**“Proverbs 01” – A00119**

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**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."**

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**Check your understanding - True or False**

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| --- | --- |
| 1. Benjamin Franklin was a scientist. | **T F** |
| 1. Proverbs are stories about love. | **T F** |
| 1. The proverb “Love is blind” means that blind people fall in love. | **T F** |
| 1. “Beauty is only skin deep” means that physical beauty does not mean that someone is a good person. | **T F** |
| 1. “Actions speak louder than words” means that people sometimes whisper. | **T F** |
| 1. 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?

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