

We give below a list of Popular Proverbs with their meanings within brackets.

IMPORTANT PROVERBS

1. A bad man is better than a bad name.
● (Ill-reputation is worse than ill-deeds.)
2. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
● (A small but sure gain is better than a doubtful double gain.)
3. A burnt child dreads the fire.
● (A person who has had a shock once acts very cautiously.)
4. A bad workman quarrels with his tools.
● (An inefficient man blames others for his inefficiency.)
5. A drowning man will catch at a straw.
● (Even a small help is good enough in a critical position.)
6. A figure among cyphers.
● (A man of little acquisitions is held high in a company of fools.)
7. A guilty conscience needs no accuser.
● (A guilty soul accuses itself.)
8. A prophet is not honoured in his own country.
● (The talents of a man are not often recognized by his own people.)
9. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing.
● (Incomplete knowledge of anything may cause harm.)
10. Penny wise and pound foolish.
● (It is foolish to save small things and waste huge ones.)
11. Save life save all.
● (Life is more important than anything else.)
12. Might is right.
● (Physical force wins.)
13. Rome was not built in a day.
● (Great projects cannot be completed in a hurry.)
14. Distance lends enchantment to the view.
● (Things appear more beautiful from a distance.)
15. An old dog learns no new tricks.
● (Old men cannot learn anything new.)
16. Where there is a will there is a way.
● (A man of strong will is bound to find a way out.)
17. Strike while the iron is hot.
● (Don't miss a favourable chance.)
18. If the sky falls we shall catch larks.
● (One should not put impossible conditions for acting.)
19. As you sow, so shall you reap.
● (One gets returns according to one's deeds.)
20. To kill two birds with one stone.
● (To gain two things by one act.)
21. Self-praise is no recommendation.
● (Self-praise has no value.)
22. While in Rome, do as the Romans do.
● (One should adjust oneself to local conditions.)
23. It is hard to live in Rome and fight with the Pope.
● (One should not quarrel with one's own fellow-workers or with the boss.)
24. He who digs a pit for others falls into it himself.
● (One falls into one's own trap laid for others.)

25. It is no use crying over spilt milk.
● (There is no gain weeping over a lost opportunity.)
26. Many hands make the burden light.
● (Collective efforts make a task easy.)
27. All that glitters is not gold.
● (All things that are good in appearance are not always really good.)
28. Coming events cast their shadows before.
● (Present conditions point to future events.)
29. A good face needs no paint.
● (Good things/deeds cannot be concealed.)
30. Care kills the cat.
● (Worry and tension are highly injurious.)
31. At length the fox turns monk.
● (One trying to look innocent after a long career of crimes.)
32. Cut your coat according to your cloth.
● (Limit your expenditure within your income.)
33. Do good and forget.
● (Forget the favour you have done to others.)
34. Everybody's business is nobody's business.
● (Collective responsibility is nobody's responsibility.)
35. An empty mind is a devil's workshop.
● (Evil thoughts dwell in a vacant mind.)
36. Everything looks pale to the jaundiced eye.
● (To see everything with a prejudiced mind.)
37. Barking dogs seldom bite.
● (A boastful person rarely acts.)
38. A rolling stone gathers no mass.
● (An unsettled life gains nothing.)
39. "Errors like straws over the surface flow,
One who is in search of truth must dive below."
● (Errors are easy to detect, while truth is difficult to find.)
40. An empty vessel makes much noise.
● (A shallow man is usually very boastful.)
41. Christmas comes once a year.
● (Every day is not a festival.)
42. Half a loaf is better than no bread.
● (A little gain is better than no gain.)
43. All covet, all lose.
● (Too much greed gains nothing.)
44. All's well that ends well.
● (Final result is the most important thing.)
45. God's mill grinds slow but sure.
● (Moral justice prevails in the end.)
46. From a bad paymaster get what you can.
● (Accept whatever is offered in a bad bargain.)
47. Birds of the same feather flock together.
● (Men of like nature come together.)
48. Better a tooth out than always aching.
● (Do away with a painful thing, however precious.)
49. Even walls have ears.
● (There are listeners all around.)
50. Death's day is doom's day.
● (Nothing remains after death.)
51. Diamond cuts diamond.
● (A conflict between two equal opponents.)
52. Every sable cloud has a silver lining.
● (There is a ray of hope amidst all despondency.)
53. Deep rivers move in silent majesty, shallow brooks are noisy.
● (Shallow men are boastful ; men of depth are sober.)
54. Haste makes waste.
● (Haste spoils a good thing.)
55. Act in haste, repent at leisure.
● (A hasty action leads to long repentance.)
56. Kindness is lost upon an ungrateful man.
● (An ungrateful man does not respond to goodness.)
57. Pride goes before a fall.
● (A proud man always falls.)
58. Prevention is better than cure.
● (It is better to take preventive measures than to seek remedy when the disease has come.)

59. Little grief is loud, great griefs are silent.
● (Shallow grief is vocal ; deeper grief is silent.)
60. To have an old head on young shoulders.
● (One more precocious than one's age.)
61. Those who live in glass houses should not throw stones.
● (Those who have their own weakness should not blame others.)
62. To swallow the whole ox and be choked with the tail.
● (A great sinner pretending to be afraid of small sins.)
63. He gives thrice who gives in a trice.
● (Immediate action is the best action.)
64. Money makes the mare go.
● (Money dictates all terms.)
65. Necessity knows no law.
● (All values break down in critical moments.)
66. The nearer the church the farther from God.
● (Just being near the church does not make one holy.)
67. It takes two to make a quarrel.
● (One-sided action serves no purpose.)
68. There is no rose without a thorn.
● (Every good thing has some kind of drawback in it.)
69. Out of the frying pan into the fire.
● (Going from a smaller danger to a bigger one.)
70. A lie has no legs.
● (Falsehood cannot stand long.)
71. Hunger is the best sauce.
● (A hungry man finds everything delicious.)
72. All your geese are swans.
● (One likes one's own things better than those of others.)
73. Charity begins at home.
● (Service must begin from home, and then extended to others.)
74. See which way the wind blows.
● (Let us wait and watch what turn the events take.)
75. A nod to the wise and a rod to the foolish.
● (A little suggestion is enough for an intelligent person, but a fool takes no hint.)
76. A low-born man feels proud of his honours.
● (A man of low-breeding would go off his head if he is placed in high position.)
77. Prosperity finds friends; adversity tries them.
● (Many friends come in days of prosperity, but the sincerity of friendship is tested only in days of adversity.)
78. An unhappy man's cart is sure to tumble.
● (Problems multiply in days of adversity.)
79. Adversity is the touchstone of friendship.
● (Sincerity of friendship can be tested only in days of adversity.)
80. Fortune favours the brave.
● (He who acts with courage gets success.)
81. The wearer knows where the shoe pinches.
● (Only the sufferer knows how painful is the suffering.)
82. Give an inch and he will take an ell.
● (If you give one a little, he would demand more.)
83. A good name is better than riches.
● (Reputation is more precious than riches/wealth.)
84. Too many cooks spoil the broth.
● (Too many advisers harm the cause.)
85. Welcome or not, I am still your guest.
● (One cannot be a forced guest.)
86. You cannot sell the cow and have the milk too.
● (One can not take double advantage.)
87. Heads I win, tails you lose.
● (A clever man would like to gain from both sides.)
88. Time is a great healer.
● (All griefs heal up in course of time.)
89. It is no use casting pearls before swine.
● (An underserving man cannot appreciate good things.)
90. A blind man is no judge of colours.
● (A fool cannot appreciate anything, however good it may be.)

91. An open door will tempt a saint.
● (It is difficult to resist an easy temptation.)
92. Hope lasts with life.
● (Man lives by hope to the last moment.)
93. I talk of chaff; he hears of cheese.
● (A confused man has no understanding.)
94. Practice makes a man perfect.
● (Practice adds to the efficiency of man.)
95. First deserve, then desire.
● (An undeserving man should not expect much.)
96. There are men and men.
● (All men are not equal.)
97. Handsome is that handsome does.
● (A man is good if his work is good.)
98. Blood is thicker than water.
● (Family bonds are very strong.)
99. Ill got ill spent.
● (Money earned by unfair means goes waste.)
100. A wise foe is better than a foolish friend.
● (A foolish man is more dangerous even if he is a friend.)
101. An ass is an ass though laden with gold.
● (A fool remains a fool, however you may favour him.)
102. As the crow is, so the eggs shall be.
● (As the father, so the children.)
103. Close sits my shirt, but closer my skin.
● (One's own men are always more helpful than strangers.)
104. The cowl does not make a monk.
● (Outer appearance is no test of a man's real character.)
105. His bread is buttered on both sides.
● (He has all the advantages.)
106. Necessity is the mother of invention.
● (Necessity finds a way out.)
107. A friend in need is a friend indeed.
● (A sincere friend is one that comes to help in times of need.)
108. Face is not the index of the heart.
● (Faces are deceptive.)
109. Excess of everything is bad.
● (Nothing should be carried to an excess.)
110. Time and tide wait for nobody.
● (Favourable times do not wait long.)