ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Proverbs MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 3

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Explanations

1. A: It's risky to take an exam without reading the whole book. B: But it's my last chance. _____.
✔ **D) Sink or swim.**
Sink or swim means you must succeed or fail on your own, with no other choice. B has no other chance, so B must try and hope for the best. Not **Once bitten, twice shy**, which is about being careful after a bad experience.

2. A: You say this green dress doesn't suit me and I look dull in it. What about the blue one?

B: Oh, it's quite different. You must always wear it, you are lively in it.

A: You see, and my mother hates it. _____.
✔ **E) Tastes differ.**
Tastes differ means different people like different things. B loves the blue dress, but A's mother hates it, so people's opinions are not the same.

3. A: What kind of person is our director?

B: Can't make out. Neither kind nor strict. _____.
✔ **A) Neither fish nor flesh.**
Neither fish nor flesh describes someone or something that is hard to classify and has no clear character. The director is 'neither kind nor strict', so B can't say what kind of person he is.

4. _____, soonest mended.
✔ **E) Least said**
The proverb is **Least said, soonest mended**. It means that talking less about a problem or quarrel helps it get better more quickly.

5. When angry, _____.
✔ **E) count a hundred**
The proverb is **When angry, count a hundred**. It means you should calm down before you speak or act, so you don't say something you will be sorry for.

6. Many men, many _____.
✔ **C) minds**
The proverb is **Many men, many minds**. It means different people have different opinions. Not **thoughts**, because the fixed proverb uses **minds**.

7. Well begun is half _____.
✔ **B) done**
The proverb is **Well begun is half done**. It means a good start makes the rest of the job much easier.

8. East or West, _____ is best.
✔ **C) home**
The proverb is **East or West, home is best**. It means wherever you travel, your own home is the best place.

9. A bird in the hand _____.
✔ **A) is worth two in the bush**
The proverb is **A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush**. It means something small that you already have is better than something bigger that you might never get.

10. We have got two neighbours. One of them is a clever and polite man. He is an educated, cultured man. The other is rather selfish and stupid. He thinks he can buy everything as he is rich enough. He is a narrow-minded person. We don't like him.
✔ **E) Better short of pence than short of sense.**
Better short of pence than short of sense means it is better to have little money than to lack good sense. The rich neighbour has money but no sense, and nobody likes him. Not **Health is above wealth**, because the story is about intelligence, not health.

11. When faced with a difficult problem, it is better to consult other people.
✔ **B) Two heads are better than one.**
Two heads are better than one means two people thinking together can solve a problem better than one person alone. This matches the idea of asking other people for advice. Not **If you want a thing well done, do it yourself**, which says the opposite.

12. First catch your _____, then cook it.
✔ **A) hare**
The proverb is **First catch your hare, then cook it**. A **hare** is an animal like a big rabbit. The proverb means don't make plans for something before you actually have it. Not **hair** or **heir**, which sound the same but have different meanings.

13. A stitch in time _____.
✔ **A) saves nine**
The proverb is **A stitch in time saves nine**. It means that fixing a small problem early saves a lot of work later.

14. Mr Smith was rather lazy. He didn't like to work hard and always spared himself. He was sure that his father would support him all his life. But his father died and Mr Smith had a miserable life.
✔ **C) No sweet without sweat.**
No sweet without sweat means you can't have a good life or a good result without hard work. Mr Smith didn't want to work, so his life became miserable. Not **As the tree, so the fruit**, which is about children being like their parents.

15. It was raining very hard. A lot of people were standing at the bus stop and were sorry they had not taken their umbrellas with them. But one man among them was cheerful and pleased. He always repeated, "The harder it rains the better I like it." Asked why he was happy with the rain, he answered: _____

✓ **E) One man's meat is another man's poison.**

One man's meat is another man's poison means something that is bad for one person can be good for another. The rain makes the other people unhappy, but this man likes it.

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