

“Proverbs 01” - A00119

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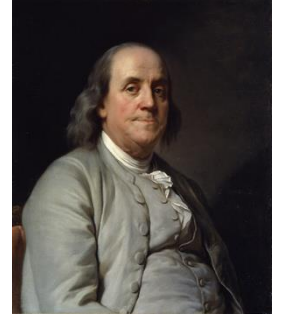
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(<http://learningenglish.voanews.com/content/words-and-their-stories-proverbs-part-1-142190743/607848.html>)

Proverbs (From VOA Special English: Words and their stories)

A proverb is a short, well known saying that expresses a common truth or belief. Proverbs are found in most cultures and are often very old.

Benjamin Franklin was famous for his proverbs. Franklin lived in the seventeen hundreds. He was a leader of the American Revolution against English rule. He was also a scientist, inventor and writer.



Franklin published a book called "Poor Richard's Almanac." He included many proverbs that he had heard or created. Some of them are still used today. Like this one: "**Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise.**"

Franklin is also remembered for other proverbs like, "**A penny saved is a penny earned.**" This means that money should not be wasted.

Here are other examples of proverbs that Americans use. The first ones are about love. Some people say, "**All is fair in love and war.**" They mean that anything you do in a relationship or in battle is acceptable.

Another proverb about love is, "**Absence makes the heart grow fonder.**" This means you love someone even more when he or she is far away. But other people say, "**Out of sight, out of mind.**" You may not even think about that person when he or she is not with you. Which of these proverbs do you think is most true?

Another proverb says "**Love is blind.**" In other words, when you are in love with someone, you may refuse to see anything bad about that person.

Here is another popular saying about love: "**The way to a man's heart is through his stomach.**" Some people believe that a woman can win a man's love if she prepares his favorite foods.

Some people are only interested in having a relationship with someone who is very good-looking. You might tell them that "**Beauty is only skin deep.**" Your girlfriend may be lovely to look at, but she may also have some bad qualities. Or the opposite may be true. Your boyfriend is a wonderful person, but not good-looking. So what a person looks like is not really important.

Another proverb is true in love and war or other situations: "**Actions speak louder than words.**" It means that what you do is more important than what you say.

Sadly, we have no more time. So we must say, "**All good things must come to an end.**"

Check your understanding - True or False

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Benjamin Franklin was a scientist. | T | F |
| 2. Proverbs are stories about love. | T | F |
| 3. The proverb "Love is blind" means that blind people fall in love. | T | F |
| 4. "Beauty is only skin deep" means that physical beauty does not mean that someone is a good person. | T | F |
| 5. "Actions speak louder than words" means that people sometimes whisper. | T | F |
| 6. There is a proverb that says "The way to a man's heart is through his stomach." This means that in your body, the heart is inside the stomach. | T | F |

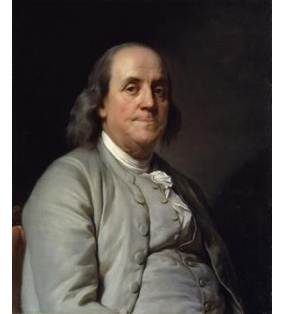
Think about proverbs from your country. Can you write one of them in English?

Proverbs

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A proverb is a _____, well known saying that expresses a common truth or belief. Proverbs are found in most cultures and are often _____ old.

Benjamin Franklin _____ famous for his proverbs. Franklin lived in _____ seventeen hundreds. He was a leader of the American Revolution against _____ rule. He was also a scientist, inventor and writer.



Franklin published a _____ called "Poor Richard's Almanac." He included _____ proverbs that he had heard or created. Some of them are still used _____. Like this one: **"Early to bed and early to rise makes a man _____, wealthy and wise."**

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