

Proverbs and Adages:

What's The Meaning?

Proverbs and adages are short sayings that state a truth or give simple advice. Below are common proverbs and adages. These are more complicated in their meanings. Explain what they mean in your own words.

1. If it's not broken, don't fix it.

2. Penny wise, pound foolish.

3. Haste makes waste.

4. It's an ill wind that blows no good.

5. Ignorance is bliss.

6. A miss is as good as a mile.

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Answers: Student's answers will vary, but should reflect the following:

1. If it's not broken, don't fix it.

Don't come up with solutions to problems that don't exist.

2. Penny wise, pound foolish.

Someone can be careful about the small things, but wasteful or foolish about large things.

3. Haste makes waste.

Doing something quickly can cause mistakes.

4. It's an ill wind that blows no good.

Something must be really bad if nothing good comes from it; or something good can come from a bad situation.

5. Ignorance is bliss.

You may be happier not knowing something.

6. A miss is as good as a mile.

It doesn't matter if you fail by a little bit or a lot, you still failed.
