good end.
	If a task is carefully planned, there's a better chance that it will be well done
	A good conscience is a soft pillow.
	That means- You sleep well when you have nothing to be guilty about.
	A good mind possesses a kingdom.
	That means- Intellectual assets are more valuable than material ones
	A good name is better than a good face.
	That means- A good reputation is better than a good appearance.
	A handful of patience is worth more than a bushel of brains.
	That means- Patience is more precious than intelligence.
	A happy heart is better than a full purse.
	That means- Happiness is better than wealth.
	A hungry belly has no ears.
	A hungry person is totally concentrated on their need for food and nothing else
	A hungry wolf is fixed to no place.
	A desperate person will go from place to place when they need to satisfy their needs.

English Proverbs

	bad excuse is better than none.
	That means- Always give an excuse, even if it's a poor one.
	Bad news travels fast.
	That means- People tend to circulate bad news very quickly (accidents, illness, etc).
	Be just before you are generous.
	Make sure all your debts are paid before you start offering help to others.
	Beauty is only skin deep.
	That means- A person's character is more important than their appearance.
	Be swift to hear, slow to speak.
	That means- Listen carefully before speaking.
	Better an egg today than a hen tomorrow.
	That means- It is preferable to have something sure now than the possibility of something better later.
	Better be alone than in bad a company.
	That means- Be careful in the choice of the people you associate with.
	Better be the head of a dog than the tail of a lion.
	It's better to be the leader of a small group than a subordinate in a bigger one.
	Better flatter a fool than fight him.
	That means- It's better to avoid disputes with stupid people.
	Better to drink the milk than to eat the cow.
	That means- Be careful not to destroy the source of your income or welfare.
	Better late than never.
	That means- It's better to do something, even if it's late, than not do it at all.
	Better safe than sorry.
	That means- It's better to be too careful than to be careless and regret it later.
	Better be untaught than ill-taught.
	That means- It's better not to be taught at all than to be taught badly.
	Better lose the saddle than the horse.
	It's better to stop and accept a small loss than continue and risk losing everything.














English Proverbs

	Beware of Greeks bearing gifts. That means- Don't trust your enemies.
	Birds of a feather flock together. That means- People of the same sort are usually found together.
	Blood is thicker than water. That means- Family relationships are stronger than relationships with other people.
	Charity begins at home. That means- A person's first duty is to help and care for his own family.
	Children and fools tell the truth. Neither children nor fools know that it is sometimes advantageous to lie.
	Cleanliness is next to godliness. That means- A clean body is just as important as a pure soul.
	Constant occupation prevents temptation. That means- When you are busy working, you avoid temptation.
	(The) darkest hour is just before dawn. That means- The most difficult moment is just before a problem is solved.
	Dead men tell no lies. That means- A dead person cannot cause difficulties by revealing something that it would be preferable to conceal.
	Death is the great leveller. That means- All people are equal when they die.
	(The) devil looks after his own. That means- Success comes to those who deserve it least.
	Diamonds cut diamonds. That means- Refers to two people equally matched in wit or cunning.
	Diligence is the mother of good fortune. That means- Hard work brings rewards.
	(The) devil makes work for idle hands. That means- People who have no work, or are idle, often get into trouble.
















English Proverbs

	Easier said than done.
	What is suggested sounds easy, but it is more difficult to actually do it.
	Elbow grease is the best polish.
	That means- Hard work gives the best results.
	Empty vessels make the most noise.
	That means- The least intelligent people are often the most talkative or noisy.
	Every ass likes to hear himself bray.
	That means- People like to listen to themselves talking.
	Every cloud has a silver lining.
	That means- There is a positive or hopeful side to every situation.
	You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours.
	That means- You help me and I'll help you.
	(An) empty purse frightens away, friends.
	That means- When one's financial situation deteriorates, friends tend to disappear.
	A young idler, an old beggar.
	That means- If you don't work, you won't have any money when you're old.
	Every man has his price.
	That means- Everyone's loyalty can be bought for a price.
	Every man is the architect of his own fortune.
	That means- Life is what you make it.
	Every path has its puddle. That means- progress is rarely without difficulty.
	Every rose has its thorn.
	That means- Every good thing has an unpleasant side.
	Experience is the father of wisdom.
	That means- Experience and knowledge result in better judgment.
	Facts speak louder than words
	People show what they are really like by what they do, rather than by what they say.
	(The) early bird catches the worm.
	Act early, or before anyone else, if you want to have an advantage or be successful.
















English Proverbs
















	Failure teaches success.
	That means- People can learn from their failures and be successful later on.
	False friends are worse than open enemies.
	That means- It's better to know who your real enemies are rather than trust someone who pretends to be a friend but is capable of stabbing you in the back.
	First come, first served.
	That means- The first person in the line will be attended to first.
	Worry often gives a small thing a big shadow.
	That means- Worrying over small details can make them seem worse.
	Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me.
	That means- One should learn from one's mistakes.
	Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.
	That means- Inexperienced people become involved in situations that more intelligent people would avoid it.
	Gardens are not made by sitting in the shade.
	That means- Nothing is achieved without effort.
	(The) first step is the hardest.
	That means- The most difficult part of an action is the beginning.
	Give someone an inch and they will take a mile (or yard)
	Give someone a little and they will want more-some people are never satisfied.
	Give someone enough rope and they will hang themselves.
	Give someone enough time and freedom and they will get into trouble.
	Friendship is like money, easier made than kept.
	That means- The effort is necessary to keep a friendship alive.
	Friendship is love with understanding.
	That means- A friend is more tolerant than a lover/partner / spouse?
	God helps those who help themselves.
	That means- Success comes to those who make a real effort to achieve it.

English Proverbs

	Good accounting makes good friends.
	That means- You will keep your friends if you avoid disputes over money.
	Good and quickly seldom meet.
	That means- A well-done job takes time.
	Good management is better than a good income.
	That means- Income can be lost if it is used carelessly.
	Grasp all, lose all.
	That means- Trying to obtain everything will often result in gaining nothing.
	Great oaks grow from small acorns.
	That means- Large successful operations can begin in a small way.
	Half a loaf is better than none
	You should be grateful for something, even if it is not as much as you wanted.
	Haste makes waste
	If something is done too quickly, it may be done carelessly and need to be redone.
	Hatred is as blind as love.
	A person who feels hatred does not see any qualities in the person he/she hates.
	He can who believes he can.
	That means- If you believe you can do something, you will be able to do it.
	He who is everywhere is nowhere.
	That means- It's not good to do too many things at the same time.
	Grief divided is made lighter.
	That means- If you share your grief, it will be easier to bear.
	Hard words breaks no bones.
	Criticism or verbal attacks may be unpleasant but will not kill anyone.
	He who knows nothing doubts nothing.
	That means- Knowledge leads us to make choices.
	He who plays with fire gets burnt.
	That means- If you behave in a risky way, you are likely to have problems.
	He laughs best who laughs last.
	That means- Don't express your joy, or triumph, too soon.
















English Proverbs

	Health is better than wealth.
	That means- It's better to be in good health than to be rich.
	Home is where the heart is.
	That means- You call home the place where the people you love are.
	Honesty is the best policy. That means- It's always better, to be honest.
	However long the night, the dawn will break.
	That means- Bad things don't last forever.
	In times of prosperity, friends are plentiful.
	That means- You have many friends when you have no difficulties.
	If a camel gets his nose in a tent, his body will follow.
	If you let something intrusive enter your life, your life will become difficult.
	If you are patient in one moment of anger, you will avoid 100 days of sorrow.
	Avoid regrets by taking the time to think before speaking or acting angrily.
	You can't teach an old dog new tricks.
	That means- A person who is used to doing things a certain way cannot change
	If you chase two rabbits, you will not catch either one.
	If you try to do two things at same time, you will not succeed in doing either of them.
	If you want a friend, be a friend. Means Friendship must be reciprocal.
	If two ride a horse, one must ride behind.
	That means- When two people do something together, one will be the leader and the other will be the subordinate.
	In for a penny, in for a pound.
	If you start something, it is better to spend the time or money necessary to complete it.
	In the land of the blind the one-eyed man is king.
	A man of even limited ability has an advantage over a person who is less able.
	Wisdom is better than strength.
	That means- It is preferable to use one's intelligence than one's physical strength.
	Don't count your chickens before they're hatched.
	That means- You must not be too confident that something will be successful.

















English Proverbs	
	(The) wish is father to the thought. That means- You think that something is true because you want it to be so.
	A wonder lasts but nine days That means- The effects of an amazing or stirring event last only nine days; after that, life goes on as before.
	It is always darkest before the dawn. That means- The most difficult time is just before the problem is solved.
	Justice delayed is justice denied. That means- If the law is applied too late, there is no justice.
	Kill one to warn a hundred. That means- Warn many people by punishing a few.
	Kill not the goose that lays the golden egg. That means- Do not destroy the source of your good fortune.
	Kindle not a fire you cannot put out. Do not start something that you cannot control; you may fail or cause damage.
	Kindness begets kindness. That means- If you are kind to someone, they will return your kindness.
	Knowledge in youth is wisdom in age. What you learn when you are young will be invaluable when you grow old.
	Knowledge is power. a lot of information. It is easier to make progress or be successful if you are educated or possess
	Laughter is the best medicine. That means- laughter makes people feel good.
	Learn to walk before you run. That means- Don't rush into doing something before you know how to do it.
	Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere. That means- Education is something that you keep forever.
	Least said, soonest mended. The less you talk about an incident, the more easily it will be forgotten.
	A lender nor borrower be. That means- do not lend or borrow money.

English Proverbs















	A leopard cannot change its spots.
	It is impossible for a bad or unpleasant person to become good or pleasant.
	Let bygones be bygones. That means- let's forgive and forget past quarrels.
	Liars need good memories.
	People who do not tell the truth must be careful to remember what they say.
	A lie begets a lie. Means Telling one lie will lead you to tell another one.
	Lightning never strikes in the same place twice.
	An unusual event is not likely to occur again in exactly the same circumstances.
	Like father, like son.
	That means- A son's character can be expected to resemble his father's.
	A little fire is quickly trodden out.
	If you deal with a minor problem quickly, it will not become a major issue.
	Little strokes fell good oaks.
	That means- If you divide a task into small parts, it become easier to do.
	A loaded wagon makes no noise.
	That means- Really wealthy people do not talk about money.
	Look before you leap. Means consider possible consequences before taking action.
	That means- Loose lips sink ships. Means person must learn to maintain secrecy otherwise it may be cause of disaster for him.
	Losers weepers, finders keepers.
	If you lose something you lament, if you find something you keep it
	Love is blind. Means a person in love does not see the faults of the person he loves
	Man is the head of the family and woman is the neck that turns the head.
	That means- Generally wife monitors
	Man proposes, God disposes. Means Our destiny depends on God's will.
	A man is as old as he feels himself to be.
	That means- Your age doesn't matter as long as you are fit and healthy.
	(A) loveless life is a living death. That means- Without affection, life is difficult.

English Proverbs	
	Manners make the man. That means- (Possibly) A person's manners show their origins.
	A man is judged by his deeds, not by his words. A person is judged on what he/she actually does, not on what they say they will do.
	A man is known by the company he keeps. A person's character is judged by type of people with whom they spend their time.
	Many a true word is spoken in jest. That means- Even if something is said as a joke it can still, be true.
	Many hands make light work. That means- Sharing work makes the task easier.
	Marry in haste, repent as leisure. If you get married too quickly, you may spend your whole life regretting it.
	Memory is the treasure of the mind./A good memory is very precious.
	Men make houses, women make homes. That means- Women give a house its comfort and character.
	Misery loves company That means- When people are sad they often like others to feel sad too.
	Money begets money. Means if you have the money you can make more money.
	Money doesn't grow on trees. You should not waste money because it is not plentiful or obtained easily.
	A monkey in silk is a monkey no less. That means- No matter how someone dresses, it's the same person underneath
	(The) more haste, the less speed. A person makes more progress if they take time to do things carefully
	(The) more you have, the more you want. That means- People have a constant desire to possess more.
	Don't bark if you can't bite. That means- Don't complain if you can't enforce your point of view.















English Proverbs

	Necessity is the mother of invention.
	The need for something forces people to find a way of obtaining it.
	Need teaches a plan. Means necessity will make you find a solution.
	Never put off till tomorrow what can be done today.
	Don't postpone until later something you can do now.
	No losers, no winners.
	If there were no losers, there could be no winners.
	Never trouble troubles until troubles trouble you.
	Don't look for problems in advance; deal with them when they arise.
	A new broom sweeps clean (but the old brush knows all the corners...)
	A newly-appointed person often makes changes quickly.
	A nod is as good as a wink (to a blind horse/man).
	A hint or a subtle signal is enough to convey meaning to someone who is ready to understand.
	Nobody is perfect.
	It is understandable not to be perfect or to make occasional mistakes.
	No joy without annoy. Means There is no happiness without clouds.
	No man can serve two masters.
	It's impossible to follow instructions from two different sources.
	No man is an island.
	We are all interdependent and need other people.
	No pain, no gain. Means Nothing is achieved without effort.
	No rain, no grain. Means Without rain, the harvest will be poor.
	No smoke without fire. Means There could be some truth in the rumour.
	(Two) wrongs don't make a right.
	It is wrong to harm someone because they have harmed you.
	You are never too old to learn.
	You can always learn something new, no matter how old you are.















English Proverbs

	You can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink.
	You can offer somebody an opportunity to do something but you can't force them to do it.
	A constant guest is never welcome.
	If you come to visit too often, your host will be less pleased to see you.
	Where there's life there's hope.
	As long as a person is breathing, there is hope for recovery.
	When poverty comes in the door, love goes out the window.
	When a couple loses everything, their relationship becomes difficult.
	No wind, no waves. Means Similar to 'no smoke without fire'.
	Nothing ventured nothing gained.
	You cannot expect to achieve anything if you take no risks.
	(An) old fox is not easily snared.
	A person of experience is difficult to fool or manipulate.
	Once bitten, twice shy..
	After an unpleasant experience, people are careful to avoid something similar.
	One good turn deserves another.
	You should be helpful to someone who helps you.
	One father is (worth) more than a hundred schoolmasters.
	A teacher can not replace a father.
	A child is raised by a father and taught by a teacher.
	One today is worth two tomorrows.
	What you have today is better than what is promised or hoped for.
	One man's trash is another man's treasure.
	What is useless to one person could be valuable to another.
	One swallow doesn't make a summer.
	A single satisfactory event does not mean that all the others will be as good.
	Don't dig your grave with our own knife and fork.
	Don't do something yourself that causes your own downfall.















English Proverbs















	(An) onion a day keeps everyone away.
	A humorous version of "an apple a day..."
	Only real friends will tell you when your face is dirty.
	Only a real friend will tell you the truth.
	Opportunity seldom knocks twice. Means don't miss opportunities that come along.
	(The) pen is mightier than the sword.
	Words and communication have a greater effect than war and fighting.
	Pennywise, pound foolish.
	Refers to a person who is careful about spending small amounts of money, but not careful about spending large amounts.
	A wise head keeps a still tongue
	An intelligent person knows when to stay silent.
	People who live in glass, houses should not throw stones.
	One should not criticize others for faults similar to one's own and risk retaliation
	A picture paints a thousand words.
	A picture is better than a long description.
	Pity is akin to love.
	If you begin to feel sorry for someone, you may start to love them
	Poverty waits at the gates of idleness.
	If you do not work, you will not earn any money.
	Practice makes perfect.
	Doing something repeatedly is the only way to become good at it.
	Practice what you preach.
	Do yourself what you advise others to do.
	Prevention is better than cure.
	It is easier to prevent something from happening than to repair the damage or cure the disease later.
	Dogs of the same street bark alike.
	People of the same background have the same behaviour.

English Proverbs















	Pride comes before a fall.
	Don't be too self-confident or proud; something may happen to make you look foolish.
	Procrastination is the thief of time.
	Delaying action for too long is a waste of time.
	Punctuality is the soul of business.
	You should always be on time for your business appointments.
	A problem shared is a problem halved.
	It is easier to deal with a problem when you discuss it with someone
	Put all your eggs in one basket.
	Risk everything by relying on one plan (e.g. by putting all one's money into one business).
	Revenge is sweet. Meaning- There is satisfaction in returning an injury.
	A rising tide lifts all boats.
	Refers to something that will be helpful to all.
	(The) road to hell is paved with good intentions.
	It is not enough to intend to do something, you must actually do it.
	A rolling stone gathers no moss
	If a person keeps moving from place to place, they gain neither friends nor
	Rome was not built in a day.
	It takes time for a job properly. You should not expect to do it quickly.
	A rotten apple spoils the barrel.
	A dishonest or immoral person can have a bad influence on a group.
	Save me from my friends.
	Friends can be more dangerous than enemies.
	Saying is one thing, doing is another.
	People don't always do what they announce.
	Distance makes the heart grow fonder.
	When you are separated from the person you love, your feelings are even stronger.
















English Proverbs

	Short reckonings make long friends.
	Debts paid quickly encourage friendship.
	Sickness in the body brings sadness to the mind.
	Physical suffering can lead to sadness or depression.
	Still, waters run deep.
	A quiet person with a calm outward appearance can have much knowledge or wisdom.
	Silence gives consent.
	If you don't object to something, it is assumed that you agree with it.
	A smooth sea never made a skilled mariner.
	Overcoming adversity leads to competence.
	Snug as a bug in a rug. Meaning- Feeling very comfortable.
	Speech is silver, silence is golden.
	Speaking is good, but discretion can be better.
	Spare the rod and spoil the child.
	If you don't punish a child when he does wrong, you will spoil his character.
	Sticks and stones will break my bones but names will never hurt me.
	Physical attacks may harm me, but cruel words will not.
	A stitch in time saves nine.
	It's better to deal with a problem at an early stage so as to prevent it from getting worse.
	Stolen fruit is sweet / sweetest Stolen pleasures are the sweetest.
	What is forbidden is the most tempting.
	A stumble may prevent a fall.
	Correcting a small mistake may help you to avoid making a bigger one.
	A swallow does not make the summer.
	One good event does not mean that everything is alright.
	Tall oaks grow from little acorns.
	Great things may come from small beginnings.
















English Proverbs	
	The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.
	Children resemble their parents.
	The best advice is found on the pillow.
	A good night's sleep may help us find an answer to our problem.
	The darkest hour is just before dawn.
	The most difficult moment is just before a problem is solved.
	The devil looks after his own.
	Success comes to those who deserve it least.
	The devil makes work for idle hands.
	People who have no work, or are idle, often get into trouble.
	The die is cast.
	That means- A decision has been made and it is impossible to change it.
	The early bird catches the worm.
	Act early, or before anyone else, if you want to have an advantage or be successful.
	The end justifies the means.
	Wrong or unfair methods may be used if the result of the action is good.
	Who makes himself a sheep will be eaten by the wolves.
	Possible interpretation: an easily influenced person can be misled.
	The first step is the hardest.
	The most difficult part of an action is the beginning.
	The more haste, the less speed.
	A person makes more progress if they take time to do things carefully.
	The more you have, the more you want.
	People have a constant desire to possess more.
	The mouse that has but one hole is quickly taken.
	If you depend on just one thing, and it fails, you have no alternatives.
	The pen is mightier than the sword.
	Words and communication have a greater effect than war and fighting.

English Proverbs

	The road to hell is paved with good intentions.
	It is not enough to intend to do something, you must actually do it
	The best things in life are free.
	You don't have to pay for what is important: happiness, friendship, good health.
	The proof of the pudding is in the eating.
	The real value of something can be judged only after it has been tried or tested.
	The tongue wounds more than a lance.
	Insults can be more hurtful than physical injuries.
	The truth is in the wine.
	People speak more freely under the influence of alcohol.
	The way to a man's heart is through his stomach.
	Feed a man well and he will love you.
	The wish is father to the thought.
	You think that something is true because you want it to be so.
	There is a black sheep in every flock.
	There is always someone who doesn't behave or perform like the others.
	There's many a slip between the cup and the lip.
	We do not own something until we actually get it.
	When in Rome, do as the Romans do.
	You should adopt the customs of the people or country you are visiting and behave in the same way.
	There is a trick in every trade.
	There is an established way of doing things.
	There is no fool like an old fool.
	An older person is expected to behave more sensibly.
	There is safety in numbers.
	Being in a crowd makes you feel more confident.
	Early to bed, and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise.
	It is much better for you to go to bed early, and to get up early in the morning;

English Proverbs	
	A tidy house holds a bored woman.
	If a house is always tidy, the owner (woman) has nothing but housework to occupy her time.
	Time and tide wait for no man.
	Delaying a decision will not prevent events from taking place.
	Time has wings. Means Time goes by quickly.
	Time heals all wounds.
	The passage of time lessens the impact of bad events.
	Time is money. Means Time is valuable and should not be wasted.
	To err is human, to forgive divine.
	It is human nature to make mistakes, therefore one should forgive them.
	Too many cooks spoil the broth.
	If too many people are involved in something, it will not be done properly.
	Too much bed makes a dull head.
	When you sleep too much, you are not able to think clearly.
	(The) tongue wounds more than a lance.
	Insults can be more hurtful than physical injuries.
	A tree is known by its fruit. Means A person is judged by their actions.
	Trust not a horse's heel nor a dog's tooth.
	A horse kicks from behind, a dog attacks with its teeth.
	Truth has no answer.
	You cannot argue against facts or refute what is true.
	(The) truth is in the wine.
	People speak more freely under the influence of alcohol
	Truth is stranger than fiction.
	Events in real life are often stranger than in fiction.
	Two wrongs don't make a right.
	It is wrong to harm someone because they have harmed you.

English Proverbs

	Union is strength. That means-A group has more force than an individual.
	Virtue is its own reward.
	You should not expect praise for acting in a correct or moral way.
	Unwillingness easily finds an excuse.
	A person who doesn't want to do something always finds a reason to avoid it.
	Variety is the spice of life.
	Doing a lot of different things makes life more interesting.
	You never know what you can do until you try.
	Try first before deciding not to do something.
	Walls have ears. Means be careful. That means- People could be listening.
	Waste not, want not.
	If you never waste anything, you will have it when you need it.
	(A) watched pot never boils.
	If you wait anxiously for something to happen, it seems to take a long time.
	(The) way to a man's heart is through his stomach.
	Feed a man well and he will love you.
	What the eye doesn't see, the heart doesn't grieve over.
	If a person doesn't know about something, it cannot hurt them
	What a man says drunk, he thinks sober.
	People speak more freely under the influence of alcohol.
	What soberness conceals, drunkenness reveals.
	People are less discreet under the influence of alcohol.
	When the cat's away, the mice play.
	People sometimes misbehave when the person in authority, is absent.
	Where there is a will there is a way.
	If you are determined to do something, you will find a way to do it.
	Diseases of the soul are more dangerous than those of the body
	Thought to refer to mental and emotional disorder or spiritual torment as opposed to bodily pain.