

INTERPRETING PROVERBS

Explaining abstract statements is more of a challenge than it seems to be. In the following activities, you will have an opportunity to show your ability at interpreting some English proverbs and creating some of your own.

Activity 1

Directions: Write the meaning of the following proverbs. Be prepared to explain them orally in class.

1. Necessity is the mother of invention: _____
2. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush: _____
3. A penny saved is a penny earned: _____
4. Rome wasn't built in a day: _____
5. A friend in need is a friend indeed: _____
6. Barking dogs seldom bite: _____
7. He who has but little, has little to fear: _____
8. Every cloud has a silver lining: _____
9. Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today: _____
10. Beggars can't be choosers: _____
11. Time heals all wounds: _____
12. Two heads are better than one: _____
13. Better late than never: _____
14. Money lent is money spent: _____
15. Haste makes waste: _____
16. When it rains, it pours: _____
17. Easy come, easy go: _____
18. Every rose has its thorns: _____
19. No news is good news: _____
20. Actions speak louder than words: _____
21. You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink: _____

22. Don't cry over spilled milk: _____
23. One man's meat is another man's poison: _____
24. Too many cooks spoil the broth: _____
25. Don't bite off more than you can chew: _____
26. Speech is silver; silence is golden: _____
27. Look before you leap: _____
28. Don't look a gift horse in the mouth: _____

29. One good turn deserves another: _____

30. Slow and steady wins the race: _____

Activity 2

Directions: Create three proverbs of your own and explain them to your classmates. You can use the list of English proverbs above and find equivalent proverbs from Ecuador or your own culture (if you are not from Ecuador) and translate them: