

听力文本:

Now, the VOA Special English program WORDS AND THEIR STORIES.

Today we talk about **proverbs**. A proverb is a short, well known saying that expresses a common truth or belief. Proverbs are found in most cultures and are often very old.

In American history, Benjamin Franklin was famous for his proverbs. Franklin lived in the seventeenth hundreds. He was a leader of the American Revolution against English rule. He was also a scientist, inventor and writer.

For many years, Franklin published a book called "Poor Richard's Almanac." He included many proverbs that he had heard or created. Some of them are still used today. Like this one: "Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise."

Franklin is also remembered for other proverbs like, "A penny saved is a penny earned." This means that money should not be wasted.

Here are other examples of proverbs that Americans use. The first ones are about love. Some people say, "All is fair in love and war." They mean that anything you do in a relationship or in battle is acceptable.

Another proverb about love is, "Absence makes the heart grow **fonder**." This means you love someone even more when he or she is far away.

But other people say, "Out of sight, out of mind." You may not even think about that person when he or she is not with you. Which of these proverbs do you think is most

true?

Another proverb says "Love is blind." In other words, when you are in love with someone, you may refuse to see anything bad about that person.

Here is another popular saying about love: "The way to a man's heart is through his stomach." Some people believe that a woman can win a man's love if she prepares his favorite foods.

Some people are only interested in having a relationship with someone who is very good-looking. You might tell them that "Beauty is only **skin deep**." Your girlfriend may be lovely to look at, but she may also have some bad qualities. Or the opposite may be true. Your boyfriend is a wonderful person, but not good-looking. So what a person looks like is not really important.

Another proverb is true in love and war or other situations: "Actions speak louder than words." It means that what you do is more important than what you say.

Sadly, we have no more time for this program. So we must say, "All good things must come to an end."

(MUSIC)

This VOA Special English program was written by Shelley Gollust. I'm Barbara Klein. Tell us about your favorite proverb. You can send an e-mail to special@voanews.com. Include your name and where you live. And you can find more WORDS AND THEIR STORIES at 51voa.com.

注：文本引自51VOA

译文和讲解部分为可可原创，未经许可请勿转载

词汇解释:

1.proverb n.谚语，俗语，格言

The proverb tells us to emulate the industry of the ant.
这格言告诉我们要效法蚂蚁的勤勉。

2.fond adj.溺爱的, 喜欢的, 愚蠢的, 渴望的

He was fond of drawing when he was a child.
他还是个孩子时就喜欢画画。

3.skin-deep adj.肤浅的, 外表上的

His political commitment is only skin-deep.
他政治上的承诺只是表面文章。

参考译文:

这里是美国之音慢速英语“成语典故”栏目。

今天我们来谈论谚语，谚语是一种简短而又广为人知的习语，表达一种普遍的真理或信条。谚语存在于多种文化中，通常由来已久。

在美国历史上，本杰明富兰克林就以谚语而著称。富兰克林生活在18世纪，他是反对英国统治的美国革命的领导人，还是一位科学家、发明家和作家。

富兰克林用很多年时间编写了一本书，名为《穷查理年鉴》，他收纳了自己听说或创造的谚语，其中一些到今天还在用，比如“早睡早起,使人健康、富有、明智。”

富兰克林还以其他谚语著称，比如“省钱就是赚钱”，意思是不能乱花钱。

还有美国人用的其他谚语，第一个就是关于爱的，有人说，“情场战场，不择手段”，意思是情场和战争上的一切事都是可以接受的。

另一条关于爱的谚语是，“久别情更浓”，意思是当你爱的人在远方时，你会更爱这个人。但也有人会说，“眼不见心不烦”，当某人不在身边时，你可能根本就想不起这个人来。那么，你认为哪条谚语说得更对呢？

另一条谚语是“爱情是盲目的”，也就是说，当你爱着某人的时候，你根本就看不到这人的

坏处。

还有一个关于爱的流行说法，“要想抓住男人的心，就要抓住他的胃。”有的人认为，女人为男人做他最爱的食物，就能赢得他的心。

有的人只喜欢和外貌好看的人交朋友，你就可以告诉他们，“美色是肤浅的”。你女朋友可能看起来比较可爱，但她可能有些不好的品质。或者长得不可爱，但品质好。你男朋友是个不错的人，就是长得不帅。所以，人的外表不是很重要。

另一个谚语在情场和战场上都很适用，“行动胜过语言”，意思是做比说更重要。

很遗憾，节目就要结束了，我们得说，“天下无不散之筵席”。

原文地址: <http://www.kekenet.com/broadcast/201203/173962.shtml>