**How can you use proverbs to learn English?**

It's good to know the really common English proverbs because you hear them come up in conversation all the time. Sometimes people say the entire proverb to give advice to a friend. More often, someone will say just part of a proverb like this:

**You know what they say: when the going gets tough...**

Learning proverbs can also help you to understand the way that people in English-speaking cultures think about the world.Proverbs can also give you good example sentences which you can memorize and use as models for building your own sentences.

**The most important English Proverbs**

This is a [**list of some of the most important and well-known English proverbs**](http://engtuto.com/proverbs/)**.** Below each one, there's a simple explanation. The meanings of some of these phrases have shifted over the years, so a proverb might have originally had a different meaning than the one I explain.

**"Two wrongs don't make a right."**

**Meaning:** When someone has done something bad to you, trying to get revenge will only make things worse.

**"The pen is mightier than the sword."**

**Meaning:** Trying to convince people with ideas and words is more effective than trying to force people to do what you want.

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

**Meaning:** Act the way that the people around you are acting. This phrase might come in handy when you're traveling abroad notice that people do things differently than you're used to.

**"The squeaky wheel gets the grease."**

**Meaning:** You can get better service if you complain about something. If you wait patiently, no one's going to help you.

**"When the going gets tough, the tough get going."**

**Meaning:** Strong people don't give up when they come across challenges. They just work harder.

Here is the complete list of [**proverbs**](http://engtuto.com/proverbs/)

**"No man is an island."**

**Meaning:** You can't live completely independently. Everyone needs help from other people.

**"Fortune favors the bold."**

**Meaning:** People who bravely go after what they want are more successful than people who try to live safely.

**"People who live in glass houses should not throw stones."**

**Meaning:** Don't criticize other people if you're not perfect yourself.

**"Hope for the best, but prepare for the worst."**

**Meaning:** Bad things might happen, so be prepared.

**"Better late than never."**

**Meaning:** It's best to do something on time. But if you can't do it on time, do it late.

**"Birds of a feather flock together."**

**Meaning:** People like to spend time with others who are similar to them.

**"Keep your friends close and your enemies closer."**

**Meaning:** If you have an enemy, pretend to be friends with them instead of openly fighting with them. That way you can watch them carefully and figure out what they're planning.

**"A picture is worth a thousand words."**

**Meaning:** Pictures convey emotions and messages better than written or spoken explanations

**"There's no such thing as a free lunch."**

**Meaning:** Things that are offered for free always have a hidden cost.

"**There's no place like home."**

**Meaning:** Your own home is the most comfortable place to be.

**"Discretion is the greater part of valor."**

**Meaning:** Sometimes it's important to know when to give up and run away, instead of always acting brave and maybe getting hurt.

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

**Meaning:** You should wake up and start work early if you want to succeed.