

**A stitch in time  
saves nine**

**Actions speak  
louder than  
words**

**Don't count your  
chickens before  
they hatch**

**All that glitters  
is not gold**

**An idle mind is a  
devil's workshop**

**Strike while the  
iron is hot**

**One shouldn't  
miss the forest  
for the trees**



# **100 ESSENTIAL PROVERBS**

**COVERS 100 ESSENTIAL PROVERBS TO ACE  
PRIMARY SCHOOL COMPOSITIONS.  
EXERCISES + ANSWERS INCLUDED!**

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## Proverbs Set 15

No.	Proverb	meaning
1	<b>Where there's smoke there's fire</b>	If there are rumours or signs that something is true so it must be at least partly true
2	<b>Where one door shuts, another opens</b>	When you lose an opportunity to do one thing, an opportunity to do something else appears.
3	<b>While the cat's away, the mice will play</b>	Without supervision, people will do as they please, especially in disregarding or breaking rules.
4	<b>You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar</b>	It's easier to win people to your side by persuasion and politeness than by confrontation and threats.
5	<b>You can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink</b>	You can show people the way to do things, but you can't force them to act



## Proverbs Test 15.1

smoke	mice	door
honey		drink

1. Where there's \_\_\_\_\_ there's fire.
2. Where one \_\_\_\_\_ shuts, another opens.
3. While the cat's away, the \_\_\_\_\_ will play.
4. You can catch more flies with \_\_\_\_\_ than with vinegar.
5. You can lead a \_\_\_\_\_ to water but you can't make it drink.



## Proverbs Test 15.2

Drag or write the correct proverb on the right

Proverb	Sentence
<b>where there's smoke there's fire</b>	As soon as their parents left, the children invited all their friends over – 1. _____.
<b>where one door shuts, another opens</b>	Be nice to everyone and you can get more support. 2. _____.
<b>while the cat's away, the mice will play</b>	You can give someone an opportunity or show him how to succeed, but you can't force him to take the opportunity. 3. _____.
<b>You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar</b>	John was sad when he lost his job but he was offered an even better job opportunity. 4. _____.
<b>You can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink</b>	If unpleasant things are said about someone or something, there is probably a good reason for it 5. _____.



## Proverbs Set 16

No.	Proverb	meaning
1	<b>You can't always get what you want</b>	Sometimes you may face disappointments in your pursuits or your wishes may not be fulfilled.
2	<b>If it ain't broke, don't fix it</b>	If something works well, there's no point trying to change it.
3	<b>Make the best of a bad bargain.</b>	to deal with and create the best possible outcome of a bad situation.
4	<b>Desperate times call for desperate measures.</b>	Actions that might seem extreme under normal circumstances are appropriate during adversity.
5	<b>The calm (comes) before the storm.</b>	Turbulent times wait just around the corner when it is calm.



## Proverbs Test 16.1

broke

best

call

always

before

1. You can't \_\_\_\_\_ get what you want.

2. If it ain't \_\_\_\_\_, don't fix it.

3. Make the \_\_\_\_\_ of a bad bargain.

4. Desperate times \_\_\_\_\_ for desperate measures.

5. The calm (comes) \_\_\_\_\_ the storm.



## Proverbs Test 16.2

Drag or write the correct proverb on the right

Proverb	Sentence
<b>You can't always get what you want</b>	So long as they like our proposal let's not change it; if 1. _____.
<b>If it ain't broke, don't fix it</b>	I know you want to go to the toy store today, but 2. _____.
<b>Make the best of a bad bargain.</b>	Having no one to turn to, the bully resorted to asking help from the boy he despised. 3. _____.
<b>Desperate times call for desperate measures.</b>	The family's meeting on property dispute begins today and I'm just sitting down with a cup of coffee, enjoying 4. _____.
<b>The calm (comes) before the storm.</b>	My flight has been delayed, I decide to 5. _____ by taking a short nap.

