

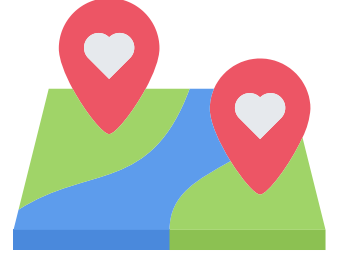
English Proverbs

1

absence makes the heart grow fonder

being away from someone for a period of time makes you appreciate them more when you see them again.

"I used to hate going to my aunt's house when I was younger, but now I miss it. Absence makes the heart grow fonder."



2

actions speak louder than words

What you do is more important than what you say.

"Don't just tell me you're going to change, do it! Actions speak louder than words."

3

a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step

You must begin something if you hope to finish it. If you never begin, you'll never do it.

"Learning English is a long process. It can take a long time but if you want to succeed, you must start. A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."



4

all good things must come to an end

Everything ends. Unfortunately, good times don't last forever.

"I wish this holiday could go on forever. It's too bad that all good things must come to an end."

A bonus extra proverb here is: **All good things come to those who wait.** This means that sometimes we need to wait for what we want. Good things don't always happen immediately.

5

a picture is worth a thousand words

An image can sometimes tell a story better than words. We can learn a lot from just an image.

"I wasn't sure he loved her but then I saw them hugging at the airport, and a picture is worth a thousand words."



English Proverbs

6

a watched pot never boils

If something takes time to do, it doesn't help to constantly be checking on it. You just have to give it time. If you are boiling pasta, it's not going to boil any faster by you watching it.



"I know you think he's going to be a great guitar player one day, but stop criticising him so much. He just started taking lessons two weeks ago. A watched pot never boils."

7

beggars can't be choosers

if you're in a bad situation and someone offers to help you, you should take the offer. You shouldn't be picky.

"I was unemployed, and they offered me a job cleaning prison toilets. I didn't like the job, but I accepted it. Beggars can't be choosers."

8

beauty is in the eye of the beholder

What is beautiful is different for every person. We all have different ideas of what beautiful is.

"I think their house is ugly, but they really like it. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder."



9

better late than never

It's better to finish something late than to never do it at all.

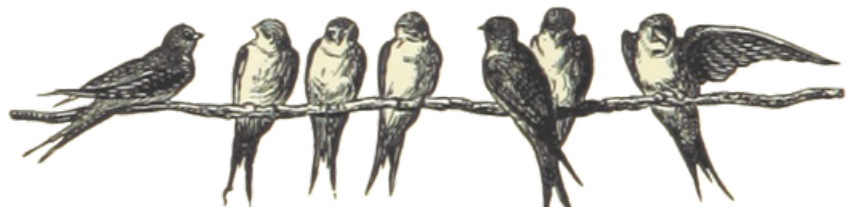
"You finally completed the assignment, well done! Better late than never."

10

birds of a feather flock together

People who are similar or have similar interests spend time together.

"I think we all started hanging out because we all like Disney. Birds of a feather flock together."



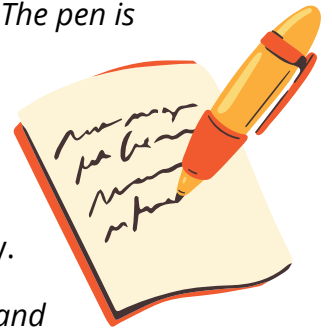
English Proverbs

11

the pen is mightier than the sword

If you are trying to convince someone of something, words and ideas are always stronger than physical force and aggression. Violence is never the answer.

"We must avoid this war, and use diplomacy to solve our problems. The pen is mightier than the sword."



12

don't bite the hand that feeds you

Don't make someone who is helping you or paying for you angry.

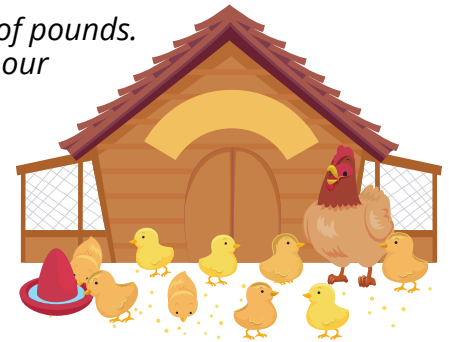
"You had a fight with your boss?! No, that's terrible! Don't bite the hand that feeds you!"

13

don't count your chickens before they hatch

Don't expect a positive result before you actually see it. Don't make plans too early, before the positive results have actually happened.

"A friend told me this idea was going to make us millions of pounds. I told her that sounded fantastic but we should not count our chickens before they hatch."



14

don't judge a book by its cover

Don't judge someone or something by its appearance alone.

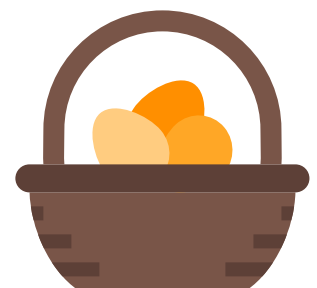
"Despite his scruffy appearance and quiet demeanour, the man was actually CEO of the company. We should never judge a book by its cover."

15

don't put all your eggs in one basket

Don't put all your hopes and resources into one dream. Have different options or means of income.

"I know you really want to be an actor, but don't you think that's being financially irresponsible? Don't put all your eggs in one basket. You should consider having other forms of income."



Did you enjoy these
English proverbs?
Find more fun ESL resources at
intrepidenglish.co.uk and
don't forget to follow us on our
social media channels!

