

Ireland, Not Only About St. Patrick's Day

PROVERBS

Ex.1. Speaking

A face without freckles is like a sky without stars

A proverb is a short and clever saying in that expresses a basic truth or a practical fact. Read the proverb above and think about what it means.

1. Do you know what freckles are? Do you know anybody who has freckles?
2. Have you ever made fun of anybody with freckles (or red hair, or glasses, or anything else that made them different)?
3. Why do you think somebody wrote this proverb?

Ex.2. Reading

The Irish people have many proverbs, blessings, sayings, and curses. Below you will find just ten of them. Fill in the missing word in each one from the list below. Then match the proverb with its possible meaning at the bottom of the page. The first one has been done for you.

Missing words: **castle world father mouth fire day wife life wisdom mind**

1. "There are only two kinds of people in the world, The Irish and those who wish they were."
2. "You've got to do your own growing, no matter how tall your _____ was."
3. "It is often that a person's _____ broke his nose."
4. "It is better to be a coward for a minute than dead for the rest of your _____."
5. "A son is a son till he takes him a _____. A daughter is a daughter all of her life."
6. "A cabin with plenty of food is better than a hungry _____."
7. "He who thinks of tomorrow can wait till this _____ is done."
8. "_____ is the comb given to a man after he has lost his hair."
9. "You'll never plough a field by turning it over in your _____."
10. "A little _____ that warms is better than a big fire that burns."

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Ex.3. Reading

Match the proverb with its possible meaning below.

- A. Thinking about doing something is not the same thing as doing it.
- B. What you say can get you in trouble.
- C. It's better to be safe than sorry.
- D. You have to take responsibility for your own life.
- E. Women are more attached to their parents.
- F. Enjoy what you are doing today instead of planning what you will be doing in the future.
- G. Bigger doesn't always mean better.
- H. ~~It's great to be Irish!~~
- I. Don't be greedy.
- J. Sometimes we have to learn from our mistakes.

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Teacher's Notes

You may want to start the lesson by pre-teaching some of the words:

freckles	coward
wisdom	to grow
mind	to comb
no matter	to plough

Answer Key

1. world H
2. father D
3. mouth B
4. life C
5. wife E
6. castle G
7. day F
8. wisdom J
9. mind A
10. fire I

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