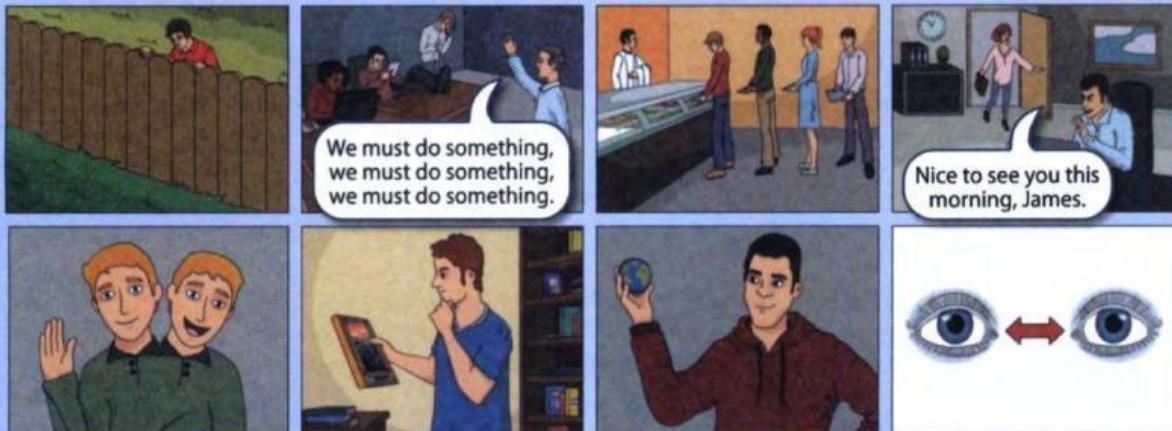


88 Sayings

Sayings are well-known phrases that express things about life that most people believe are wise and true. They are more common in spoken English.



Example

<i>Tonia still finds playing the piano difficult, but practice makes perfect.</i>	If you do sth repeatedly, you will become very good at it.
<i>I haven't heard from my son for weeks, but usually no news is good news.</i>	If you haven't had any news, then nothing has gone wrong, and things are probably fine.
<i>I know innocent people suffer in war, but sometimes the end justifies the means.</i>	Bad or unfair methods of doing sth are acceptable if the results of the action are good or positive.
<i>Are tickets available? ~ Yes, but it's first come, first served.</i>	people will be dealt with, served, seen, etc. in the order in which they arrive
<i>How's the course going? ~ So far, so good.</i>	used to say that things have been successful up until now, and you hope that will continue
<i>Can we come as well? ~ Of course. The more the merrier.</i>	the more people or things there are, the better the situation will be, or the more fun people will have
<i>Do you believe in an eye for an eye?</i>	used to say that you should punish sb by doing to them by what they did to you or sb else
<i>They finally turned up at 8.30, but better late than never.</i>	It is better to arrive late or achieve sth late, than not arrive or achieve sth at all.
<i>The mountain road is dangerous so go slowly – better safe than sorry.</i>	It is better to be careful than to take a risk or act too quickly and later regret it.
<i>I've always believed that prevention is better than cure.</i>	It is better to stop a problem before it occurs than let it happen and then have to do sth about it.
<i>I met two of your old flatmates today. It's a small world, isn't it?</i>	used to express your surprise when you are talking to sb and find out that you both know the same person
<i>They should actually do something. Actions speak louder than words.</i>	what a person does means more than what they say they will do
<i>Calvin is never satisfied. The grass is always greener on the other side (of the fence), you know.</i>	said about people who are never happy with what they have and always think other people have a better situation than them
<i>I know he doesn't look great but don't judge a book by its cover.</i>	You should not form an opinion about sb/sth from their/its appearance only.
<i>What they did to you was awful, but I don't think you should take revenge. Two wrongs don't make a right.</i>	used to say that if sb does sth bad to you, the situation will not be improved by doing sth bad to them
<i>I know it's not a great job, but beggars can't be choosers.</i>	used when there is no choice so sb should just accept what is available
<i>Could you help me with this? Two heads are better than one.</i>	used to say that two people can achieve more than one person working alone

1 Cover the opposite page and correct the mistakes.

- 1 So far, no good.
- 2 Two brains are better than one.
- 3 It's a little world.
- 4 First come are served.
- 5 Practice makes better.

- 6 No news is no news.
- 7 The more the happier.
- 8 Don't judge a book by the number of pages.

2 Which sayings are illustrated at the top of the opposite page?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8

3 Complete these sayings.

- 1 Better late than
- 2 Better safe than
- 3 No news is
- 4 The more
- 5 Practice makes

- 6 The end justifies
- 7 Two wrongs don't
- 8 Beggars can't
- 9 Prevention is
- 10 Don't judge a book

4 Use a suitable saying to respond to each of these situations.

- 1 I came down slowly – I didn't want to fall over. ~ Well,
- 2 He works on his English for three hours every day. ~ Well,
- 3 Shall we do the maths homework together? ~ Yes,
- 4 My son has been away for two months but hardly ever phones. ~ Well,
- 5 Do you think people should take revenge? ~ No, I don't believe in
- 6 How are you getting on now you're in London? ~ Well,
- 7 Gabi is never happy, is she? ~ No, I'm afraid with her the
- 8 They finally got here, but they missed the first part. ~ Well,
- 9 It's not a nice flat but it's all they can afford. ~ Well,
- 10 Can anyone go the exhibition? ~ Yes, but be quick. It's
- 11 If he steals my bag, I'll keep his phone. ~ Oh, come on.
- 12 If we stop giving a small number of people expensive drugs, we can actually treat more people and save more lives. ~ You're saying that the

5 ABOUT YOU Write answers to these questions, or talk to another student.

- 1 Are there any sayings on page 184 that you think are particularly true?

.....

- 2 Are there any sayings that you do not think are true?

.....

6 Here are six more sayings in English. Can you guess what they mean? See page 184 for answers.

- 1 Beauty is only skin-deep.
- 2 Love is blind.
- 3 Charity begins at home.
- 4 Put all your eggs in one basket.
- 5 Once bitten, twice shy.
- 6 Absence makes the heart grow fonder.

