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

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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. .....

TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS