ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Proverbs MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 2

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Explanations

1. _____ repeats itself.
✔ **E) history**
The proverb is **History repeats itself**. It means that the same kinds of events happen again and again over time.

2. One of our classmates fell ill and was taken to the hospital. In three months, he was out and about but lagged behind the pupils with his studying. He asked many pupils to help him, but nobody came to his rescue except me. After that, we became friends.
✔ **E) A friend in need is a friend indeed.**
The story is about the only person who helped a classmate in a difficult time. **A friend in need is a friend indeed** means that a true friend is someone who helps you when you need help.

3. A man's best friend is his _____.
✔ **C) dog**
The saying is **A man's best friend is his dog**. It means that dogs are loyal and loving companions.

4. Lost time is _____.
✔ **B) never found again.**
The proverb is **Lost time is never found again**. It means that you cannot get back time you have wasted, so use it well.

5. Out of sight, out of _____.
✔ **E) mind**
The proverb is **Out of sight, out of mind**. It means that we soon forget people or things we no longer see.

6. Everything is _____.
✔ **C) good in its season**
The proverb is **Everything is good in its season**. It means that each thing is best at the right time.

7. My friend Ann is a very clever girl. She is quick in everything she does. She is not lazy. She always does everything in time. She doesn't like lazy people who always try to put off their work and she says _____.
✔ **D) Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today.**
Ann dislikes people who **put off** (delay) their work. **Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today** means: do your work now, don't delay it.

8. My mother loves my younger sister very much and the latter makes use of it. She always asks her to buy her nice dresses and sweets. My sister likes only to play and is a poor pupil. My sister is just a bad naughty girl. I say this because I always _____.
✔ **C) call a spade a spade**
The speaker says the plain truth about her sister, even though it is not nice. To **call a spade a spade** means to speak honestly and directly, without hiding the truth. Not **call the shots**, which means to be the person who makes the decisions.

9. - Hello, Ann! I haven't seen you for ages. Where have you been? - I've been to Moscow. I was there for a month and came back last week. I'm glad I'm at home. Which proverb fits Ann's feelings?
✔ **B) East or West, home is best.**
Ann says she is glad to be back home. **East or West, home is best** means that no place is as good as your own home. The other options are not proverbs.

10. Nobody expected them to part so suddenly. They loved each other and they were to get married. One day, he told her he was going to Italy on business. He stayed there for two years. Meanwhile, she completely forgot him and married Mr Black, a rich man.
✔ **D) Out of sight, out of mind.**
While he was away, she forgot him. **Out of sight, out of mind** means that we soon forget people we don't see.

11. Mother gave Ann some money. The girl wanted to go to the cinema very much; at the same time she wanted to buy a book, but there was not enough money for both. "I'll buy the book and go to the cinema next time I have money," she said.
✔ **C) You cannot eat your cake and have it.**
Ann cannot have both things, so she must choose one. **You cannot eat your cake and have it** means that you can't have two things when choosing one makes the other impossible.

12. _____ lose all.
✔ **B) Grasp all**
The proverb is **Grasp all, lose all**. It means that if you try to get too much, you may end up with nothing. Don't confuse **lose** (verb: no longer have) with **loose** (adjective: not tight).

13. What will the travellers say when they come safe to the end of their journey, having gone through many dangerous adventures?
✔ **E) All is well that ends well.**
The journey was dangerous, but it finished safely. **All is well that ends well** means that if the result is good, the problems along the way don't matter.

14. What would you say to a grumbling group-mate who is finding fault with everything around?
✔ **C) You must have got out of bed on the wrong side.**
To **get out of bed on the wrong side** means to be in a bad mood all day for no clear reason. It is what we say to someone who is grumbling and complaining about everything.

15. Your friend has been suffering from a bad toothache for a long time as he is afraid to go to the dentist. How would you urge him to overcome his fear?
✓ B) The devil is not so black as he is painted.
The devil is not so black as he is painted means that something is not as bad or frightening as people think. It encourages your friend to stop fearing the dentist. Not **A burnt child dreads the fire**, which explains fear instead of helping him overcome it.

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