


Fun With Proverbs

An activity of "My stuff: Tissue paper"

The article, "My stuff: Tissue paper" (page 22, *What's Up* August 2023), uses a proverb: "Necessity is the mother of invention". A proverb is a traditional sentence or phrase that offers life advice or a well-established truth. It is often possible to guess the meaning of a proverb from what it describes. For example, "necessity is the mother of invention" suggests that "necessity gives birth to invention" ⇒ when we must act, we somehow figure out what to do.

A. Complete the proverbs

Match the first half of each proverb with its second half. One has been done for you as an example.

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| 1. Actions speak louder ■ | ■ (a) a thousand words. |
| 2. A picture is worth ■ | ■ (b) but you can't make him drink. |
| 3. Birds of a feather ■ | ■ (c) never boils. |
| 4. Out of sight, ■ | ■ (d) flock together. |
| 5. You can lead a horse to water ■ | ■ (e) than words. |
| 6. Don't count your chickens ■ | ■ (f) prepare for the worst. |
| 7. Hope for the best, ■ | ■ (g) out of mind. |
| 8. A watched kettle (or pot) ■ | ■ (h) before they hatch. |
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B. Link their meanings

Match each proverb above with its meaning below.

Proverb	Meaning
	What you do is more important than what you say.
	People who are similar spend time together.
	An image can tell a story better than words.
8	If something takes time to happen, it doesn't help to constantly check on it.
	Don't be too sure about something before it actually happens.
	You can give good advice, but you can't force person to accept it or follow it.
	Always be optimistic about outcomes, but also be ready for the worst scenario.
	When something is not seen often, we might not remember it.

C. Use proverbs! Now that you have learnt about proverbs, keep an eye out for them when you read books or articles. Write them down in a notebook so that you can remember them and use them in your compositions.

