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English Sayings

Written by James Wong

雙解 英語諺語五百句

香港上海書局出版

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Written by James Wong

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A

1. Absence makes the heart grow fonder.

離別使心中滋長仁愛。

Affection for our friends or relatives increases when they are parted from us; their good points are remembered and faults are forgotten.

對朋友或親人的感情，在他們與我們分離的時候會增長起來；他們的優點會被記住而缺點會被忘記。

2. Actions speak louder than words.

行動比言論更有力。

A person is known and judged more by his actions than by his words. Actions prove one's sincerity; words may never be put into action.

一個人爲人所認識與評價，更多的是根據其行爲而不是言語。行動證明一個人誠實與否；而言論可能永遠不付諸實行。

3. Advice when most needed is least heeded.

忠告於最需要時，最不被重視。

People who most need advice are often unable or unwilling to pay attention to it.

最需要忠告的人，常常不會或不願注意（別人的）忠告。

4. After a storm comes the calm.

風暴之後平靜到來。

A storm is usually followed by calm weather. After excitement, or anger, or bitter grief, people become quiet and calm.

Neither the weather nor people can remain disturbed for long; a calm must follow.

風暴之後，通常是平靜的天氣。激動、發怒、悲哀之後，人們也變得沉默與安靜。

無論天氣或人，都不可能長時間地被攪亂，平靜必定到來。

5. All are not thieves that dogs bark at.

狗對之而吠的不都是賊。

Never judge people only by appearances.

永遠不要單憑表象判斷人。

6. All cats are grey in the dark.

昏暗之中，貓皆灰色。

Colours are not easily distinguished at night. So in the dark all cats seem to be same colour- grey;

It seems beauty or some qualities often require certain circumstances to be clearly seen or appreciated.

在晚上色彩不易辨認，所以在黑暗中所有的貓看來都是一種顏色——灰色。

看來美麗或其他品質，通常都需要一定的環境使之能被人清楚地看到和欣賞到。

7. All good things come to an end.

好景不常在。（天下無不散的宴席）

Pleasure cannot go on forever. Change is inherent in life.

歡樂不可能永遠繼續，變化在生活中是永恆的。

8. All his geese are swans.

他的鵝都是天鵝。

The swan is the most beautiful of birds; the goose is rather ugly.

The proverb is quoted to describe a person who often thinks that anything he happens to like is much finer than it usually is.

天鵝是鳥類中最美麗的，而鵝却相當醜陋。

這句諺語被引用來形容這樣一種人，他總是認為他所喜歡的任何東西都比它實際上要好得多。

9. All's fair in love and war.

愛情和戰爭是不擇手段的。

It is quite fair to play cunning and even dishonest tricks on one's rivals in love and on one's enemies during a war.

(Many honourable people do not agree with this, considering that even war should be waged according to certain rules.)

對戀愛中的對手與戰爭中的敵人玩弄狡猾，甚至欺詐的手段都是無可厚非的。

(不少正直的人不同意這點，他們認為甚至戰爭都應該遵守某些準則。)

10. All are fish that come to the net.

落於網中的都是魚。

The professional fishermen can find some use for every

kind of fish that they catch, large and small, coarse or tender. The proverb advises us to take advantage of every opportunity that comes our way.

老練的漁夫對所捕到的各種魚，不論大小，粗劣或肥嫩都能善加利用。

這句諺語勸告我們要好好利用到來的每一個機會。

11. All's well that ends well.

成功之後萬事如意。

Fears and anxieties are forgotten if one's aim is reached. It is the end that matters.

The proverb is quoted when the end of a difficult journey or undertaking is achieved.

一個人的目的達到後，什麼驚嚇和憂慮就都忘記了。結局才是最重要的。

這諺語用於艱難的旅程結束或一件工作完成的時候。

12. All lay loads on a willing horse.

人人都往肯做的馬身上加負擔。

A horse willing to work is always given most work to do. A willing servant is given more work than a lazy one. This may seem unfair, but it is a law of life; for work given to a willing servant is likely to be well and quickly done. A person always willing to work may be praised by being called 'a willing horse'. A willing horse is often unfairly made use of.

一匹樂於做工的馬，總被派給最多的工去做。

一個肯做的工人，被指派的工作總比懶惰的多。這事看來似不公平，但這是生活中的一個慣例。因為交給肯做的工人的工作，往往又快又好地完成。

一個總是樂於做事的人，常被讚許地稱為“一匹肯做的馬”。
“一匹肯做的馬”總是常常被不公平地利用。

13. All roads lead to Rome.

條條大路通羅馬。

When the Romans ruled the whole of Europe they built such a wonderful system of roads that every little road led to a bigger road which in time led to Rome. „

This proverb is used to describe a general trend or different ways to achieve an end.

當羅馬人統治整個歐洲時，他們建立了這樣好的道路體系，每一條小路都通向大道，而大道最後通向羅馬。

這句話用以形容一種總的趨勢或者許多不同的方法去達到一個目的。

14. All that glitters is not gold. (or All is not gold that glitters.)

閃爍的並不都是金子。

Gold shines brightly in the light, but so does brass; and what looks like gold may be of little worth.

Beware of being deceived by the appearance of things or people.

黃金在光線下耀眼地閃爍，黃銅也一樣。因此有些看來像黃金的東西可能並沒有什麼價值。

當心被人們或事物的表面現象所蒙騙。

與20 “Appearances are deceptive”（外表是靠不住的）及336 “Never judge by appearances”（決不要憑外表下判斷）類似。

15. All things are difficult before they are easy.

凡事皆先難後易。

Anything before you practise it seems rather difficult, but after you try to do it will become quite easy.

任何事在實踐以前，看來相當困難，但當你嘗試去做以後，將會變得很容易。

16. All truth is not always to be told.

真相並不總是應該說出來。

It is not always necessary to tell a friend all his faults, or to admit all one's own mistakes and follies.

Sometimes it is wise to conceal part of the truth, especially if telling the truth would cause sorrow or trouble of any kind to others.

我們並不總是需要把朋友的缺點都指出來，也不一定總是要承認自己所有的錯誤和愚蠢。

有時，特別是如果說出真相會引起他人悲哀或麻煩，那麼隱瞞部分真相是明智的。

17. All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.

只做事不玩樂使 Jack 變為愚鈍的孩子。

Too much work and not enough play make a boy stale.

People, especially children, should not be kept at work for too long but should be given time for games and rest.

太多的工作，沒有充分的玩樂使小孩變得愚鈍。

人們，特別是小孩，不應該長時間地工作，而沒有時間遊戲和休息。

18. Among the blind the one-eyed man is king.

盲人之中獨眼貴爲王。

There are degrees of misfortune; the same person may be pitied by some and envied by others.

Among blind people a one-eyed man is superior to all others; though a one-eyed man is pitied for his misfortune by people with normal eyesight.

不幸有程度之分，同一個人被一部分人可憐却爲另一部分人所羨慕。

獨眼的人雖然不幸而爲明眼人所可憐，但在盲人之中却是最優越的。

19. Any port in a storm.

風暴中任何港口都是好的。

In times of danger or difficulty, any refuge is better than none.

在危險或困難的時候，任何避難所都勝於無。

與201 “Half a loaf is better than no bread”（半塊麵包總勝於無）類似。

20. Appearances are deceptive.

外表是靠不住的。

與336 “Never judge by appearances”（決不要憑外表下判斷）類同。

21. An apple a day keeps the doctor away.

一天一個蘋果使醫生避之。

If you eat an apple every day you will remain healthy and

not need a doctor. But do not believe every proverb implicitly! An apple a day will not prevent you from catching every kind of disease.

如果你每天吃一個蘋果，你將保持健康而不需要醫生。（但不能每句諺語都盲目地相信。一天一個蘋果將不能使你免除每一種疾病。）

22. An army marches on its stomach.

軍隊吃飽才能前進。（三軍未動，糧草先行）

An army cannot march, or fight, unless it is fed. Supplies of food are as important to an army as arms and equipment.

除非有得吃，一支軍隊才能前進或戰鬥。

食糧的供應，對於一支軍隊就似武器與裝備一樣重要。

23. As a man makes his bed so must he lie.

自己鋪床就得自己睡。（自作自受）

A man who 'makes his bed' badly shall certainly sleep uncomfortably. But if his actions are wise his bed will be very comfortable.

A person must take the responsibility for, (and suffer from) the results of his own unwise actions.

一個人把自己的床鋪得不好，當然應該睡得不舒服。（但是如果他的行為是明智的，他的床將會是很舒服的。）

一個人必須對自己不明智的行為帶來的後果承受責任和不幸。

24. As well be hanged for a sheep as for a lamb.

偷羊或羊羔一樣要被絞死。

In old days sheep-stealing was punished by hanging,

whether the sheep was young and small or fully grown.

If the punishment is the same whether one commits a small or a great crime in trying to benefit oneself, one may quote this proverb in advocating committing the greater crime.

在以前無論儉幼小的或長大了的羊都一樣被處以絞刑的。

如果一個人爲己圖利而犯罪，無論大小都受一樣的處罰，那麼他可能會引用這諺語而主張犯大些的罪。

25. As you make your bed, so you must lie (in it).

與23 “As a man makes his bed so must he lie”（自己鋪床就得自己睡）相同。

26. As you sow, so shall you reap.

你播種，你就該收穫。

You should be punished or rewarded according to whatever you have done.

你應該根據你所做的被處罰或獎勵。

與23 “As a man makes his bed so must he lie”（自己鋪床就得自己睡）類同。

27. At night all cats are grey.

晚上所有的貓都是灰色的。

與6 “All cat are grey in the dark”（昏暗之中，貓皆灰色）相同。

B

28. A bad excuse is better than none at all.

強辯的理由總比沒有好。

Some people think a bad excuse may or may not be accepted, but if no excuse is given for a fault or wrong action, blame or punishment is sure to follow.

Compared this with 29. 'Bad excuses are worse than none'

有些人認為一條強辯（搪塞）的理由（藉口），可能或可能不被人所接受；但是如果對（自己的）缺點或錯誤行為，說不出理由，那就一定會被責備或處罰。

與“強辯的理由比沒有還不好”比較。

29. Bad excuses are worse than none.

強辯的理由比沒有還不好。

A bad excuse will not be accepted and will most probably be recognised as a lie, so the punishment for wrongdoing may be increased.

一條強辯的理由不足為人所信，反會被看作謊言，於是因做錯事而受的懲罰反會加重。

30. Bad news travels fast.

壞消息傳得快。（類似壞事傳千里）

People feel that bad news always reaches us more quickly than good news.

人們感到壞消息幾乎總是比好消息傳來得快。

31. A bad shearer never had a good sickle.

拙劣的剪羊毛人總怪沒有好剪刀。

與32 “A bad workman always blames his tools” (拙劣的工匠總是怪工具不好) 同義。

32. A bad workman always blames (or quarrels with) his tools.

拙劣的工匠總是怪工具不好。

A careless or unskilled worker always blames his tools to excuse himself for poor work, whereas it is his own carelessness or lack of skill which is really to blame.

一個不仔細或不高明的工匠總是責怪自己的工具不好，而原諒自己的粗劣工作。然而正是他自己的粗心和缺乏技巧，才是真正應該被責怪的。

33. The bait hides the hook.

食餌掩藏着魚鉤。

The fish is deceived by the bait and caught by the hook. By extension one must beware of an attractive offer, for it is very likely to hide a danger.

魚被食餌所欺騙而被魚鉤所釣取。

廣而言之，一個人必須小心誘人的施予，因為那裏很可能藏着危險。

34. Barking dogs seldom bite.

善吠之狗少咬人。

A person who makes many loud threats seldom carries them out.

Dogs that bark most, bite least.

一個人頻頻地大聲威嚇反而少見其付諸實行。叫得最多的狗最少咬人。

35. The beaten road is the safest.

踐踏過的路是最安全的。

This tells us not to take unnecessary risks. Profit from the experience of others.

這諺語告訴我們，不要冒不必要的險，應從別人的經驗中得益。

36. Beauty and folly are often companions.

美與蠢常共存。

Some beautiful women and girls, because they receive much praise and attention, behave foolishly.

有一些美麗的婦女與姑娘，因為她們受到很多讚美和注意，所以行事很愚蠢。

37. Beauty is but skin-deep.

美麗是膚淺的。

Beware of judging by appearances.

Beauty in a person is mainly a matter of outward appearances.

Character is more important than beauty.

謹防從外表作出判斷。

美麗對於一個人只是一種外部的表象。

品質是比美麗更重要的。

38. The best fish swim near the bottom.

最好的魚遨遊在水底。

This means that the best things are hard to come by.

意謂最好的東西是難以獲得的。

39. Best is cheapest.

最好的才是最便宜的。

A cheap article may soon wear out and have to be replaced by another, so it is usually wise to buy the best.

The price of goods of the best quality is high, but they last so long and give such good service that they are cheap in the long run.

一件便宜的東西會很快損壞，不得不換一件，所以買最好的東西往往是明智的。

質地好的東西價錢是高些，但它們既耐用又好用，所以從長遠來看，它們還是便宜的。

40. Better an egg today than a hen tomorrow.

今日的一個蛋勝於明天一隻母雞。

與54 “A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush”（一鳥在手勝於兩鳥在林）類同。

41. Better be a fool than a knave.

與其成惡棍，不如變傻瓜。

A knave, a wicked dishonest person, is likely to end in prison, so it is better to be a fool than a knave. A fool is guiltless, but a knave is evil.

一個惡棍、邪惡不道德的人，最終免不了坐牢，所以“與其成惡棍，不如變傻瓜”。一個傻瓜是無害的，但一個惡棍却是有害的。

42. Better be alone than in ill company.

寧可孤獨，也勝於與壞人爲伍。

It is better to be by yourself than with bad companions.

與不好的同伴在一起，不如自己一個人。

43. Better be born lucky than wise.

生來聰明不如生來好運。

Fatalists think that success depends more on luck than on wisdom.

宿命論者認爲：成功依靠幸運更甚於聰慧。

與368 “An ounce of luck is better than a pound of wisdom”（一盎司幸運勝於一磅的聰慧）類同。

44. Better be the head of a dog than the tail of a lion. (Better to rule in Hell than serve in Heaven.)

做狗頭勝於做獅尾。（在地獄做頭目勝過在天堂做僕役）

This means that it is better to hold a high position at a low level than to hold a low position at a high level.

這諺語意謂低級中之高位勝於高級中之低位。