Proverbs

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

PRE-INTERMEDIATE | A2-B1

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Match each proverb with its practical meaning.

1 Better late than never.	____	a appearances may give the wrong impression
2 Practice makes perfect.	____	b think carefully before acting
3 Two heads are better than one.	____	c telling the truth is usually wisest
4 Easy come, easy go.	____	d determination helps you solve problems
5 Honesty is the best policy.	____	e regular training improves skill
6 Look before you leap.	____	f cooperation can produce better ideas
7 Where there's a will, there's a way.	____	g arriving or finishing late is better than not at all
8 Don't judge a book by its cover.	____	h things gained without effort may be lost quickly

2 Complete the key words in the proverbs.

book | heads | honesty | late | leap | perfect | way | easy

1 Better _____ than never.

2 Practice makes _____.

3 Two _____ are better than one.

4 Easy come, _____ go.

5 _____ is the best policy.

6 Look before you _____.

7 Where there's a will, there's a _____.

8 Don't judge a _____ by its cover.

3 Choose the proverb that gives suitable advice.

1 You finally sent the application after a delay: *Better late than never / Easy come, easy go*.

2 A beginner wants to improve at tennis: *Practice makes perfect / Don't judge a book by its cover*.

3 Two classmates solve a puzzle together: *Two heads are better than one / Honesty is the best policy*.

4 Your friend plans a risky purchase: *Look before you leap / Better late than never*.

5 A quiet new student may be very funny: *Don't judge a book by its cover / Easy come, easy go*.

6 Someone finds a wallet: *Honesty is the best policy / Practice makes perfect*.

7 The task is hard, but Mia keeps trying: *Where there's a will, there's a way / Look before you leap*.

8 Prize money disappears in one day: *Easy come, easy go / Two heads are better than one*.

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4 Complete the advice column with words from the box.

book | easy | heads | honesty | late | leap | perfect | way

Tom wants to join the school play but thinks he has missed his chance. Better **1** _____ than never! He should remember that practice makes **2** _____. Asking a friend to rehearse may help because two **3** _____ are better than one. He should be truthful about his experience: **4** _____ is the best policy. Still, the advice is to look before you **5** _____ and check the rehearsal times. Where there's a will, there's a **6** _____. The director should not judge a **7** _____ by its cover, and success that comes too **8** _____ may not last.

5 Read the text. Write T (true) or F (false).

Small lessons in short sentences

A proverb is a short, well-known saying that expresses advice or a general observation. People often use proverbs when a situation reminds them of a familiar lesson. The words are usually fixed, so changing them may sound strange. A proverb is not a scientific rule: Better late than never can encourage someone, but being late can still cause a problem. We should think about the context before using any proverb.

1 A proverb is usually a long story. T / F

2 Proverbs may express advice. T / F

3 Their wording is often fixed. T / F

4 Every proverb is a scientific rule. T / F

5 Being late never causes problems. T / F

6 Context matters when using a proverb. T / F

6 Rewrite using the proverb in capitals.

1 Working together may help us. **TWO HEADS** _____

2 Think carefully before deciding. **LOOK** _____

3 Regular training will improve your skill. **PRACTICE** ___

4 Do not decide from appearance alone. **COVER** _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a **70-90 word** message advising a friend about a problem. Include proverbs and explain why they fit.

[ ] Use at least three proverbs. [ ] Connect each proverb to the situation. [ ] Keep the advice friendly.

Proverbs

ANSWER KEY

1 Proverbs and meanings

1 **g** 2 **e** 3 **f** 4 **h** 5 **c** 6 **b** 7 **d** 8 **a**

2 Key words

1 **late** 2 **perfect** 3 **heads** 4 **easy** 5 **Honesty** 6 **leap** 7 **way** 8 **book**

3 Suitable advice

1 **Better late than never** 2 **Practice makes perfect** 3 **Two heads are better than one** 4 **Look before you leap** 5 **Don't judge a book by its cover** 6 **Honesty is the best policy** 7 **Where there's a will, there's a way** 8 **Easy come, easy go**

4 Advice column

1 **late** 2 **perfect** 3 **heads** 4 **honesty** 5 **leap** 6 **way** 7 **book** 8 **easy**

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 **F** 2 **T** 3 **T** 4 **F** 5 **F** 6 **T**

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 **Two heads are better than one.** 2 **Look before you leap.** 3 **Practice makes perfect.** 4 **Don't judge a book by its cover.**

Over to you: Answers will vary. Check accuracy, relevance and clarity of advice.