

A ***proverb*** is a wise saying or expression that is widely used. It states a basic or general truth and gives advice or a warning.


This proverb tells us if a person keeps moving from place to place, he will not have any friends or possessions.

**Examples of Proverbs**

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| **Proverb** | **Meaning** |
| Prevention is better than cure. | It’s better to try and prevent something before it happens. |
| Absence makes the heart grow fonder. | When you are away from someone, you miss them and love them more. |
| Time and tide will wait for no man. | Delaying something will not prevent it from happening. |
| All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. | Everyone needs time to relax. It’s not good to work all the time. |
| Variety is the spice of life. | Doing a lot of different things, makes life more interesting. |

An ***idiom*** is a group of words that when put together, has a figurative (not literal) meaning.

**For example**

Hit the sack.

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| https://mycyberwall.co.za/sites/default/files/content/english/Grade%206/Language/Proverbs/hit_the_sack.png |

The above idiom means 'to go to bed or sleep'.

 From the above, we can see that idioms are ***figurative expressions*** which alter or

 exaggerate the normal meaning of the words.

 An idiom is different to a proverb in that it does not offer any advice or a warning.

 Often an idiom does not make sense on its own, without seeing the rest of the text.

**Examples of Idioms**

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| **Idiom** | **Meaning** |
| In the bag | Something that is confirmed. |
| On the wrong foot | To start a relationship off badly. |
| Keep your chin up | Stay positive in a difficult situation. |
| Let sleeping dogs lie | Avoid bringing up an argument or problem again. |
| Pass the buck | Avoid responsibility or give it to someone else. |

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