

Fun with English proverbs

Let us continue with **N**.
Are you ready?

01 **Necessity is the mother of invention.** 需要是發明之母

This proverb means that when in inconvenient or difficult situations, people may get inspired to invent things which are useful and bring solutions to their lives.

Example: *Mr Thomas Edison invented the light bulb because he had trouble seeing in the dark. He said, 'I made this great invention because I need it. Necessity is the mother of invention.'*

02 **Never say die.** 永不言敗

This saying encourages people to have faith, keep trying and never give up.

Example: *Liz failed the driving test this morning and she wanted to give up. Her mother encouraged her and said, 'Liz, never say die, I'm sure you can do better next time.'*

03 **A new broom sweeps clean.** 新官上任三把火

This saying means that when someone is new to a position of management, he/she may make radical changes because he/she often views and handles things different than the predecessor.

Example: *Jonas is working in a new department and is now busy with the project on new office regulations. His staff said, 'Our new boss is trying to make changes here, I absolutely agree that a new broom sweeps clean.'*

04 **Not for all the coffee in Brazil.** 絕對不答應

This proverb is used when someone wants to give others a positive and irrefutable 'NO'!

Example: *Mary's friend is addicted in gambling and has borrowed a large amount of money from her. Yesterday, her friend asked her for money again. Mary replied, 'No, no, a thousand times, no! I won't lend you money. Not for all the coffee in Brazil!'*



The frightening operation

A patient was shouting loudly while running out from the surgery room. The Chief Executive happened to pass by and asked the patient, "Hello, sir, is there anything I can do for you?" The patient answered, "The nurse just said, 'Don't worry! Be brave! Appendix surgery is a simple operation.'" The Chief Executive made a prompt reply, "Yes, absolutely! The nurse is not lying to you!" The patient shouted, "Oh, but the nurse was talking to the surgeon!"

Expectation

An angry tourist complained to the tour guide regarding the hotel room, "Oh! Something terrible happened last night. A group of mice were fighting in my room while I was sleeping!"

The tour guide responded calmly, "Oh, I see. However, what entertainment do you expect to be offered at such a cheap room price? A bull-fight?"

A favour

An old woman approached a young man in the post office, and asked politely, "Sir, could you please help me write an address on this postcard?"

"Yes, why not?" The young man did as he was asked.

"Thank you very much!" The old woman continued, "And, could you write down a few sentences for me, please?"

"Yes, sure!" The young man did as he was asked. After he had finished, he asked the old woman, "Anything else?"

The old woman looked at the postcard and said, "Please add a sentence at the end - Sorry for the poor handwriting!"

