

:: Fun with English proverbs ::

Are you ready?
Let us continue with **C**

Catch your bear before you sell its skin
不要對尚無把握的事情過份樂觀

This proverb teaches us that we should not be too optimistic about something happening, and we should wait until it does before we celebrate.

For example: Little Johnny has just finished his English examination and he wants a celebration right after the examination because he believes that he will surely get 100. His mother advises him and said: 'Oh, Johnny, you should catch your bear before you sell its skin.'

Charity begins at home
推己及人

This proverb reminds us that if we want to be kind, generous and charitable to other people, we should first take care of ourselves and our family.

For example: Fanny spends most of her time helping people but she neglects her own family. Her best friend reminds her and said: 'Charity begins at home.'

Cleanliness is next to godliness
愛潔僅次於敬神

This proverb means that keeping ourselves clean, neat and tidy is just as important as being spiritually good.

For example: Lily is a Catholic and she goes to church every weekend. However, she always wears untidy clothes. So right after the religious ceremony, the priest told her: 'You should keep yourselves tidy because cleanliness is next to godliness.'



Don't count chickens before they are hatched

不要過早打如意算盤

This proverb is usually expressed as a caution. People may assume that having ten eggs means having ten chickens. However, they should only count the chicken after they are hatched.

For example: Rosa thinks she may be employed by the company - but maybe not. She said: 'I don't want to count my chickens before they are hatched, so I'll just wait and see.'

Cry for the moon

癩蛤蟆想吃天鵝肉

Have you ever seen a dog sitting outside staring up at the sky? If that's the case, it may be making a request for something that is impossible to obtain.

For example: Vivian's wish is to have a world without natural disasters. One evening, right after the news report reporting about the earthquake in China, she said: 'I often think that my wish to have a world without natural disasters is like crying for the moon.'