Proverbs and their meaning

1. *The pen is mightier than the sword.*
   - ***Trying to convince people with ideas is more effective than trying to force them do what you want.***
2. *When in Rome, do as the Romans do.*
   - ***Act the way that people around you are acting.***
3. *The squeaky wheel gets the grease.*
   - ***You can get better service if you complain about something.***
4. *When the going gets tough, the tough get going.*
   - ***Strong people don't give up when they come across challenges.***
5. *Fortune favours the brave.*
   - ***People who take risks usually become successful.***
6. *No man is an island.*
   - ***You can't live completely independently. Everyone needs help from other people.***
7. *People who sleep in glass houses should not throw stones.*
   - ***Don't criticise others if you are imperfect yourself.***
8. *Better late than never.*
   - ***It is better to do something on time. But if you can't do so, do it later other than not doing it at all.***
9. *Birds of a feather flock together.*
   - ***People who share common things stay together.***
10. *Discretion is the better part of valour.*
    - ***It is better to avoid a dangerous situation than to confront it.***
11. *The early bird catches the worm.*
    - ***The person who takes the earliest opportunity to do something will gain the advantage over others.***
12. *A watched pot never boils.*
    - ***Always be patient. If not, you will not realize any progress in what you do or want.***
13. *Beggars can't be choosers.*
    - ***If you are asking for a favour from someone else, you have to take whatever they give you.***
14. *Actions speak louder than words.*
    - ***Just saying that you'll do something doesn't mean much.***
15. *Too many cooks spoil the broth.*
    - ***When there are very many people trying to lead and give their options, it's confusing and leads to bad results.***
16. *One man's trash is another man's treasure.*
    - ***Different people have different ideas about what's valuable.***
17. *There's no time like the present.*
    - ***If you need to do something, don't wait until later. Do it now.***

18. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

- ***Different people have different ideas about what's beautiful.***

19. Necessity is the mother of invention.

- ***When you are really in need, you think of creative solutions to your problems.***

20. If you can't beat 'em' join 'em'.

- ***When you try to change someone's behaviour and it does not work, you might have to change instead e.g. if you are trying to get your classmates to focus on studying but they want to party.***

21. Easy come, easy go.

- ***When you get money quickly like by winning, it's easy to spend it or lose it quickly as well.***

22. A penny saved is a penny gained.

- ***Save your money. Saving money is just like making money.***

23. Familiarity breeds contempt.

- ***When you are around someone for too long, you get tired of them and annoyed by them.***

24. Don't put all your eggs in one basket.

- ***Have a backup plan; don't risk all of your money or time in one plan.***

25. The grass is always greener on the other side of the hill.

- ***People always want what they don't have e.g. vehicles, jobs, houses, etc.***

26. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

- ***If one member of the team does not perform well, the whole team will fail.***

27. Honesty is the best policy.

- ***Don't lie. Only tell the truth.***

28. Absence makes the heart grow fonder.

- ***Sometimes it's good to be away from your partner/ friend.***

29. Don't count your chickens before they hatch./Do not sell the bear's skin before you catch it.

- ***Your plans might not work out. So don't start thinking about what you will do after succeeding, wait until you have already succeeded.***

30. A friend in need is a friend indeed.

- ***If someone helps you when you are in trouble, that person is a true friend.***

31. Better safe than sorry.

- ***You can be careful, even if it seems like it's not necessary. The consequences if something goes wrong must be worse than wasting a little time and effort by being careful.***

32. One can lead a horse to the source of water but twenty cannot make him drink.

- ***You can't force someone to accept your help.***

33. Do not judge a book by its cover.

- ***Never take conclusions about people before knowing who really they are.***

34. Don't throw out the baby with the bath water.

- *When you are getting rid of a bad thing, you might accidentally get rid of the good things that are connected to it as well.*

35. *Every cloud has a silver lining.*

- *When something bad happens to you, don't get too upset. There could be something good in that scenario.*

36. *Every why has a wherefore / Every sore has a salve.*

- *Every challenge has a remedy/solution.*

37. *If wishes were horses, beggars could ride.*

- *It is useless to base on wishes.*

38. *It is no use crying over spilt milk.*

- *If you lose someone/ something precious, don't get too upset because you can't reverse the situation.*

39. *Lie down with dogs, wake up with fleas.*

- *If you associate with dishonest people, bad things will happen to you.*

40. *Look before you leap.*

- *Think before you act.*

41. *Measure thrice, cut one.*

- *Think carefully before making a decision.*

42. *Rome was not built in one day (a day)*

- *Doing something important takes time and therefore calls for your patience.*

43. *Strike while the iron is hot/ Make hay while the sun shines.*

- *When you have a good opportunity, go for it before it's too late.*

44. *The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.*

- *Children are very similar to their parents, especially in behaviour.*

45. *What goes around comes around.*

- *If you do bad things to others, bad things will happen to you.*

46. *What is food for the goose is food for the gander.*

- *What is good for women is good for men, and vice versa.*

47. *You can't have your cake and eat it too.*

- *You can't have everything you want in life.*

48. *Never look at a gift horse in its mouth.*

- *If someone offers you a gift, don't question or undermine it.*

49. *If the shoe/cap fits, wear it.*

- *If something is worth doing, do it.*

50. *A stitch in time saves nine/ Procrastination is the thief of time.*

- *It is better to fix a problem when it's small than to wait and it becomes big.*

51. *A rolling stone gathers no moss.*

- *Someone who does not settle in one place will never attain success/happiness.*

52. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush/ An egg today is better than a hen tomorrow.

- ***It is better to be content with what you have than to risk losing everything by seeking to get more.***

53. You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar.

- ***You can win people to your side more easily by gentle persuading them than by hostile confrontation.***

54. A heavy purse makes a light heart.

- ***When one has a lot of money, one will be very happy.***

55. A miss is as good as a mile.

- ***The size of any failure doesn't matter. All the same, it is failure.***

56. A small leak will sink a big ship.

- ***Small faults, if left unattended to, can have very serious consequences.***

57. Rats desert a sinking ship.

- ***People leave a place, an organisation, activity, etc. quickly the moment it seems likely to fail.***

58. A tattler is worse than a thief.

- ***Stupidity is worse than theft/stealing.***

59. A wonder lasts nine days.

- ***Something that is fascinating will last for a short time.***

60. Adversity is a great schoolmaster.

- ***Unhappiness is a great teacher.***

61. After a storm, comes a calm.

- ***Things often improve after difficult, chaotic or stressful time.***

62. Adversity brings strange bedfellows.

- ***Difficult circumstances will bring a wide variety of people together.***

63. He who laughs last laughs best.

- ***The final winner will have more glory than someone who was winning in the beginning but ultimately lost.***

64. Where there is smoke, there is fire.

- ***There is always some truth in a rumour.***

65. A clear conscience is a coat of mail.

- ***When you have done the right thing, you don't feel any guilt.***

66. A guilty conscience needs no accuser.

- ***If you have done something wrong and feel guilty about it, you will be uncomfortable and want to confess even if no one accuses you of wrong doing.***

67. A creaking door hangs long on its hinges.

- ***Sickly people often live longer than healthy ones.***

68. No rose without thorns. (there is no rose without thorns)

- ***In order to enjoy something pleasurable, you must endure some pain or difficulty.***

69. A Jack of all trades is master of none.

- ***A person who is competent in many skills can't be outstanding in any of them.***

70. An open door may tempt a saint.

- ***Even an innocent person may be tempted by a golden opportunity.***

71. Barking dogs seldom bite.

- ***People who threaten to do bad things rarely do them.***

72. Every old crow thinks her young are the blackest.

- ***Every parent thinks their child is the sweetest, smartest and best-looking.***

73. Beauty is but skin-deep.

- ***A person's character is more important than the way they look.***

74. Brevity is the soul of wit.

- ***Clever people can express intelligent things using very few words.***

75. Curiosity killed the cat.

- ***Being inquisitive about other people's affairs may get you into trouble.***

76. A cat may look at a king.

- ***Even a person of low status or importance has rights.***

77. Cut your coat according to your cloth.

- ***Make plans and decisions based on what you have but not what you would like.***

78. Great oaks from little acorns grow.

- ***Something large or successful begins in a small and insignificant way.***

79. Every barber knows that.

- ***A badly kept secret that everyone knows.***

80. All asses wag their ears.

- ***Foolish people are easily excited or often over react.***

81. Boys will be boys.

- ***It's natural for boys to behave weirdly; it should not surprise anyone.***

82. Every mother thinks her own gosling a swan.

- ***Mothers cannot be objective with their children; they feel theirs are the best.***

83. Faint heart never won fair lady.

- ***You should be aggressive in pursuing what you want.***

84. Fine feathers make fine birds.

- ***Attractive clothing makes one seem more beautiful or appealing.***

85. All is fish that comes to his net.

- ***Everything that happens can be used for one's advantage.***

86. Fish stink in three days.

- ***Visitors who stay for a long time cease to be visitors.***

87. An empty hand is no lure for a hawk.

- *You cannot succeed in gaining what you want without offering something.*

88. *One good turn deserves another.*

- *If someone does you a favour, you should take the chance to repay it.*

89. *Hunger is the best sauce.*

- *Being hungry makes one less concerned about the taste of one's food.*

90. *Catch who catch can.*

- *Use any method that can be applied/take advantage of any opportunity.*

91. *Laws catch flies but let hornets go free.*

- *Laws catch the small time crooks but are less useful in catching the rich criminals.*

92. *A man's house is his castle.*

- *People have a right to do what they want in their own homes.*

93. *From a frying pan into the fire.*

- *To go from a bad situation to one that is even worse.*

94. *Oaks may fall when reeds stand the storm.*

- *Adaptability can succeed where strength fails/being flexible in actions and views is better than being rigid.*

95. *Old birds are not caught with chaff.*

- *The wise and experienced and not easily fooled.*

96. *Once bitten, twice shy.*

- *A person who has failed or been hurt when trying to do something is careful or fearful about doing it again.*

97. *A burnt child dreads fire.*

- *A person that has been harmed by something becomes more cautious /careful about it.*

98. *Tread on a worm and it will turn.*

- *Even the meekest/most docile of creatures will retaliate or seek revenge if pushed too far.*

99. *Rain at seven, fine at eleven.*

- *After the rain, we expect fine weather.*

100. *A good dog deserves a good bone.*

- *A good employee/worker deserves his reward.*

101. *Set a thief to catch a thief.*

- *The best person to catch a criminal is another criminal.*

102. *Six of one and a half a dozen of the other.*

- *The two alternatives will render the same outcome/ The two alternatives are equivalent.*

103. *One swallow does not make a summer.*

- *A single fortunate event doesn't mean that what follows will also be good.*

104. *Still water runs deep.*

- *People who are quiet or shy are always very intelligent and interesting.*

105. *Shoemakers' wives are the worst shod.*
   - ***Some professionals don't apply their skills for themselves as they try to please all the others.***
106. *Exception proves the rule.*
   - ***Despite the contradiction in the statement, it is still true e.g. we should all graze the animals, save for the visitor.***
107. *The end justifies the means.*
   - ***A desired result is more important than the method used.***
108. *The leopard cannot change its spots.*
   - ***It is impossible for one to change their character.***
109. *The nearer the bone, the sweeter the meat.*
   - ***The closer you get to your goal, the more thrilled or excited you will be.***
110. *The pot calls the kettle black.*
   - ***One criticises another for a fault/ a weakness that one too has.***
111. *A cat in gloves catches no mice.*
   - ***One cannot obtain what one desires by being cautions; one must be aggressive.***
112. *Walls have ears.*
   - ***Be careful what you say as people may be eavesdropping.***
113. *A friend's frown is better than a foe's smile.*
   - ***A true friend tries and thinks what is best for the friend.***
114. *Two wrongs don't make a right.*
   - ***Trying to revenge for anything bad done to you will only make things worse.***
115. *Draw not your bow till your arrow is fixed.*
   - ***Don't rush to do something before you are sure and ready.***
116. *Fine feathers make fine birds.*
   - ***Attractive clothing makes one seem more beautiful or appealing.***
117. *Forbearance is no acquaintance.*
   - ***If (e.g.) someone is patient with you for not clearing the debt, it doesn't mean you ignore it.***
118. *Follow the river and you will get the sea.*
   - ***Something small leads to something bigger.***
119. *Betwixt and between.*
   - ***In the midway position, neither one thing nor the other.***
120. *Hares may pull dead lions by the beard.*
   - ***When a strong person loses his power, even the weakest can take advantage and gain from their weakening.***
121. *The last straw breaks the camel's back.*
   - ***The last in a series of bad things makes someone very upset/angry etc.***
122. *Exchange is no robbery.*

- *Swapping one thing fairly in turn for another is not the same as stealing.*

123. *A clear conscience is a coat of mail.*

- *When you have done the right thing, you don't feel any guilt.*

124. *Rob Peter to pay Paul.*

- *Discharge one debt only to incur another.*
- *Borrow money to pay/ clear another debt.*

125. *Beauty lies in the hands of the beholder.*

- *People can have different perspectives on the beauty of a person.*

126. *The proof of the pudding is in the eating.*

- *You can only judge the quality of something after you have tried, used, or experienced it.*

127. *Call a spade a spade.*

- *Speak plainly without avoiding unpleasant or embarrassing issues.*

128. *First come, first served.*

- *People to be dealt with strictly in the order in which they arrive or apply.*

129. *Every old crow thinks her young are the blackest.*

- *Every parent thinks their child is the sweetest, smartest, and most beautiful.*

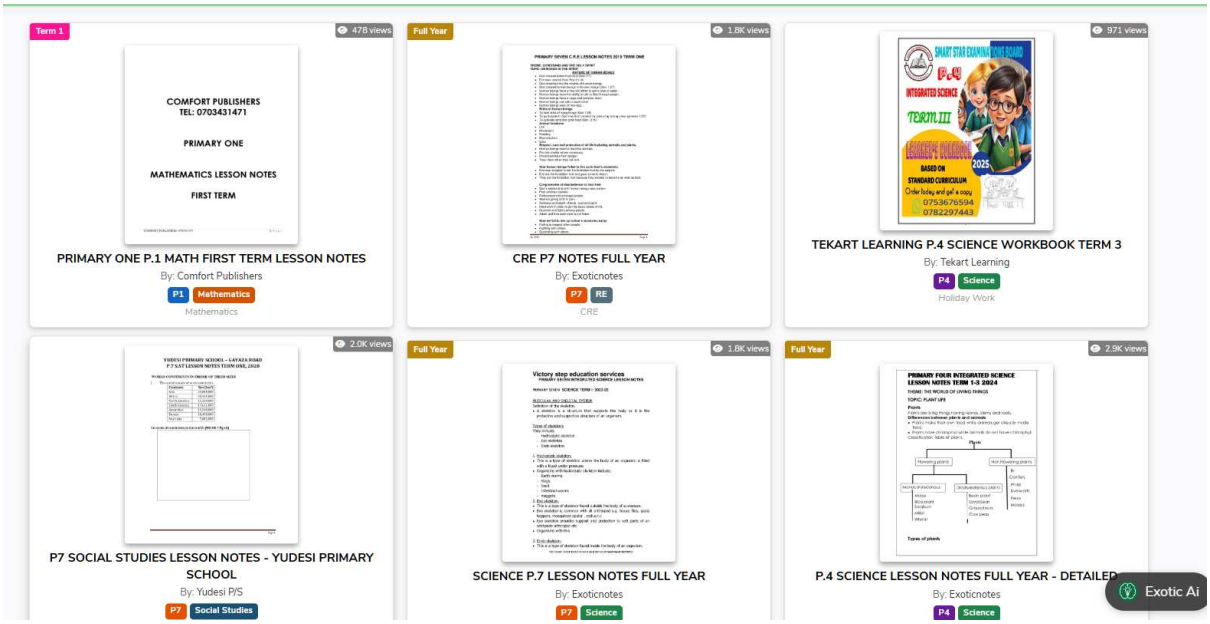
130. *In for a penny ,in for a pound.*

- *You should finish what you have started, even though it may be difficult or expensive.*

131. *Love me, love my dog.*

- *If you love someone, you should accept everything about them, even their faults.*

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