

# **Thesaurus Rewrites of Aphorisms and Proverbs**

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## **Course**

English 101

## **Description**

Develop new vocabulary to express commonly used aphorisms and sayings and the ability to “translate” unfamiliar terms that express common sayings back to the familiar forms.

## **Transferability**

This should be transferable to a wide range of disciplines. It will build vocabulary and provide experience in using the thesaurus and dictionary, as well as develop skills to analyze a short text. Such skills are useful in virtually any field using written or verbal expression, including the social sciences, literature and rhetoric, physical sciences, and other humanities courses.

## **Faculty Technology Skill**

This material can be taught without the use of any instructional technology, but the module as developed requires familiarity with the dictionary and thesaurus functions of standard full-featured word processing programs (especially *Microsoft Word*) and dictionaries and thesauruses available over the Internet.

## **Student Technology Skill**

The students will require basic skills in the technology levels used by the instructor, which, as stated above, can range from none to familiarity with using word processing dictionaries and thesauruses to the use of such materials on the Internet.

## **Faculty Equipment**

At the lowest level, equipment would consist of a good collegiate dictionary and a good thesaurus. At the next level, a computer and printer on which a standard word processing program is installed and running is required. At the high level, connection to the Internet is required; a high-speed connection would not be necessary, as text would be the primary material being downloaded.

## **Student Equipment**

Same as faculty equipment.

## **Cost**

No additional cost except at the high end, if an Internet connection is not considered standard. For a dial-up connection, the following is required: a modem for about \$30 plus installation, an Internet Service Provider Account for about \$22/month, and a phone line (if not shared with the instructor’s office phone, which is *not* recommended) for which cost will vary.

## **Improvement on Teaching and Learning**

By building vocabulary and reference skills, the module improves students’ ability to understand and assimilate virtually any written or verbal material (i. e., material expressed in words). At the higher levels of technology, the students will gain familiarity and comfort with useful tools (dictionaries and thesauruses built into their word processors or available online) that are otherwise not emphasized in most courses.

**Nontechnology Comparison**

The vocabulary skills and general concepts of using dictionaries and thesauruses can be learned using books. The complementary ability to use computer-based or online versions, which generally offer greater flexibility and range of options, requires the use of appropriate technology as described above.

**Pertinent Issues**

At the lowest technological level (books), nothing. At the second level (word processor), the faculty and student must have basic skills in using the software. Many students entering college already have these skills, and for those who don't, the level of skill required can be mastered in perhaps two to four class sessions. These skills include turning on the computer, starting the word processor program, the basics of entering text, and saving files. At the highest level (Internet), faculty and students should have basic skills at using an Internet connection, browser, and search engines. Students should also understand how to copy/paste text between programs (i.e., the browser and word processor) while editing. This might require an additional two class sessions.

## Thesaurus Rewrites of Aphorisms and Proverbs:

### Changed Aphorisms

1. Too many cooks spoil the broth.  
Too numerous chefs ruin the consommé.
2. You can't teach a old dog new tricks.  
One can't instruct an elderly canine in innovative behavior.
3. All that glitters is not gold.  
Each thing that sparkles is not bullion.
4. Every cloud has a silver lining.  
Each misty puff has a shiny inside layer.
5. A rolling stone gathers no moss.  
A undulating small rock collects no moss.
6. Where there's smoke, there's fire.  
Where smoldering is present, nearby there's combustion.
7. There is more than one way to skin a cat.  
There are additional methods to strip a feline.
8. Why buy the cow when you can get the milk for free?  
Why purchase the bovine when you can obtain the milk gratis?
9. Look before you leap.  
Peek before you jump.
10. Don't set the fox to guard the hen house.  
Don't put the vulpine to guard the chicken coop.
11. Love conquers all.  
Adoration and affection overcomes the whole.
12. A stitch in time saves nine.  
An embroidering in at the right moment avoids one less than ten.
13. A fool and his money are soon parted.  
An unwise person and his cash are almost immediately separated.
14. Don't cry over spilt milk.  
Don't whimper on account of spattered milk.
15. Easy come, easy go.  
Painlessly turn up, effortlessly depart.

16. If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen.  
In the condition that you cannot endure the high temperature, depart the food preparation area.
17. Don't put all your eggs in one basket.  
Don't place every one of your ovoids in a solitary woven container.
18. Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.  
Don't glimpse into the oral cavity of an offered equine.
19. You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.  
One can't manufacture a expensive fabric handbag from a pig's aural cavity.
20. You can catch more flies with honey than vinegar.  
One can capture more buzzing insects with sweet syrup than sour liquid.

### **Explanations of U.S. Aphorisms**

1. Too many people working on a project will interfere with each other and reduce the likelihood of success.
2. Older animals or people tend to find it harder to adapt to new requirements or situations.
3. Something may appear attractive or valuable, but that may be only a superficial characteristic and not indicate real value.
4. Even problems or misfortunes sometimes have aspects that can be used to advantage.
5. A person who stays busy in a variety of endeavors will not become bogged down by unnecessary impediments.
6. If there are obvious indications of trouble, there most likely *is* an underlying problem.
7. Most problems can be solved in more than one way.
8. If you can obtain the benefits of something cheaply, there is little reason to pay more just for the sake of ownership.
9. Plan and evaluate your options before making a major, expensive, or irrevocable commitment.
10. If you need to protect or conserve something, don't let those who are a threat be part of the protection.
11. Love and commitment will help you overcome obstacles.
12. Early precautions can eliminate a problem before it becomes more serious and expensive.

13. Foolish or ignorant people will make bad financial decisions, including falling for swindles.
14. It does no good to lament over something bad that has already occurred; better to move on and deal with the situation as it exists.
15. Things obtained without effort may not be valued, and are therefore likely to be ignored and lost.
16. Don't get involved in difficult situations unless you are prepared to make the sacrifices necessary to deal with them.
17. You shouldn't place all the emphasis on one opportunity; rather, diminish the chance of disaster by diversifying.
18. If someone gives you something for free, don't be critical of it.
19. You can't make something expensive and elegant out of something plain and down to earth.
20. It is easier to get what you want using enticement, rather than threats.

### **Proverbs from Afghanistan**

What you see in yourself is what you see in the world.  
There are twenty-five uncaught sparrows for a penny.  
Don't show me the palm tree, show me the dates.  
Only stretch your foot to the length of your blanket.  
No one says his own buttermilk is sour.

### **Proverbs from Albania**

The sun at home warms better than the sun elsewhere.  
If you fear God, you won't fear humans.  
He who hesitates, regrets.  
Don't put gold buttons on a torn coat.  
Patience is the key to paradise.

### **Proverbs from Argentina**

Children's love is like water in a basket.  
No woman can make a wise man out of a fool, but every woman can change a wise man into a fool.  
If you have a tail of straw, then keep away from the fire.  
A man who develops himself is born twice.  
A dog that barks all the time gets little attention.

### **Proverbs from Bosnia & Herzegovina**

A brave man seldom is hurt in the back.  
The eyes of all cheats are full of tears.  
When an ant gets wings, it loses its head.  
Two things rule the world—reward and punishment.  
Why would you use poison if you can kill with honey?

### **Proverbs from Brazil**

A wise man learns at the fool's expense.  
He who knows nothing, doubts nothing.  
The trees with most leaves will not necessarily produce juicy fruit.  
Between the beginning and the end, there is always a middle.  
You can only take out of a bag what was already in it.

### **Proverbs from China**

If you wish to know the mind of a man, listen to his words.  
Great souls have wills; feeble ones have only wishes.  
Habits are cobwebs at first; cables at last.  
Do not employ handsome servants.  
If a man fools me once, shame on him. If he fools me twice, shame on me.

### **Proverbs from Egypt**

Learn politeness from the impolite.  
When the angels present themselves, the devils abscond.  
False ambition serves the neck.  
A beautiful thing is never perfect.  
The barking of a dog does not disturb the man on a camel.

### **Proverbs from Ethiopia**

Advise and counsel him; if he does not listen, let adversity teach him.  
What one hopes for is always better than what one has.  
A single stick may smoke, but it will not burn.  
The frog wanted to be as big as the elephant, and burst.  
The witness of a rat is another rat.

### **Proverbs from Ghana**

No one tests the depth of the river with both feet.  
Hunger is felt by a slave and hunger is felt by a king.  
If there were no elephant in the jungle, the buffalo would be a great animal.  
If things are getting easier, maybe you're headed downhill.  
Only when you have crossed the river can you say the crocodile has a lump on his snout.

### **Proverbs from Iceland**

Mediocrity is climbing molehills without sweating.  
Useless wisdom is double foolishness.  
All old sayings have something in them.  
He who lives without discipline dies without honor.  
Everyone wants to live long, but no one wants to be called old.

### **Proverbs from India**

Life is a bridge. Cross over it, but build no house on it.  
A person consists of his faith. Whatever is his faith, even so is he.  
Don't bargain for fish that are still in the water.  
Call on God, but row away from the rocks.  
The cobra will bite you whether you call it cobra or Mr. Cobra.

### **Proverbs from Japan**

You can't see the whole sky through a bamboo tube.  
Time spent laughing is time spent with the gods.  
Vision with action is a daydream; action without vision is a nightmare.  
Fall seven times, stand up eight.  
Never rely on the glory of the morning or the smiles of your mother-in-law.

### **Proverbs from Kenya**

We have not inherited this land from our ancestors; rather we have borrowed it from our children.  
He who is unable to dance says the yard is stony.  
Nobody gathers firewood to roast a thin goat.  
Hurrying has no blessing.  
A donkey always says thank you with a kick.

### **Proverbs from Malaysia**

He who has learned how to steal, must learn how to hang.  
A fool is like the big drum that beats fast but does not realize its hollowness.  
To bend a bamboo, start when it is a shoot.  
Do not measure another man's coat on your body.  
The turtle lays thousands of eggs without anyone knowing, but when the hen lays an egg, the whole country is informed.

### **Proverbs from Mexico**

As you see yourself, I once saw myself; as you see me now, you will be seen.  
Never ask God to give you anything; ask Him to put you where things are.  
He who strikes first, strikes twice.  
It's not enough to know how to ride—you must also know how to fall.  
Envious persons never compliment; they only swallow.

### **Proverbs from Nigeria**

A man does not wander far from where his corn is roasting.  
The death that will kill a man begins as an appetite.  
The frog does not jump in the daytime without reason.  
The man being carried does not realize how far away the town really is.  
A tiger does not have to proclaim its tigritude.

### **Proverbs from Poland**

The greatest love is a mother's, then a dog's, then a sweetheart's.  
There are a thousand paths to every wrong.  
God grant me a good sword and no use for it.  
Even a clock that is not going is right twice a day.  
Under capitalism man exploits man; under socialism the reverse is true.

### **Proverbs from Russia**

There is no shame in not knowing; the shame lies in not finding out.  
Success and rest don't sleep together.  
For him who does not believe in signs, there is no way to live in the world.

Acknowledgement is half of correction.  
Pray to God, but keep rowing to the shore.

### **Proverbs from Saudi Arabia**

A book is a garden carried in the pocket.  
Fear not the man who fears God.  
A promise is a cloud; fulfillment is rain.  
A little and a little, collected together, becomes a great deal; the heap in the barn consists of single grains, and drop and drop makes an inundation.  
A friend is known when needed.

### **Proverbs from Thailand**

Bald people can always find a comb.  
Life is so short we must move very slowly.  
With one stump you can't make a good fire.  
Wait until the tree has fallen before you jump over it.  
At high tide the fish eat ants; at low tide the ants eat fish.

### **Proverbs from Turkey**

Even though you know a thousand things, ask the man who knows one.  
Having two ears and one tongue, we should listen twice as much as we speak.  
A person does not seek luck; luck seeks the person.  
Coffee should be black as Hell, strong as death, and sweet as love.  
Happiness is like crystal—when it shines the most, it soon cracks.

### **Proverbs from Zimbabwe**

If you can walk, you can dance. If you can talk, you can sing.  
Two experts never agree.  
We will be grateful to flowers only if they have born fruits.  
Whoever plows with a team of donkeys must have patience.  
A coward has no scar.