

Unit 7

Proverbs and Values

"Look before you leap."

This proverb means that you should look at something or check it out carefully before you begin to deal with it or work with it. For example, because Victor was going to take all his money out of the bank to buy a piece of land that seemed extremely cheap to him, Maria might say, "Look before you leap! That's all of your savings!" The value being taught is that we should be cautious with a new venture, especially if it involves great risks.

Exercise 7.1

Read the proverbs in *one* of the eight groups and try to guess what the meaning of each proverb is. (Students should not all do the same group.) Then try to decide what value is being taught or emphasized.

Group 1: Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today.
Too many cooks spoil the broth.

Group 2: Where there's a will, there's a way.
The early bird gets the worm.

Group 3: A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
When life gives you lemons, make lemonade.

Group 4: The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.
Don't put all your eggs in one basket.

Group 5: When in Rome, do as the Romans do.
Don't count your chickens until they've hatched.

Group 6: Don't bite the hand that feeds you.
Don't cry over spilled milk.

Group 7: Haste makes waste.
Every cloud has a silver lining.

Group 8: Two wrongs do not make a right.
An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Exercise 7.2

If you need extra help for 7.1, students can read the information in the following communication activities to understand the meanings and usage of their group's proverbs: group 1 can read communication activity 5, group 2 can read communication activity 9, group 3 can read communication activity 14, group 4 can read communication activity 19, group 5 can read communication activity 25, group 6 can read communication activity 34, group 7 can read communication activity 40, and group 8 can read communication activity 46.

Exercise 7.3

For homework, write a situation that illustrates one of the proverbs in this lesson. Write the proverb on the line after the situation.

Situation 1: _____

Proverb: _____

Situation 2: _____

Proverb: _____

Exercise 7.4

Work in small groups (three students is best). Take turns reading your situation aloud (or telling your situation if you can remember all the details). After a person has told the situation, the others should try to guess what the proverb is.

Exercise 7.5

Write down one or two proverbs in your native language. Translate the words (literal translation) and see if anyone from a different language background can guess the meaning of the proverb. Then work with a native speaker to see if you can find an English proverb that expresses the same value as the proverb in your language. (Sometimes the literal translation and the equivalent English proverb will be very similar. However, sometimes they are quite different.)

Your language: _____

Literal translation: _____

English proverb: _____

Language Review

Use the vocabulary to complete the sentences. Make grammatical changes when necessary.

ominous	lay off	haste	content	revenge
premature	fail	close down	accomplish	in charge of
will	put off	spoil	cautious	reply
goal	worm	hatch	broth	calculate

1. If he _____ his driving test one more time, he'll have to wait at least six months before he's eligible to take the test again.
2. The Smiths' new baby was born three weeks _____, but she's doing fine.
3. If you have a strong enough _____ to do something, you can accomplish it.
4. Due to the economic recession, many companies are _____ some employees.
5. Mayonnaise must be kept refrigerated or it will _____.

6. Zina is _____ the accounting department at the hospital.
7. People who are not _____ with their work often complain about even the smallest things.
8. The coach will probably _____ today's practice session until Saturday due to the rain.
9. By the time she was 26, she had _____ more things in her young life than most people do in a whole lifetime.
10. I've heard rumors about the company going bankrupt, but the fact that our paychecks were two days late is certainly a very _____ sign.