**“Proverbs Live” – A00133 (Proverbs- How to Live)**

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**Text and audio was adapted by Peter Schmitt.**

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**Proverbs -** **Advice about how to live**  
(From VOA Special English: Words and their stories)

Today we explain more popular proverbs. A proverb is a short, well known saying that expresses a common truth or belief. Proverbs can give advice about how to live.

You may have heard this one: **The early bird catches the worm**. This means a person who gets up early, or acts quickly, has the best chance of success.

Another famous proverb is **a** **bird in the hand is worth two in the bush**. This means you should not risk losing something you have by seeking something that is not guaranteed.

Here is another piece of advice: **Do not** **count your chickens before they are hatched.**In other words, you should not think too much about some future event before it really happens.

Another proverb warns **do not put all your eggs in one basket.**This means you should not put all of your resources together in one place because you could risk losing everything at one time.

Another proverb says **a fool and his money are soon parted.** This means someone who acts unwisely with money will lose it.

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Here is more advice: **If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again.**Also, **never put off until tomorrow what you can do today.**

You might learn that **haste makes waste** if you do somethingso fast, resulting in mistakes**.**Most people would agree with this proverb: **honesty is the best policy.**

Yet another proverb advises us not to be concerned about something bad that you cannot change. It says **there is no use crying over spilled milk.**

Do you agree with the proverb that **children should be seen and not heard**? But other people say that **all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.**They believe it is not wise to spend all your time working and never having fun.

Finally, here is one of our favorite proverbs: **People who live in glass houses should not throw stones.**This means you should not criticize other people unless you are perfect yourself.

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Here is another piece of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: **Do not** **count your chickens \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ they are hatched.**In other words, you should not think too much about some \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ event before it really happens.

Another proverb \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **do not put all your eggs in one \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**This means you should not put all of your resources together in one \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because you could risk losing everything at one time.

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Here is more advice: **If at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you don’t succeed, try, try again.**Also, **never put off until \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ what you can do today.**

You might \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that **haste makes waste** if you do somethingso \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, resulting in mistakes**.** Most \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ would agree with this proverb: **honesty is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ policy.**

Yet another proverb advises us not to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ bad that you cannot change. It says **there is no use \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ over spilled milk.**

Do you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with the proverb that **children should be seen and not heard**? But other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ say that **all work and no play \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Jack a dull boy.**They believe it is not wise to spend all your time \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and never having fun.

Finally, here is one of our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ proverbs: **People who live in glass \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ should not throw stones.**This \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you should not criticize other people \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you are perfect yourself.

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You may have heard this one: **The early \_\_\_\_bird\_\_\_\_ catches the worm**. This means a \_\_\_\_**person**\_\_\_\_ who gets up early, or acts quickly, has the \_\_\_\_**best**\_\_\_\_\_ chance of success.

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Here is another piece of \_\_\_\_**advice**\_\_\_\_: **Do not** **count your chickens \_\_\_\_before\_\_\_\_ they are hatched.**In other words, you should not think too much about some \_\_\_\_**future**\_\_\_\_ event before it really happens.

Another proverb \_\_\_\_**warns**\_\_\_\_  **do not put all your eggs in one \_\_\_\_basket\_\_\_\_.**This means you should not put all of your resources together in one \_\_\_\_**place**\_\_\_\_ because you could risk losing everything at one time.

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Another proverb says **a fool and his \_\_\_\_money\_\_\_\_ are soon parted.** This means \_\_\_\_\_**someone**\_\_\_\_ who acts unwisely with money will lose it.

Here is more advice: **If at \_\_\_\_first\_\_\_\_ you don’t succeed, try, try again.**Also, **never put off until \_\_\_\_tomorrow\_\_\_\_\_\_ what you can do today.**

You might \_\_\_\_**learn**\_\_\_\_ that **haste makes waste** if you do somethingso \_\_\_\_**fast**\_\_\_\_, resulting in mistakes**.**Most \_\_\_\_**people**\_\_\_\_ would agree with this proverb: **honesty is the \_\_\_\_best\_\_\_\_ policy.**

Yet another proverb advises us not to be \_\_\_\_**concerned**\_\_\_\_ about \_\_\_\_**something**\_\_\_\_ bad that you cannot change. It says **there is no use \_\_\_\_crying\_\_\_\_ over spilled milk.**

Do you \_\_\_\_**agree**\_\_\_\_ with the proverb that **children should be seen and not heard**? But other \_\_\_\_**people**\_\_\_\_ say that **all work and no play \_\_\_\_makes\_\_\_\_ Jack a dull boy.**They believe it is not wise to spend all your time \_\_\_\_**working**\_\_\_\_ and never having fun.

Finally, here is one of our \_\_\_\_**favorite**\_\_\_\_ proverbs: **People who live in glass \_\_\_\_houses\_\_\_\_ should not throw stones.**This \_\_\_\_**means**\_\_\_\_ you should not criticize other people \_\_\_\_**unless**\_\_\_\_ you are perfect yourself.

**Check your understanding-**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Match the examples with the proverbs | |
| 1. **\_*C*\_\_** Mike saw an advertisement saying to send $100 to an address to receive a car. | A. The early bird catches the worm |
| 2. \_\_\_\_ Jane lost her job. She decided to wait a week before looking for a new one. | B. Don’t count your chickens before they’re hatched. |
| 3. \_\_\_\_ Susan was driving and missed the exit to get home. | C. A fool and his money are soon parted. |
| 4. \_\_\_\_ Tickets for the popular concert will go on sale at 7:00 AM. John gets in line at 6:00 AM. | D. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. |
| 5. \_\_\_\_ Mary failed her driving test. So she started to practice more. | E. Don’t put all your eggs in one basket. |
| 6. \_\_\_\_ Thomas wanted to bake a cake for his big date. So began to mix the dough before he read the recipe. | F. People who live in glass houses should not throw stones |
| 7. \_\_\_\_ Lupita has been working on her new job for almost a year. She hopes to get a raise in two months. So she buys a new car now. | G. There is no use crying over spilled milk. |
| 8. \_\_\_\_ Sam makes errors at his job, but thinks that perhaps he can get a promotion if he talks about errors that other workers make. | H. Haste makes waste. |
| 9. \_\_\_\_ Sarah goes to a horse race and bets all her money on one horse. | I. If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again. |
| 10. \_\_\_\_ Irina gets an offer for a great job. But she thinks that maybe she should turn it down and hope she gets a better offer. | J. Never put off until tomorrow what you can do today.  A00133 |



**Check your understanding (Answers)-**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Match the examples with the proverbs | |
| 1. **\_*C*\_\_** Mike saw an advertisement saying to send $100 to an address to receive a car. | A. The early bird catches the worm |
| 2. **\_*J*\_\_** Jane lost her job. She decided to wait a week before looking for a new one. | B. Don’t count your chickens before they’re hatched. |
| 3. **\_*G*\_\_** Susan was driving and missed the exit to get home. | C. A fool and his money are soon parted. |
| 4. **\_*A*\_\_** Tickets for the popular concert will go on sale at 7:00 AM. John gets in line at 6:00 AM. | D. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. |
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| 7. **\_*B*\_\_** Lupita has been working on her new job for almost a year. She hopes to get a raise in two months. So she buys a new car now. | G. There is no use crying over spilled milk. |
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