

# 英语谚语

对外贸易出版社

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## ENGLISH PROVERBS

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## 前 言

英语谚语是英语的重要组成部分。作为“语言中的盐”，它具有简洁洗炼，哲理深刻等特点。学习英语谚语有助于更好地掌握英语的语言特点，有助于更生动更准确地表达思想情感。

为了满足读者学习英语谚语的需要，这里辑录了一千六百余条谚语。所选谚语大部分浅显易懂，每条都附有相应的中文译文，译文尽力反映原义，不强求工整，适合广大英语自学者和在校学生阅读，亦可供英语教学和有关工作者参考。

由于英语产生的社会生活环境，某些谚语不可避免地反映了资产阶级的生活方式和资产阶级世界观。希望在阅读过程中加以鉴别和分析。

在选编过程中得到房仲弟、傅爱芳两位先生的指导与帮助，在此谨致谢忱。

彭光谦

1981年4月

## A

- 1 Accidents will happen in the best regulated families.  
家规再严，丑事难免。
- 2 Action is the proper fruit of knowledge.  
行动是知识之佳果。
- 3 Actions speak louder than words.  
事实胜于雄辩；行动比语言更响亮。
- 4 Adversity leads to prosperity.  
逆境通向成功。（或：困苦通向昌盛。）
- 5 Adversity makes a man wise, not rich.  
患难能使人聪明，但不能使人富有。
- 6 Adversity successfully overcome is the highest glory.  
成功地克服困难是最大的光荣。
- 7 Affairs that are done by due degrees are soon ended.  
事情按部就班，就会很快做完。
- 8 After a storm comes a calm.  
雨过天晴。（或：否极泰来\*。）

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\* 否(pǐ)极泰来——否和泰原是《周易》中讲占卜的两种卦的名称，泰表示亨通，否表示失利。后来用“否极泰来”形容情况坏到极点，就会从坏转好。

- 9 After death, the doctor.  
人死医生来。
- 10 After dinner comes the reckoning.  
吃饭就得付账。
- 11 After dinner sit a while, after supper walk a mile.  
午饭后要坐，晚饭后要走。
- 12 Ale will make cat speak.  
喝了淡啤酒，猫也会开口。（或：酒后话多。）
- 13 All are brave when the enemy flies.  
敌人遁逃时，人人皆勇士。
- 14 All are not friends that speak us fair.  
向我们说好话的不一定都是朋友。
- 15 All are not hunters that blow the horn.  
吹号角的未必都是猎人。
- 16 All are not saints that go to church.  
去教堂的未必个个是圣人。
- 17 All are not thieves that dogs bark at.  
狗所吠的不见得都是小偷。
- 18 All asses wag their ears.  
傻瓜都爱装作聪明的样子。
- 19 All bread is not baked in one oven.  
人性各有不同，不能强求一致。
- 20 All cats are gray in the dark (or night).  
人在未成名时，很难看出什么差别。

- 21 All cats love fish but fear to wet their paws.  
猫都爱鱼，却怕湿爪。
- 22 All covet, all lose.  
贪多必失。
- 23 All his geese are swans.  
他的鹅都是天鹅。（意即敝帚自珍。）
- 24 All is grist that comes to his mill.  
到他磨里都成粉。（意即：他善于利用一切机会。）
- 25 All is not gold that glitters.  
发光的未必都是金子。（或：中看的未必中用。）
- 26 All is not lost that is in danger.  
在危险中的东西未必都会损失。
- 27 All roads lead to Rome.  
条条大路通罗马。（即：殊途同归。）
- 28 All's fish that comes to his net.  
可以到手的他都要。
- 29 All shall be well, Jack shall have Jill.  
有情人都会成眷属。
- 30 All's well that ends well.  
结局好就一切都好。
- 31 All things will come round to him who will but wait.  
只要肯等待，一切都会来。

- 32 All time is no time when it is past.  
光阴一去不复返。
- 33 All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.  
只工作不玩耍，聪明杰克也变傻。
- 34 All your swans are geese.  
言过其实。（或：敝帚自珍。）
- 35 Always taking out the meal-tub, and never putting  
in, soon comes to the bottom.  
取粮不储粮，桶底粮也光。（或：坐吃山空。）
- 36 Among the blind the one-eyed man is king.  
盲人国里，独眼称王。（即：山中无虎猴为王。）
- 37 Anger is a short madness.  
愤怒是短时间的疯狂。
- 38 Any port in a storm.  
任何可以摆脱困难的办法都是好的。
- 39 Apothecaries would not sugar their pills unless  
they were bitter.  
药丸不苦就不会加糖衣。
- 40 Appetite comes with eating.  
胃口越吃越开。
- 41 Art is long, but life is short.  
人生有限，学问无涯。
- 42 As a man lives, so shall he die.  
有生必有死。



- 43 As a man sows, so he shall reap.  
种瓜得瓜，种豆得豆。
- 44 As a tree falls, so shall it lie.  
树倒在何处，就躺在何处。（指自然规律无法违背。）
- 45 As is the workman so is the work.  
什么匠人出什么活。
- 46 Ask no questions and you will be told no lies.  
少问就听不到假话。
- 47 As soon goes the young lamb's skin to the market  
as the old ewe's.  
老羊皮上了市，小羊皮也跟着来。
- 48 The ass waggeth his ears.  
驴子摇耳朵，傻瓜装聪明。
- 49 As the call, so the echo.  
发什么声音，有什么回声。（指你对人家怎样，人家也就怎样对待你。）
- 50 As the old cock crows, so doth the young.  
老公鸡怎么叫，小公鸡怎样学。（指儿女常学父母的榜样。）
- 51 As the touchstone tries gold, so gold tries man.  
正如试金石可以试金，金子也可以试人。
- 52 As the tree, so the fruit.  
什么树结什么果。
- 53 As well be hanged for a sheep as a lamb.  
一不做二不休。

- 54 As you brew, so must you drink.  
自己酿的酸酒只得自己喝掉。(或：自作自受。)
- 55 At open doors dogs come in.  
门不关，狗就会进来。
- 56 Avarice blinds our eyes.  
贪婪障人眼。
- 57 Avarice increases with wealth.  
贪心与财富俱增。(或：越富越贪。)

## B

- 58 Bacchus has drowned more men than Neptune.  
美酒为害烈于海水。
- 59 A bad beginning makes a bad ending.  
恶始必有恶终。
- 60 A bad custom is like a good cake, better broken  
than kept.  
坏习惯像蛋糕，分食要比保存好。
- 61 A bad thing never dies.  
坏事传千年。
- 62 Bad workmen often blame their tools.  
拙匠常怪工具差。
- 63 A bald head is soon shaven.  
秃头剃得快。

- 64 Bare words, no bargain.  
空言不能成交。
- 65 A bargain is a bargain.  
买卖一言为定。（或：契约总归是契约。）
- 66 Barking dogs do not bite.  
吠犬不咬人。
- 67 Bark worse than one's bite.  
雷声大，雨点小。
- 68 A barley-corn is better than a diamond to a cock.  
对于一只公鸡来说，一颗麦粒胜似一颗钻石。
- 69 The battle is to the strong.  
强者必胜。
- 70 Beauty is but skin deep.  
人不可以貌相。
- 71 Beauty lies in lover's eyes.  
情人眼里出西施。
- 72 Be born with a silver spoon in one's mouth.  
生下来嘴里就含着银勺子。（即：生在富贵之家。）
- 73 Be considerate toward the poor.  
为穷人着想。
- 74 Before gold, even kings take off their hats.  
在黄金面前，即使国王也要脱帽。
- 75 The beggar may sing before the thief.  
乞丐不怕偷。

- 76 Beggars can't be choosers.  
讨饭难拣嘴。
- 77 A beggar's purse is bottomless.  
乞丐的口袋没有底。（或：乞丐的口袋填不满。）
- 78 The beginnings of all things are small.  
万事开头小。
- 79 Be hoist with one's own petard.  
搬起石头砸自己的脚。
- 80 Be honest rather than clever.  
与其聪明，不如诚实。
- 81 Be just to all, but trust not all.  
公正对待一切，但不要轻信一切。
- 82 Believe no tales from the enemy.  
敌人之言不可信。
- 83 Be slow to promise and quick to perform.  
允诺宜缓，履行宜速。
- 84 The best fish smell when they are three days old.  
再好的鱼三天也要变臭（或：久住招人嫌。）
- 85 The best fish swim near the bottom.  
好鱼居水底。（指有价值的东西不能轻易得到。）
- 86 The best friends must part.  
朋友虽好，总有一别。（或：天下无不散的筵席。）
- 87 The best hearts are always the bravest.  
最善良的人往往是最勇敢的人。

- 88 The best horse needs breaking, and the aptest child needs teaching.  
最好的马要驯，最伶俐的孩子要教。
- 89 The best is often times the enemy of the good.  
要求过高，反难成功。
- 90 The best mirror is an old friend.  
老友乃是最好的镜子。
- 91 Be swift to hear, slow to speak.  
多听少讲。
- 92 Better a finger off than aye wagging.  
长痛不如短痛。
- 93 Better a glorious death than a shameful life.  
与其忍辱偷生，不如光荣而死。
- 94 Better an egg today than a hen tomorrow.  
今天一只蛋，胜过明天一只鸡。
- 95 Better be alone than in bad company.  
交损友不如无友。
- 96 Better be half hanged than ill wed.  
与其成怨偶，不如守单身。
- 97 Better be poor than wicked.  
宁可做穷人，不可做坏人。
- 98 Better be the head of a dog than the tail of a lion.  
宁为犬首，不作狮尾。

- 99 Better be the head of an ass than the tail of a horse.  
宁为驴头，不为马尾。
- 100 Better be the head of the yeomanry than the tail of the gentry.  
宁作自由民之首，不居贵族之末。
- 101 The better (the) day, the better (the) deed.  
日子越好，事情越吉利。
- 102 Better go to bed supperless than rise in debt.  
与其负债起身，不如空腹上床。
- 103 Better late than never.  
迟做总比不做好。
- 104 Better lose a jest than a friend.  
宁可少说俏皮话，也不得罪朋友。
- 105 Better master one than engage with ten.  
与其通十样，不如精一样。
- 106 Better one-eyed than stone-blind.  
独眼总比全瞎好。
- 107 Better say nothing than nothing to the purpose.  
与其言不中的，不如一言不发。
- 108 Better to do well than to say well.  
说得好不如做得好。
- 109 Better to reign in hell than serve in heaven.  
与其在天堂当仆人，不如在地狱做阎王。

- 110 Better wear out than rust out.  
与其锈坏，不如用坏。（或：与其闲死，不如忙死。）
- 111 Better wed over the mixen than over the moor.  
宁娶邻女，不娶他乡外人。
- 112 Between two evils 'tis not worth choosing.  
在两件坏事（两个坏人）之间没有选择余地。
- 113 Between two stools one falls to the ground.  
脚踏两只船，迟早要落水。
- 114 Beware beginnings.  
慎始为上。
- 115 Beware of a silent dog and still water.  
提防不吠的狗，小心平静的水。
- 116 Beware of him who regards not his reputation.  
谨防不重自己名誉的人。
- 117 Bind the sack before it be full.  
凡事适可而止。
- 118 A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.  
双鸟在林不如一鸟在手。
- 119 A bird is known by its note, and a man by his talk.  
鸟以声闻，人以言知。
- 120 A bird may be known by its song.  
闻其言而知其人。
- 121 Birds of a feather flock together.  
物以类聚。

- 122 The bird that can sing and won't sing must be made to sing.  
会唱的鸟，不愿唱也得叫它唱。
- 123 Birth is much, but breeding is more.  
出身重要，教养更重要。
- 124 Bite off more than one can chew.  
贪多咽不下。
- 125 Bite the hand that feeds one.  
喂了狗，咬了手。（意即：恩将仇报。）
- 126 A bit in the morning is better than nothing all day.  
那怕有一点，也总比全部落空好。
- 127 Bitter pills may have wholesome effects.  
苦药丸，能治病。
- 128 A black hen lays a white egg.  
黑鸡生白蛋。（或：丑妇生俊儿。）
- 129 The black ox has trod on his foot.  
祸事临头。
- 130 A blate cat makes a proud mouse.  
猫儿腩腆，老鼠翻天。
- 131 A blind man will not thank you for a looking-glass.  
瞎子不谢赠镜人。
- 132 Blind men can (或 should) judge no colours.  
盲者不辨色。



- 133 Blood is thicker than water.  
血液于水。（或：疏不同亲。）
- 134 Blushing is virtue's colour.  
脸红是善的表现。
- 135 A boisterous horse must have a rough bridle.  
烈马要套粗笼头。
- 136 A book is the same today as it always was and  
it will never change.  
好书千载常如新。
- 137 Books, like friends, should be few and well chosen.  
读书如择友，宜少且宜精。
- 138 A book that remains shut is but a block.  
书本不常翻，犹如一块砖。
- 139 A borrowed cloak does not keep one warm.  
借来的斗篷不暖身。
- 140 Borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry.  
借来的钱不心疼。
- 141 Boys will be boys.  
孩子毕竟是孩子。
- 142 A brave retreat is a brave exploit.  
勇退即勇绩。
- 143 Brevity is the soul of wit.  
言以简洁为贵。