

101 American English Proverbs

1. **Absence makes the heart grow fonder** (people often feel more affectionate toward each other when they are apart)
2. **Actions speak louder than words** (people's actions are more convincing than their words are)
3. **After the feast comes the reckoning** (people must always pay the price of their excesses)
4. **All that glitters is not gold** (some things are not as valuable as they appear to be)
5. **An apple a day keeps the doctor away** (eating an apple every day helps a person to stay healthy)
6. **The apple doesn't fall far from the tree** (children take after their parents)
7. **Bad news travels fast** (reports of problems and misfortune spread quickly)
8. **Barking dogs seldom bite** (people who threaten others usually do not hurt them)
9. **Beauty is in the eye of the beholder** (what seems ordinary or ugly to one person might seem beautiful to another)
10. **Beggars can't be choosers** (when a person has nothing, he or she must accept whatever help is offered)
11. **The best things in life are free** (the things that give a person the most happiness don't cost anything)
12. **Batter a live coward than a dead hero** (it's better to run from a life-threatening situation than to fight and risk being killed)
13. **Better late than never** (it's better to do something late than not to do it at all)
14. **Better safe than sorry** (it is better to choose a safe course of action than a risky one that could lead to regrets)
15. **The bigger they are, the harder they fall** (the more important someone is, the more severe are the consequences of his or her failure)
16. **A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush** (something you already have is better than something you might get)
17. **Birds of a feather flock together** (people of the same type seem to gather together)
18. **Blood is thicker than water** (members of the same family share stronger ties with each other than they do with others)
19. **Charity begins at home** (one should take care of one's own family, friends, or fellow citizens before helping other people)
20. **Clothes do not make the man** (a person should not be judged by the clothes he or she wears)
21. **Curiosity killed the cat** (it is dangerous to be curious)
22. **Do as I say, not as I do** (follow my advice, but don't follow my example)
23. **Don't bite off more than you can chew** (don't assume more responsibility than you can handle; don't be overconfident)
24. **Don't bite the hand that feeds you** (don't hurt someone who takes care of you)
25. **Don't count your chickens before they're hatched** (don't plan on the successful results of something until those results actually occur)
26. **Don't cry over spilt milk** (don't grieve about having done something that cannot be undone)
27. **Don't judge a book by its cover** (don't form an opinion about something based on appearance alone)
28. **Don't judge a man until you've walked in his boots** (don't criticize a person until you've tried to do the things he does)
29. **Don't look a gift horse in the mouth** (don't complain about something that is given to you)
30. **Don't put all your eggs in one basket** (don't risk losing everything at once)
31. **Don't put off for tomorrow what you can do today** (don't unnecessarily postpone doing something)
32. **Don't put the cart before the horse** (don't do things in the wrong order)
33. **Familiarity breeds contempt** (when you know people well you will discover their weaknesses and you may come to scorn them)
34. **The first step is always the hardest** (the most difficult part of accomplishing something is getting started)
35. **A fool and his money are soon parted** (a foolish person quickly spends his or her money on worthless things)
36. **Forewarned is forearmed** (being warned about something before it happens allows a person to prepare for it)
37. **A friend in need is a friend indeed** (a true friend will help you in a time of trouble)
38. **A friend who shares is a friend who cares** (a true friend unselfishly shares what he or she has)
39. **Good things come in small packages** (small containers can hold objects of great value)
40. **The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence** (another place or situation always appears to be better than your own)
41. **Haste makes waste** (when one hurries too much, one is likely to do a poor job and have to waste time doing it over)
42. **He who hesitates is lost** (a person who doesn't act decisively is unlikely to succeed)
43. **He who laughs last, laughs best** (the person who succeeds in making the last move has the most fun)
44. **Hindsight is better than foresight** (people see and understand things more clearly after they've happened than before they've happened)
45. **If at first you don't succeed, try, try again** (persevere until you reach your goal)
46. **If you can't beat them, join them** (if you can't defeat your opponents, join forces with them)
47. **If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen** (if you can't tolerate the pressures of a particular situation, remove yourself from that situation)
48. **Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery** (trying to be like someone is the most genuine way of praising that person)

49. **In unity there is strength** (a group of people with the same goals can accomplish more than individuals can)
50. **It never rains but it pours** (good and bad things tend to happen in groups)
51. **It takes two to tango** (when two people work as a team, they are both responsible for the team's successes and failures)
52. **Leave well enough alone** (don't try to improve something that is already satisfactory)
53. **A leopard cannot change his spots** (a person cannot change his or her basic character once it has been formed)
54. **Lightning never strikes twice in the same place** (the same misfortune won't happen twice to the same person)
55. **Look before you leap** (consider all aspects of a situation before you take any action)
56. **Love is blind** (one sees no faults in the person one loves)
57. **Love makes the world go round** (when people show respect and consideration for one another, the world is a better place)
58. **Make hay while the sun shines** (take advantage of an opportunity to do something)
59. **Man does not live by bread alone** (people's psychological needs as well as their physical needs must be satisfied if they are to live)
60. **A man is known by the company he keeps** (a person is believed to be like the people with whom he or she spends time)
61. **Might makes right** (the stronger of two opponents will always control the situation)
62. **Misery loves company** (unhappy people often get satisfaction from having others share their misery)
63. **A miss is as good as a mile** (losing by a narrow margin is no different than losing by a wide margin)
64. **Money does not grow on trees** (money is not easily obtained)
65. **Necessity is the mother of invention** (most inventions are created to solve a problem)
66. **No news is good news** (if one **does** not hear the outcome of a situation, that outcome must be positive)
67. **No pain, no gain** (nothing can be accomplished without effort)
68. **Nothing hurts like the truth** (it is painful to discover an unpleasant truth about oneself)
69. **Nothing ventured, nothing gained** (you can't achieve anything if you don't try)
70. **Old habits die hard** (it is **very** difficult to change an established pattern of behavior)
71. **One good turn deserves another** (a favor should be repaid with another favor)
72. **One man's gravy is another man's poison** (what is pleasing to one person may not be pleasing to another)
73. **One swallow does not a summer make** (one piece of evidence is not enough to prove something)
74. **The pen is mightier than the sword** (the written word is more powerful than physical force)
75. **Possession is nine-tenths of the law** (the person who possesses something has the strongest claim to owning it)
76. **Practice makes perfect** (doing something many times improves one's skill at it)
77. **The proof of the pudding is in the eating** (the only way to judge something is to try it)
78. **The road to hell is paved with good intentions** (good intentions don't always lead to good actions)
79. **Rome wasn't built in a day** (important things do not happen overnight)
80. **The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak** (a person's body is not always as strong as his or her mind)
81. **The squeaking wheel gets the oil** (those who complain the loudest get the most attention)
82. **Strike while the iron is hot** (act at the best possible time)
83. **There is no honor among thieves** (one dishonest person cannot trust another)
84. **There's more than one way to skin a cat** (there are many ways to achieve a goal)
85. **There's no fool like an old fool** (a foolish act seems even more foolish when performed by an older person, who should have a lot of wisdom)
86. **There's no place like home** (a person is happiest with his or her family and friends)
87. **Too many chiefs, not enough Indians** (too many people are giving orders, and not enough people are following orders)
88. **Too many cooks spoil the broth** (too many people trying to take care of something can ruin it)
89. **Two heads are better than one** (two people working together can solve a problem quicker and better than a person working alone)
90. **Two's company, but three's a crowd** (couples often enjoy their privacy and dislike having a third person around)
91. **Variety is the spice of life** (differences and changes make life enjoyable)
92. **The way to a man's heart is through his stomach** (the way to gain a man's love is by preparing food that he enjoys)
93. **When in Rome do as the Romans do** (when traveling, follow the customs of the local people)
94. **When the cat's away the mice will play** (some people will misbehave when they are not being watched)
95. **Where there's smoke, there's fire** (when there is evidence of a problem, there probably is a problem)
96. **You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink** (you can propose a course of action to someone, but you can't force that person to accept it)
97. **You can't have your cake and eat it too** (you can't enjoy the advantages of two conflicting activities at once)
98. **You can't teach an old dog new tricks** (elderly people can't change their behavior or learn anything new)
99. **You have to take the good with the bad** (you must accept disappointment along with success)
100. **You reap what you sow** (the amount of effort you put into something determines how much you will get out of it)
101. **You're never too old to learn** (a person can learn at any age)