

## To understand the meaning of proverbs

### Instruction for teachers and parents / Facilitators –

1. Use familiar pictures to explain different proverbs

### Instruction for students -

1. Look at the pictures carefully,
2. Try to answer the questions asked before, while, and after the activity.

### Learning Activity -

Teacher explains how we use proverbs. Tells some of the popular proverbs.

### Examples –

1) **Better late than never.**

### Meaning:

- it is better for somebody or something to be late than never to arrive or to happen
- it is better to do something late than to not/never do it at all
- it is better to arrive late to an event than not to show up

All of us have been waiting for you for two hours – but **better late than never.**

I know that it took me weeks to send the letter, but **better late than never.**



## 2) An apple a day keeps the doctor away

**Meaning:** Basically, the phrase is not meant to be taken literally. The idea this proverb is expressing is that eating healthier can help to keep the doctor away. E.g.



Earlier Suman was not ready to eat apples but now when she had to eat lot of medicines she understood the meaning of the proverb, "an apple a day keeps the doctor away".

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**Example:** Asha has a friend who rarely gets sick, and when she does, she handles it well. So, Asha asked her: "How are you so healthy?"

"Well," her friend said, "as the saying goes, **an apple a day keeps the doctor away**. I drink plenty of water, I eat fruits and vegetables during the week, and I make sure to get enough sleep."



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### 3)United we stand, divided we fall:

It means ‘it is better to stick together’. We all know that unity is strength. Unity is of great value in every walk of life. If there is unity among people then their strength increases. So, the proverb:

- Emphasizes the importance of unity.
- Uses a metaphor of standing to mean success.
- Uses a metaphor of falling to mean failure.
- States that success depends on unity.
- States that failure comes from divisions.



e.g., 1. “Rohan asked Mohan – do you know that the strongest rope is made from binding together hundreds of weak threads, those can be easily broken, even by a child. Whenever I see a rope, I remember this phrase ‘**united we stand divided we fall**’, Rohan added further.”



e.g., 2. “A group of wild dogs is known to have overpowered even a tiger, because of their unity. It is true that **united we stand divided we fall.**”



#### 4) Two wrongs don't make a right:

**Meaning:** said to emphasize that it is not acceptable to do something bad to someone just because they did something bad to you first.

e.g., “I know your brother hit you, but don't hit back.  
You know **two wrongs don't make a right**”  
“Ramesh was very rude to Anna so Anna was rude to Ramesh. I understand her, but **two wrongs don't make a right.**”



#### Solved Activity/Demo

1. Teacher shows the pictures and the proverbs
2. Teacher shows different pictures and proverbs and makes students familiar with proverbs.

**ENGLISH PROVERBS**

- Two wrongs don't make right**  
It is never right to wrong someone, even if they have wronged you first.
- A friend in need is a friend indeed**  
If someone helps you when you have problems, or you are in trouble, that person is a true friend.
- Beauty is in the eye of the beholder**  
Everyone has their own ideas of what is beautiful.
- Practice makes perfect**  
If you want to be perfect at something, you need to practice every day.
- Haste makes waste**  
When you try to work too quickly, you usually make mistakes.
- Better late than never**  
It's better if you do something later, than not do it at all.
- Actions speak louder than words**  
What you do matters – not what you say.
- Easy come, easy go**  
When something, especially money, is easily got and then soon spent or lost.
- A picture speaks a thousand words**  
Picture conveys its meaning or essence more effectively than a description does.

#### Exercise

- 1 What does an apple a day do?  
Ans. it keeps the doctor away
- 2 United will \_\_\_\_\_, divided we \_\_\_\_\_?  
Ans. stand, fall
- 3 What is the superlative degree of better? 1: good, 2: best  
Ans. best
4. What is the antonym of late?  
Ans: Early
5. Is staying divided better than staying united?  
Ans: No

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