



Relationship advice and proverbs

What advice would you give these people?

1. A distant relation is coming to visit my city and expects me to meet up with them, but a friend's birthday party is on the same day.
2. My fiancé has been offered a place on an MBA in America for a year.
3. My boyfriend wants to move into my flat.
4. I had a fling with a colleague.
5. Everyone dislikes one of my friends.
6. My friends and family always give me different advice about my love life.
7. I quite like my boyfriend but I have a crush on someone at work.
8. My future in-laws seem to be involved in something illegal
9. I'm not sure about marrying my fiancé, but I'm nearly forty and losing my looks

Useful language

If I were you...

Someone once told me...

In that situation, I always say/ my mother always says...

As the saying goes, ...

Which of the situations above could be answered with one of these proverbs? Not all of them match, and there might be several matches for some

- A) Familiarity breeds contempt.
- B) There is no better mirror than an old friend
- C) Beggars can't be choosers
- D) Absence makes the heart grow fonder
- E) Out of sight, out of mind
- F) A man who seeks a perfect friend will remain friendless.
- G) A man is known by the company he keeps
- H) Blood is thicker than water
- I) The enemy of my enemy is my friend.
- J) A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
- K) The way to a man's heart is through his stomach
- L) When the cat's away, the mice will play
- M) The apple doesn't fall far from the tree

What do all the proverbs above mean?

Which ones do you agree and disagree with?

Do you have similar ones in your own language?

What are your favourite proverbs, in your own language and in English?



Suggested answers

1. A distant relation is coming to visit my city and expects me to meet up with them, but a friend's birthday party is on the same day. – Blood is thicker than water (H)
2. My fiancé has been offered a place on an MBA in America for a year. – Absence makes the heart grow fonder (D) and Out of sight, out of mind (E)
3. My boyfriend wants to move into my flat. – Familiarity breeds contempt (A)
4. I had a fling with a colleague. – Familiarity breeds contempt (A)
5. Everyone dislikes one of my friends.- A man who seeks a perfect friend will remain friendless (F) or A man is known by the company he keeps (G)
6. My friends and family always give me different advice about my love life. – There is no better mirror than an old friend (B)
7. I quite like my boyfriend but I have a crush on someone at work.- A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush (J)
8. My future in-laws seem to be involved in something illegal – The apple doesn't fall far from the tree (M)
9. I'm not sure about marrying my fiancé, but I'm nearly forty and losing my looks – A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush (J) or Beggars can't be choosers (C)