

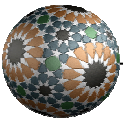
The odd and not so odd things people say

C A B U

Imagine if you had only ever learnt English from a textbook, and then somebody said to you, 'All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.' Would you tell them that your name is not Jack? If somebody said to you, 'it's six of one and half a dozen of the other, would you inform them that 6 and half a dozen are in fact the same thing! These sayings which we use all the time are called proverbs. They often state a general truth or give advice.

In the column on the left there are translations of Arabic proverbs. See if you can match them up to their English equivalents on the right hand side.

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| The camel limped from its split lip | Cut your coat according to your cloth |
| My brother and I against my cousin, My cousin and I against a stranger | A fish out of water |
| What is past is dead | A bad workman blames his tools |
| Haste is the devil's work and patience is from God the Merciful | As you make your bed, so you must lie on it |
| The son of a duck is a floater | Like father, like son |
| We taught them how to beg, they raced us to the gates | Every problem has a solution |
| Stretch your legs according to your quilt | Let bygones be bygones |
| A bird in the hand is better than ten on the tree | When the cat is away, the mice will play |
| He is like a deaf man at a wedding procession | Patience is a virtue |
| Every knot has someone to undo it | Blood is thicker than water |
| Let the water melons break each other! | A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush |
| He married the monkey for its money, the money went and the monkey stayed a monkey | Let them stew in their own juice |
| When the lions are away, the hyenas play | To beat someone at their own game |



See if you can guess what these Arabic proverbs mean and then make up English proverbs with a similar message

- ◆ Ask one who has experience rather than a physician
- ◆ He who has his hand in the water is not like him who has his hand in the fire
- ◆ Let it wound your heart rather than go out and cause a scandal
- ◆ In the eye of his mother, a monkey is a gazelle
- ◆ To you your religion and to me my religion
- ◆ He who plants thorns must never expect to gather roses
- ◆ One hand cannot applaud
- ◆ If the moon be with thee, thou needest not to care about the stars
- ◆ Even the entrails in the belly quarrel together
- ◆ The one-eyed person is a beauty in the country of the blind
- ◆ He left off sinning but never asked forgiveness
- ◆ The fool has his answer on the edge of his tongue
- ◆ The dirt of labour rather than the saffron of indolence
- ◆ Acquire learning and information even if they come from the mouths of cows
- ◆ A dog's tail never stands straight
- ◆ A fly is nothing yet it creates loathsomeness

