

THINK OUTSIDE THE proverb!

**A-LEVEL
LESSON PLAN**



Express Publishing

OBJECTIVE

- To complete the well-known proverbs and draw a relevant picture.
- Students will develop the following skills:
 - **Creative Expression** – Encouraging original interpretations of well-known proverbs to promote divergent thinking.
 - **Collaboration & Communication** – Engaging in pairwork to exchange ideas, refine thoughts, and provide constructive feedback before individual tasks.
 - **Vocabulary Building** – Expanding students' word knowledge through exposure to proverbs, essential vocabulary, and contextual learning.
 - **Interpretative Skills** – Strengthening students' ability to understand and convey deeper meanings through words and visuals.

TOTAL DURATION: 80 MINUTES

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

1. Download and print one worksheet per student.
2. Download and prepare relevant materials, e.g. cards etc.
3. Ensure each student has colourful markers and crayons.

PRE-TASK

(DURATION: 10 MINUTES)

WORK AS A CLASS

1. Tell students that they will be taking part in an exciting international contest, competing with students from all over the world! Their task is to complete well-known proverbs in a creative way and illustrate their meaning. Ten winners will be selected, and they will receive gift cards as a reward. Inform students that the winning drawings will be turned into stickers, which Express Publishing will share with people from over 130 countries.
Encourage students to do their best and have fun with the challenge!
2. Ask the class if they know what a **proverb** is. Then, explain that a proverb is a short, well-known saying that gives advice. It's often a simple and easy way to understand a lesson about life. For example, "**Better late than never**" means that it's better to do something late than not do it at all.
3. Encourage students to share any famous proverbs they know, either in English or their first language (L1).
4. Introduce the new vocabulary to the students:

Grass /gra:s/

Greener /'gri:nə/

Build /bɪld/

Rome /rəʊm/

5. Check understanding by asking students to make sentences with the words.

(DURATION: 15 MINUTES)
WORK IN GROUPS

**THE FIRST
HALF
OF THE
“proverb”**

1. Divide the class in groups of three.
2. Give each student a different proverb card and ask them to work together to create a story (around 50 words) using all three proverbs.
3. Encourage them to use the following prompt structure:
WHEN, WHERE, WHAT, WHO questions to complete their story.

For example:

1st proverb: “Rome wasn’t built...”

2nd proverb: “The grass is always greener...”

3rd proverb: “When one door closes,...”

Show on Board:

Story Example:

One autumn evening, in a small warm bookshop in London, Emily was feeling sad. Her shop was not doing well. There was only one customer in there, but he wasn’t buying anything. Her mentor smiled and said, “Rome wasn’t built ...”.

“Emily looked at another shop that was doing better and felt jealous. But her mentor said, “The grass is always greener ...”.

The customer left, and Emily felt even sadder. Just then, a new customer came in. He bought five books! Her mentor said, “When one door closes, ...”.

4. Assist them in overcoming any vocabulary challenges.
5. Check the progress by asking each group to share their story with you.
6. Finally, gather the cards.

THINK OUTSIDE THE “proverb”

(DURATION: 15 MINUTES)
WORK INDIVIDUALLY

1. Distribute the worksheets.
2. At this point, explain that the three proverbs provided are actually the first halves of well-known proverbs.
3. Ask students to complete the proverbs with their own words and write their versions on the left side of the worksheet. Encourage them to add a creative twist to each proverb or use the variations from the story for inspiration.
4. Concept-Checking Questions:
 - What are you going to complete? (answer: a proverb)
 - What are we going to do with well-known proverbs? (answer: think outside the proverb and give our own twists)
5. Monitor & Support: Walk around and assist students with any vocabulary they want to use but are unsure of, providing guidance and suggestions as needed.
6. After they have completed this part, ask students to complete their personal details on the worksheet.

(DURATION: 20 MINUTES)
WORK INDIVIDUALLY

DRAW THE “proverb”

1. Once students have completed their proverbs, instruct them to think about how they could visually represent the message of one of them.
2. Students will draw an illustration of one chosen proverb.
 - Remind them to focus on the core idea and emotions conveyed by their words.
 - Encourage creativity in using symbols, characters, or any visual metaphor.

3. Monitor & Support: Provide ideas for students who might need help translating their ideas into drawings.

REVEAL THE proverb

(DURATION: 20 MINUTES)
WORK IN GROUPS

1. Ask the students who have chosen to draw the proverb "The grass is always greener" to raise their hands.
2. Ask this group of students to come forward and silently act out the meaning of their assigned proverb using pantomime. For example, if their proverb was "The early bird catches the worm," they might mime waking up early, being a bird, finding a worm, and eating - all without speaking. The rest of the class should try to guess the proverb based on their actions.
3. Apply the same approach to the remaining two proverbs.

Scan the worksheets along with the submission form and forward them to epcompetitions@expresspublishing.co.uk.

All submissions must be accompanied by clear scanned pictures of the students' worksheets.

Evaluation Criteria:

Inform students that their submissions will be judged based on the following criteria:

- Creativity and originality of the design and the proverb.
- Clarity of the drawing and how well it matches the proverb.



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The grass is always greener

Rome wasn't built

When one door closes,

STUDENT'S WORKSHEET

A LEVEL

STUDENT'S NAME:

SCHOOL NAME:

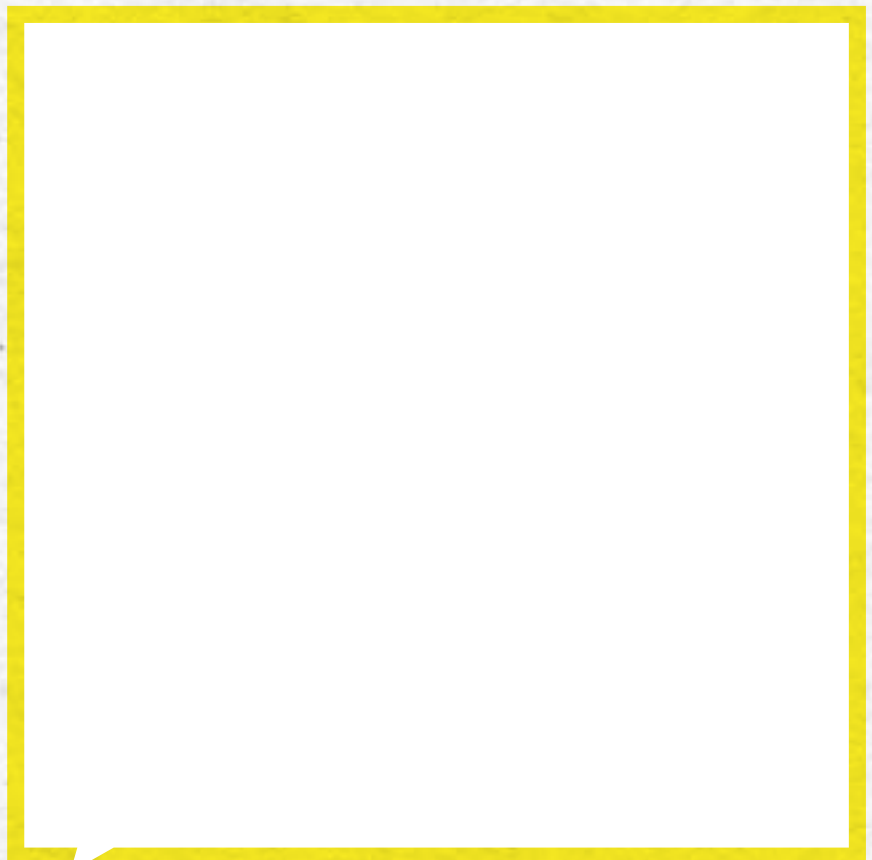
My proverb is...

"The grass is always greener

"Rome wasn't built

"When one door closes,

My proverb's drawing is ...



What did you learn?

.....

.....

.....

What did you enjoy most?

.....

.....

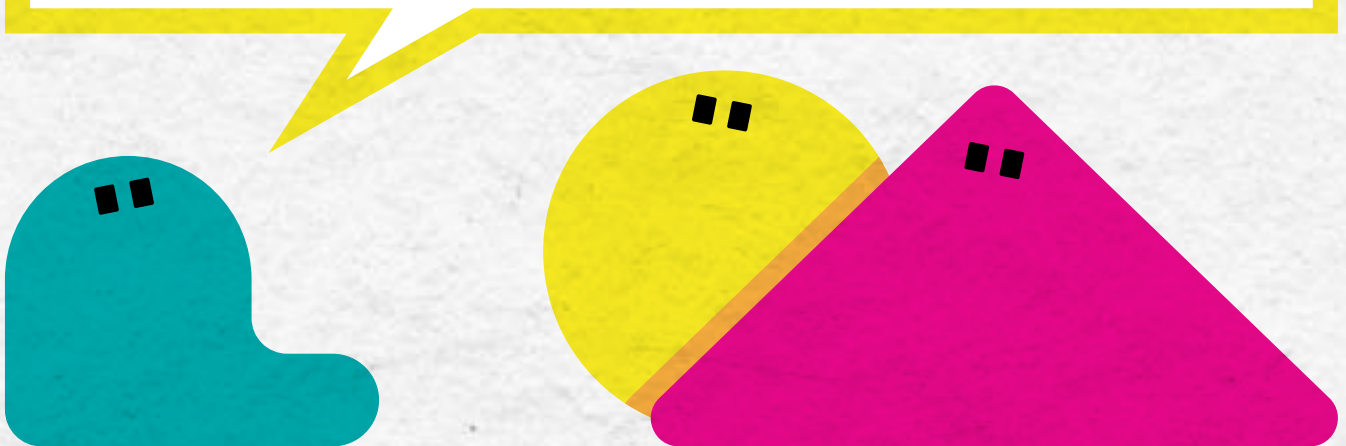
.....

What would you do differently next time?

.....

.....

.....



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The grass is always greener

Rome wasn't built

When one door closes,

SUBMISSION FORM



PLEASE COMPLETE A SEPARATE SUBMISSION FORM FOR EACH LEVEL.

SCHOOL NAME

.....

GRADE

- ☐ YOUNG LEARNERS
☐ A LEVEL
☐ B LEVEL
☐ C LEVEL

TEACHER

.....

TOTAL NUMBER OF ENTRIES

.....

Submission forms must be accompanied by at least one high-resolution photo of each participant's scanned worksheet. Send entries to epcompetitions@expresspublishing.co.uk.

**WINNERS WILL BE NOTIFIED ON JUNE 5, 2025.
STAY TUNED AND GOOD LUCK!**

