ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Proverbs MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 4

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1	C	2	A	3	A	4	E	5	D	6	D	7	B	8	A				

Explanations

1. - What time do you get up on Sundays?

- About half-past six.

- Why so early?

- I get up at that time on week-days, and _____, you know.
✔ C) custom is a second nature
The speaker gets up early on Sunday only because he is used to doing it on weekdays. **Custom is a second nature** means that a habit becomes as natural to us as something we were born with.

2. Mr Brown was the owner of our local newspaper. He was a good and clever man but he had the habit of talking to himself all the time. One day, my friend came and asked him why he did that. "Well, there are two reasons," he said. "First, I like to hear a wise man speak; secondly, when I speak, it is a pleasure to have an intelligent audience."
✔ A) Hear much, speak little.
The story is about speaking and listening. Mr Brown jokes that he talks only to himself because he is the only wise speaker and the only intelligent listener. **Hear much, speak little** is the proverb about talking and listening, and it makes fun of his behaviour.

3. Some people use fine words when they talk about what they have done, but their actions may be quite different and not at all fine.
✔ A) Fine words dress ill deeds.
Fine words dress ill deeds means that people can use nice words to hide bad actions. This matches the description of people who talk well about what they did, but whose actions were not good.

4. A man mustn't think that his task is too difficult before he begins doing it.
✔ E) Don't cross the bridge before you come to it.
Don't cross the bridge before you come to it means don't worry about problems before they actually happen. Here, it means you shouldn't decide a task is too difficult before you start it.

5. Still waters run _____.
✔ D) deep
The proverb is **Still waters run deep**. It means that quiet people often have strong feelings or a lot of knowledge hidden inside.

6. Be slow to promise and _____.
✔ D) quick to perform
The full proverb is **Be slow to promise and quick to perform**. It means think carefully before you promise, but do what you promised quickly. **Slow** and **quick** are opposites, so the two halves balance.

7. - I am lucky today; your turn will come later on. Tomorrow our positions may be reversed.

- Yes, _____
✔ B) Every dog has his day.
Every dog has his day means that everyone gets a lucky or successful moment at some time. That matches "your turn will come later on". Not **Everything is good in its season**: that proverb is about the right time for things, not about luck coming to everyone.

8. If you _____ to be a friend, never borrow, never _____.
✔ A) want / lend
This is a general truth, so we use the present simple after **if**: **If you want**. After **never** in an instruction we use the base form: **never borrow, never lend**. Not **lent**: that is the past form, and it can't follow **never** in an instruction.

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