Dictionary of Authentic American Proverbs

Wolfgang Mieder

Dictionary of Authentic American Proverbs

Dictionary of Authentic American Proverbs

Wolfgang Mieder

berghahn
NEW YORK • OXFORD
www.berghahnbooks.com

First published in 2021 by
Berghahn Books
www.berghahnbooks.com

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Mieder, Wolfgang, compiler editor.
Title: Dictionary of Authentic American Proverbs / Wolfgang Mieder.
Description: New York: Berghahn Books, 2021. | Includes bibliographical references.
Identifiers: LCCN 2021032951 (print) | LCCN 2021032952 (ebook) | ISBN 9781800731318 (hardback) | ISBN 9781800731325 (ebook)
Subjects: LCSH: Proverbs, American.
Classification: LCC PN6426 .D54 2021 (print) | LCC PN6426 (ebook) | DDC 398.90973/03--dc23
LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2021032951
LC ebook record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2021032952

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-1-80073-131-8 hardback
ISBN 978-1-80073-132-5 ebook

Contents

Preface

Five decades ago I began my career as a professor of German and folklore at the University of Vermont in Burlington. While my scholarly work has included cultural, folkloric, and literary studies, I have concentrated throughout these years on the multifaceted aspects of proverb studies or paremiology, as the international field of proverb research is called. Being a German American, my publications have been equally divided in contributions written in German and English. However, since proverbs are an international phenomenon, I have enjoyed expanding my work beyond the German and Anglo-American proverbial traditions. It has thus been a special honor for me to serve proverb scholars and students throughout the world since 1984 in my role as founding editor of *Proverbium: Yearbook of International Proverb Scholarship*, which is published at the University of Vermont. In order to inform paremiologists and scholars from many academic disciplines of what has been achieved in proverb studies, I published the *International Bibliography of Paremiology and Phraseology* (2009), whose massive two volumes contain over ten thousand entries with annotations in numerous languages. The *Proverbium* volumes keep this rich bibliographical information current with over four hundred new publications listed each year.

Since, as a folklorist and paremiologist, I have worked in the United States for so many years, it should not be surprising that much of my own work has dealt with proverbs in the English language. The results of my labors can be seen in such books as *Proverbs Are Never Out of Season: Popular Wisdom in the Modern Age* (1993), *The Politics of Proverbs: From Traditional Wisdom*

to Proverbial Stereotypes (1997), *"Proverbs Speak Louder Than Words": Folk Wisdom in Art, Culture, Folklore, History, Literature, and Mass Media* (2004), and *Behold the Proverbs of a People: Proverbial Wisdom in Culture, Literature, and Politics* (2014). There is also my book *Proverbs: A Handbook* (2004), which is intended to serve as a scholarly introduction to paremiology and paremiography (collections of proverbs) based on primarily Anglo-American materials. Some additional books of mine carry the word "American" in the title—to wit, *American Proverbs: A Study of Texts and Contexts* (1989), *Proverbs Are the Best Policy: Folk Wisdom and American Politics* (2005), and *"Right Makes Might": Proverbs and the American Worldview* (2019). And to be sure, there is also *A Dictionary of American Proverbs* (1992) that I edited with the help of my friends Stewart A. Kingsbury and Kelsie B. Harder. It lists over fifteen thousand proverbs with historical references, and it is a book that I am to this day quite proud of as an immigrant to this country.

However, the books that I have mentioned and dozens of scholarly investigations and proverb collections that are listed in two extensive bibliographies at the end of the present book do *not* differentiate among proverbs of British or American origin! It is for this reason that I have spent many years trying to find out which proverbs can claim to have grown on American soil. This involves detailed work on hundreds of individual proverbs trying to find their first recorded reference. Proverb collections with historical dates are of much help, and today various databases on the Internet make this search ever more possible. This has enabled me to publish my newest book on *The Worldview of Modern American Proverbs* (2020) as the first comprehensive study based on proverbs that are indeed of American origin. The present proverb collection goes a step further in registering proverbs that were coined in North America between the seventeenth and twenty-first centuries. For 1500 proverbs I have tried to establish the earliest date of origin in this country. Where necessary or of special interest,

I have added short explanatory notes. Scholarly humility together with a reality check lead me to mention the following caveat: while most of the dates and explanatory comments are solidly established, it will doubtlessly be possible with further research and more available electronic databases to push some dates further back. However, I can honestly state that this book of authentic American proverbs presents the first such English language collection based on scholarly principles. The lengthy introduction provides insights into the language, metaphors, and meaning of these proverbs. Together they contain a vivid image of the values of American society and are thus part of its composite worldview.

The work on this proverb collection was concluded in my study at home during the difficult time of the Covid-19 pandemic. For many weeks, my wife, Barbara, our two Labrador dogs, Jackson and Emma, and I lived in isolation in our country home outside of the village of Williston in Vermont. We are still weathering the corona virus storm, but we are hopeful that together with our relatives, friends, colleagues, and students, we are going to conquer this disease that threatened people throughout the world. There is no doubt that my work being supported by Barbara, Jackson, and Emma helped me to deal positively with this health challenge, and it is with gratitude and love that I dedicate this book to them.

—Wolfgang Mieder

Introduction

What is an authentic American proverb? This question is easily asked, but the answer is tied to all sorts of difficulties. American English is based on the English language, which is widely used beyond Great Britain, and which in turn goes back to Indo-European origins and is particularly rich in classical, Biblical, and medieval Latin language material (Mieder 2015b). Many proverbs in this world language are loan translations from those old sources, but added, of course, is an abundance of indigenous proverbs that are familiar in English only. Immigrants have brought foreign-language proverbs to America that were sometimes translated into the local language, such as the German proverb "Man muß das Kind nicht mit dem Bade ausschütten" from the sixteenth century, which has been known in the United States since the nineteenth century as "Do not throw the baby out with the bath water" (Mieder 1991b). This proverb is appropriately listed in the *Dictionary of American Proverbs* (Mieder, Kingsbury, and Harder 1992: 33), but it is not a proverb that originated in America. This is true for a large number of the more than fifteen thousand proverbs in that collection, whose title should more aptly be "Dictionary of Proverbs Current in America." This is a problem that can be found in almost all national proverb collections, because they also register, with only a few exceptions, borrowed proverbs from other languages that have gained currency in translation in the particular language.

It must also be pointed out that there are also some Native American proverbs, but, despite scholarly attempts by anthropologists, folklorists, and linguists, only very few proverbs have

been registered. In fact, it remains a conundrum why there is such a dearth of proverbs in the Native American languages, among them "A deer, although toothless, may accomplish something" (Tsimshian from British Columbia; one should not judge another person by outward appearances) and "If one talks loudly, the cave will answer" (Tzotzil from Chamula in southern Mexico; anybody who acts antisocially does not deserve to live in a house but rather in a cave). Regrettably, as far as is known, the few proverbs that have been found have not entered the English language as common proverbs. It appears that Native Americans communicate their generational wisdom by way of metaphors and narratives and not by formulaically expressed proverbs (Gossen 1973; Mieder 1989a: 99–110). There have been calls for a renewed effort of trying to find Native American proverbs (Mieder 1989b), but not even Keith Basso's excellent book *Wisdom Sits in Places: Landscape and Language among the Western Apache* (1996) deals with proverbial matters because of their rare occurrence. On the other hand, African American proverbs have entered the mainstream of American proverbs, as Sw. Anand Prahlad has documented in his seminal book *African-American Proverbs in Context* (1996) and as proverbs such as "Different strokes for different folks" and "What goes around, comes around" in the present collection make abundantly clear.

Many of the English language proverb collections (see list in the bibliography), at least since the 1950s, include more and more truly American proverbs, which have gained international circulation in English or in translation due to the significant linguistic and cultural influence of America. But if one looks at major collections such as *English Proverbs Explained* (Ridout and Witting 1967), *English Proverbs* (Mieder 1988), *Random House Dictionary of Popular Proverbs and Sayings: Over 1,500 Proverbs and Sayings with 10,000 Illustrative Citations* (Titelman 1996), *Dictionary of Proverbs and Their Origins* (Flavell and Flavell 1997), *Dictionary of Proverbs* (Pickering 1997), *The Facts on File Dictionary of Proverbs: Meanings and Origins of More*

Than 1,500 Popular Sayings (Manser and Fergusson 2002), and *The Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs* (Speake 2008), they are always compilations in which American proverbs are underrepresented, even though they offer exquisite historical examples (Doyle 2007). Promising collections that use the word "American" in their titles, such as *Dictionary of American Proverbs* (Kin 1955), *American Proverbs, Maxims & Folk Sayings* (Smith 1968), *101 American English Proverbs: Understanding Language and Culture through Commonly Used Sayings* (Collis 1992), and *American Proverbs* (Reitman 2000), are largely unscientific compilations of English proverbs that lack any proof of American origin, and simply string together British texts without further commentary. This picture looks significantly better in case of the substantial proverb collections by the American paremiologist Bartlett Jere Whiting, because his collections are based on historical texts taken from literature and other publications in America: *Early American Proverbs and Proverbial Phrases* (1977), *A Dictionary of American Proverbs and Proverbial Phrases, 1820–1880* (1958, coauthored with the renowned paremiologist Archer Taylor), and *Modern Proverbs and Proverbial Sayings* (1989). Other dictionaries to mention here are *The Home Book of Proverbs, Maxims and Familiar Phrases* (Stevenson 1948), *A Dictionary of Anglo-American Proverbs and Proverbial Phrases Found in Literary Sources of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries* (Bryan and Mieder 2005), and *The Dictionary of Modern Proverbs* (Doyle, Mieder, and Shapiro 2012; see Doyle 1996; Mieder 2014b: 80–130). Like the massive collections of Bartlett Jere Whiting, these as well are scholarly compilations, but most of the material is "English," and "American" refers basically to proverbs that are frequently used in America without necessarily having originated in this country. The one exception is my collection *"Different Strokes for Different Folks": 1250 authentisch amerikanische Sprichwörter* (2015), which I put together for German readers interested in proverbs of American origin. Upon further scholarly work, I have now added 250

more proverbs and am pleased to publish this new collection of 1,500 authentic American proverbs in English here in the United States. Both the German and now expanded English collections represent the first-ever attempt to list proverbs based on considerable research to prove their American (in rare cases Canadian) origin. For each proverb, the date of the earliest written text was identified with substantial effort and (where appropriate) explanations for words and meaning are added. Despite this effort, however, it must be said that the historical dates do not always have to be the final answer, because with the help of ever-larger databases containing written texts of any kind, it will certainly be possible to push back some first references even further. But at least here now is a collection of 1,500 proverbs that deserves the label "American proverbs."

Origin

So, where do proverbs come from in general, and what are the sources for English proverbs overall and for American proverbs in particular? Each proverb has its origin with an individual who expresses a thought, an observation, or an experience in a particularly concise and catchy form for the first time. This individual utterance is then taken up by other speakers of the same language, which may lead to variants. Initially, the new orally transmitted proverb may be known only within a family, but then one hears it possibly in a whole village, in a city, a county, a state, a nation, and finally, through loan translations, in neighboring countries or nowadays even globally (Winick 1998; Honeck and Welge 1997; Mieder 2015b). Of course, proverbs have written origins as well, such as William Shakespeare's "Brevity is the soul of wit" from *Hamlet* (1600). Originally, this was a literary quotation that, linked to Shakespeare, over time became a winged word that one cites in certain situations orally or in writing without reference to *Hamlet*.

Eventually, even the connection to Shakespeare is lost, and the quotation has become a popular proverb. A person competent in literature may still associate the proverb with Shakespeare, but the general population regards it as an anonymous proverb.

As mentioned before, there are many proverbs in national languages that one can trace far back (see Mieder 2008c: 9–44 for the following four major areas of origin). Many sayings commonly known in Europe come from Greek and Roman antiquity and through the Latin *lingua franca* and the *Adagia* (1500–) of Erasmus of Rotterdam have been spread all over Europe and beyond, where they have occurred for centuries until today as direct loan translations with significant frequency—for example, "Big fish eat little fish," "One swallow does not make a summer," "One hand washes the other," and "Love is blind." The Bible is the second major source of common European proverbs, with such familiar texts as "There is nothing new under the sun" (Proverbs 1:9), "Man does not live by bread alone" (Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4), "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" (Matthew 7:12), and "The prophet is not without honor, save in his own country" (Matthew 13:57). The third source of common European proverbs consists of many well-known texts that have their origin in medieval Latin, having been translated in parochial schools and by humanists into the developing national languages—for example, "Strike while the iron is hot," "All that glitters is not gold," "The pitcher goes so often to the well that it is broken at last," and "New brooms sweep clean." The popular proverb "All roads lead to Rome" belongs in this group, because it relates—perhaps surprisingly—not to the imperial but the papal Rome.

Although these three processes of derivation had a significant impact on the shared set of European proverbs, as evidenced in Gyula Paczolay's comparative collection *European Proverbs in 55 Languages with Equivalents in Arabic, Persian, Sanskrit, Chinese and Japanese* (1997) and other useful collections of this kind (Mieder 2011a: 17–36), one must not forget that proverbs

of later origin also migrated from one language to another, especially among linguistically related and geographically neighboring languages. Because Europe is growing together more and more in modern times by general globalization (politics, mass media, business, Internet, tourism, etc.), old and new proverbs will certainly continue to be disseminated through direct borrowing or loan translations (Mieder 2000e). Eventually, native speakers will no longer be aware that certain proverbs are not originally from within their own linguistic culture. These days, one often finds introductory phrases such as "a German proverb says" or "as the old German proverb goes," which are then followed by only recently translated proverbs, such as "Der frühe Vogel fängt den Wurm" (the English proverb "The early bird catches the worm," from 1636; Mieder 2010c: 285–296) or "Ein Apfel pro Tag hält den Arzt fern" (the American proverb "An apple a day keeps the doctor away," which originated in 1870; Mieder 2010c: 307–321). Nowadays, translated proverbs are relatively quickly absorbed into a language by the media and become folk wisdom. What previously took years or decades to occur can happen today in a flash.

This leads to the fourth and most modern source of proverbs that are in use across linguistic and cultural borders. It is based on the fact that British English, as well as other "Englishes" of the world, have developed into today's international *lingua franca*, which obviously includes, with great importance, "American English." It must be stressed that most of the proverbs that originated on British soil have not been translated into German, for example, but circulate in their original English version only. One of the exceptions is "Don't put all your eggs into one basket" (1662; Mieder 2010c: 297–306), which has been heard since the early 1980s as "Man muß (soll) nicht alle Eier in einen Korb legen (tun)" with such frequency that it can be viewed as a new German proverb. But the following texts that originated in England are, in fact, circulating in English only: "He who sups with the devil should have a long spoon" (1390), "Fore-

warned is forearmed" (1425), "Birds of a feather flock together" (1545), "Beggars can't be choosers" (1546), "Cleanliness is next to godliness" (1605), "A penny saved is a penny earned" (1640), "It is no use crying over spilt milk" (1659), "Appearances are deceptive" (1666), "A hedge between keeps friendship green" (1707), "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder" (1742), "Any port in a storm" (1749), "Waste not, want not" (1772), "Accidents will happen in the best regulated families" (1819), "A watched pot never boils" (1848), and "Curiosity killed the cat" (1873). As expected, these English proverbs, and countless others, are very common in America, but they are not original American proverbs. To carve truly American proverbs out from the plethora of English proverbs is indeed a laborious and vexing task. These authentic American texts have their origin during the past four centuries. They range from the oldest proverb, "It is harder to use victory than to get it" (1633), to the newest proverb, "There is an app for everything" (2010), which refers to the modern plethora of "application software," such that one can now find, in fact, an application for practically everything. Another and very popular American proverb from the early computer world is "Garbage in, garbage out" (1957), which can now also be found abbreviated as "GIGO" in verbal conversation.

Loan Translations of Anglo-American Proverbs

Before distinctive characteristics of truly American proverbs are discussed, a few additional comments regarding the fourth group of proverbs with worldwide distribution should be added here, a group that nowadays includes, besides English proverbs, quite certainly also American proverbs. A particularly interesting example is the Biblical saying "A house divided against itself cannot stand" (Mark 3:25). The proverb in the quoted wording is from the masterfully translated King James Version (1611), and it appeared for the first time in 1704 in America, where it

became a popular proverb, just as in England, while Martin Luther's less successful translation, "Wenn ein Haus mit sich selbst uneins wird, kann es nicht bestehen," did not become proverbial in German. The circumstances were quite different, however, in religious America, where the Bible text went through a process of secularization and appeared in the eighteenth century already as a metaphor for social and political conditions. Well-known Americans such as Thomas Paine and Daniel Webster used the proverb, and, in his famous "House-Divided" speech of 18 June 1858 in Springfield, Illinois, Abraham Lincoln raised it to the level of a national slogan. He repeatedly used it as a verbal leitmotif to argue against the dissolution of the young democracy, against the imminent civil war, and especially against slavery. Since that time, Lincoln's name is associated with this Bible proverb, and most Americans consider him the original author! When Willy Brandt, then still mayor of Berlin, was invited to Springfield in 1959 to speak at a celebration of Abraham Lincoln's 150th birthday on 12 April, he actually mentioned him in his English lecture as the man who "quoted the passage from the Bible about the house divided against itself," in obvious reference to his divided city of Berlin in a divided Germany. Brandt kept using this proverb, and when he gave speeches in various cities in Germany at the time of reunification, he concluded them repeatedly with a reference to Lincoln by citing the English proverb "A house divided against itself cannot stand" along with his own (!) successful German adaptation, "Ein in sich gespaltenes Haus hat keinen Bestand." His use of this version has prevailed in the German language, because thousands of people followed his speeches on television and radio or read excerpts in newspapers and magazines. Mass media has spread his words to the entire population, and so his wording of the Bible text has become a German proverb by way of Abraham Lincoln (Mieder 2000a: 57–102). Today, many examples can be found that prove beyond doubt that this is a loan proverb derived from American English (and not so much from the Bible).

A second example of a proverb that is falsely attributed to Abraham Lincoln as well can also be mentioned, but in this case extensive research has shown that it is an authentic American proverb. The American president had used this proverb on 9 June 1864 when he was being encouraged to run for a second term: "I have not permitted myself to conclude that I am the best one in the country, but I am reminded, in this connection, of a story of an old Dutch farmer, who remarked to a companion once that 'it was not best to swap horses when crossing streams.'" The earliest American example dates from 1834 and proves that Lincoln is not the author of this proverb, which nowadays is mostly used in the standard form "Don't change horses in mid-stream," or as the variant "Don't swap horses in the middle of the stream." Of course, Lincoln never alleged that the catchy proverb was his invention. Nevertheless, his name is still associated with this phrase, which is even the case for the use of the German translation "Mitten im Strom soll man die Pferde nicht wechseln," which appears in the media and in dictionaries of quotations and sayings with reference to Lincoln (see Mieder 2007b and 2010c: 323–340).

Since all good things come in threes, as we know, a somewhat recent example of how the American language and its proverbs are spread globally shall be mentioned here, because the following loan translation does not only occur in German. This time it was President Ronald Reagan who enabled the modern American proverb "It takes two to tango" to leap across the big pond. This proverb goes back to the popular song "Takes Two to Tango" (1952), with lyrics by Al Hoffman and music by Dick Manning and made very popular by the African American singer Pearl Bailey. Reagan knew the song and proverb, and when he was asked, after Leonid Brezhnev's death, whether or not the relationship between the United States and the Soviet Union under Yuri Andropov would improve, he said on 11 November 1982 quite spontaneously, "For ten years détente was based on words from them [the Russians] and not deeds to back those words up. And we need some action that they—it takes two to tango—that they

want to tango too." About a week later, on 19 November 1982, the German journalist Theo Sommer cited Reagan's statement in a convincingly translated headline for his front page article in *Die Zeit*: "Zum Tango gehören immer zwei" (Mieder and Bryan 1983). Since then, this phrase has established itself in slightly shortened form as "Zum Tango gehören zwei" as a German loan proverb, and this is true for other European languages as well. In addition, the short American original is used every now and then in English—a further proof that the Anglo-American language really is the *lingua franca* of Europe and around the world. This phenomenon has been described in more detail in "'Many Roads Lead to Globalization': The Translation and Distribution of Anglo-American Proverbs in Europe" (Mieder 2014b: 55–79).

International Loan Translations of American Proverbs

Here are just a few examples to show that American proverbs have been spread internationally. From the nineteenth century a frequently employed American proverb has been "Good fences make good neighbors" (1834), which gained prominence by way of Robert Frost's poem "Mending Wall" (1914); it deals with the pros and cons of building a wall—a dilemma that has perplexed humankind to this day, be it building a fence among neighbors, or to keep immigrants out, or to separate peoples of different nationalities from each other (Monteiro 1976; Mieder 2003b). It is easily translated word for word, and it has caught on in Europe in various loan translations (Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Slovakian, Slovenian, Spanish, and Swedish):

Good fences make good neighbors.

Bul: Dobrite ogradi pravyat dobri sasedi.

Cro: Dobre ograde čine dobre susjede.
Fre: Les bonnes clôtures font les bons voisins.
Ger: Gute Zäune machen gute Nachbarn.
Hun: A jó szomszédság záloga a jó kerítés.
Ita: I buoni recinti fanno buoni vicini.
Lit: Gera tvora – geri kaimynai.
Pol: Gdzie dobre płoty, tak dobrzy sąsiedzi.
Por: Os bons muros fazem os bons vizinhos.
Slk: Vysoké ploty robia dobrých susedov.

Another example is an extremely popular and innocuous American proverb from 1870 that counts as a "medical" proverb of sorts and has certainly become well-established in Germany since about 1990 (Mieder 2010c: 310–314). The nineteenth-century wisdom that "an apple a day keeps the doctor away," with its rhyme and commonsense message for good dietary practices, has become so widespread that it is frequently changed into an anti-proverb in advertisements, cartoons, greetings cards, T-shirts, etc. (Mieder 1991a). As can be seen, it has found its way into numerous European languages:

An apple a day keeps the doctor away.
Bul: Edna yabalka na den darzhi doktora dalech ot men.
Cro: Jedna jabuka na dan tjera doktora iz kuće van.
Est: Üks õun päevas hoiab arsti eemal.
Fin: Omena päivässä pitää lääkärin loitolla
Fre: Une pomme par jour éloigne le médecin (pour toujours).
Ger: Ein Apfel pro Tag hält den Arzt fern.
Gre: Ena milo tin inera / ton giatro ton kani pera.
Hun: Naponta egy alma a doktort távol tartja.
Ita: Una mela al giorno toglie il medico di torno.
Pol: Jedno jabłko dziennie trzyma lekarza z daleka.

Por: Uma maçã por dia afasta o medico.
Rus: Po iabloku v den' – i doktor ne nuzhen.
Slk: Jedno jablko denne udrží doktora d'aleko.
Slv: Eno jabolko na dan prežene zdravnika stran.
Swe: Ett äpple om dagen håller doktorn borta från magen.

More modern American proverbs (not older than the year 1900 as far as their origin is concerned) have also been spread in Europe and far beyond globally as well, the latter still having to be investigated in more detail. There can be no doubt that the Englishes of the world have a major influence linguistically and culturally as the international *lingua franca*, with British English and American English playing the major roles. In fact, having spoken of the three earlier catalysts of spreading proverbs beyond national boundaries being classical antiquity, the Bible, and medieval Latin, I maintain that English is the fourth catalyst (Mieder 2000e, 2005b, and 2010c). *The Dictionary of Modern Proverbs* (2012), edited by Charles Clay Doyle, Fred R. Shapiro, and me (see Mieder 2014b), provides much detail regarding the origin, history, and meaning of these proverbs. It should come as no surprise that the proverb "One picture is worth a thousand words" was coined as early as 1911 in the United States, where the visual has gained a particular dominance by way of film, television, advertisements, cartoons, comic strips, etc. (Mieder 1990; Doyle, Mieder, and Shapiro 2012: 196). As the following loan translations show, it has become solidly established in numerous European languages:

One picture is worth a thousand words.
Bul: Edna snimka kazva/govori poveche ot hilyadi dumi.
Cro: Slika vrijedi tisuću riječi.
Est: Üks pilt ütleb rohkem kui tuhat sõna.
Fin: Yksi kuva kertoo enemmän kuin tuhat sanaa.

Fre: Une image vaut mille mots.
Ger: Ein Bild sagt mehr als tausend Worte.
Gre: Mia ikona axizi xilies lexis.
Hun: Egy kép többet mond ezer szónál.
Ita: Un'immagine vale mille parole.
Lit: Vaizdas vertas tūkstančio žodžių.
Pol: Jeden obraz jest więcej wart niż tysiąc słów.
Por: Uma imagem vale mais do que mil palavras.
Rom: O imagine face mai mult decat o mie de cucinte.
Rus: Odna kartina luchshe tysiachi slov.
Slk: Obraz je viac ako tisíc slov.
Slv: Slika pove več kot tisoč besed.
Spa: Una imagen vale más que mil palabras.
Swe: En bild är värd mer än tusen ord.

The proverb "Think globally, act locally" from 1942 is older than one might have expected, but its first printed reference found thus far makes it perfectly clear that today's prevalent thought about a global world was already present in the early forties: "Our vision of a better world is limited to our vision of better communities. We must think globally, but first act locally" (see Doyle, Mieder, and Shapiro 2012: 256). Since the proverb does not contain a metaphor and exhibits a simple parallel structure containing but four words, it was easily translatable into other languages to become a proverbial slogan of sorts for a concerned world citizenry:

Think globally, act locally.
Bul: Misli globalno, deystvay localno.
Cro: Misli globalno, djeluj lokalno.
Cze: Mysli globálně, jednej lokálně.
Est: Mõtle globaalselt, tegutse lokaalselt.
Fin: Ajattele globaalisti, toimi paikallisesti.

Fre: Penser global, agir local.
Ger: Global denken, lokal handeln.
Hun: Gondolkodj globálisan, cselekedj lokálisan.
Ita: Pensa globale, agisci locale (Pensare globale, agire locale).
Lit: Galvok globaliai – veik lolakiai.
Pol: Myśl globalnie, działaj lokalnie.
Por: Pensar global, agir local.
Rus: Myslit' global'no – deistvovat' lokal'no.
Slk: Mysli globálne, konaj lokálne.
Slv: Misli globalno, deluj lokalno.

Just these examples show most clearly that the time of creating new proverbs is not over and that some proverbs of more modern times can reach an international distribution. This process is in fact feasible at a much-accelerated pace due to printed and electronic mass media (Mieder 2014c). The time has definitely come to pay more attention to modern proverbs of various languages and also to the spread of some of them beyond linguistic and cultural boundaries (Piirainen 2012–2016). Numerous modern proverbs have reached an impressive "widespread" status in recent times. The proverb "It's a small world," with its American origin from 1896, does indeed hold true for the international spread of proverbs today.

Obvious American Proverbs

Some proverbs will immediately appear as limited to the United States, especially those that contain the name of the country: "See America first" (1910), "Don't sell America short" (1922), and President Barack Obama's already proverbial statement "If you invest in America, America will invest in you" (2008). The same applies to proverbs with connections to baseball as the national sport and that have a general significance, yet require some

knowledge of the game: "Three strikes and you're out" (1901), "You can't steal first base" (1915), "Nobody bats a thousand" (1930), "You can't hit the ball if you don't swing" (1943), and "Step up to the plate" (1965). Even specific proverbs such as "Boston folks are full of notions" (1788), "Good Americans, when they die, go to Paris" (1858), "What is good for General Motors is good for America" (1953), "Don't mess with Texas" (1985), and "What happens in Las Vegas, stays in Las Vegas" (2002; see Bock 2014) are based on distinct American aspects and are not always immediately comprehensible to those outside the country.

Before looking at the language, style, imagery, origin, tradition, and meaning of American proverbs, an important warning is in order. Repeatedly, studies have tried to draw conclusions about a certain national or group character based on a proverb collection of a specific language community. Studies about the national traits of the Dutch, Irish, or Russians need to be carried out with great caution, or better not at all, because they can quickly lead to questionable generalizations on the basis of small numbers of texts. Likewise, the fifteen hundred proverbs from several centuries of American history listed in this collection do not allow for such conclusions. Nevertheless, some general statements can be made, of course, to describe the dominant trends in these proverbs. This occurs to some degree in *American Proverbs: A Study of Texts and Contexts* (Mieder 1989) and *American Cultural [and Proverbial] Baggage: How to Recognize and Deal with It* (Nussbaum 2005), but it once again needs to be pointed out that the majority of recorded texts are not authentic American proverbs, but rather proverbs of different origin and tradition that appear in American usage in oral and written communication. The one exception is the new study on *The Worldview of Modern American Proverbs* (Mieder 2020), which is indeed based exclusively on proverbs of American origin. In any case, most of the fifteen hundred proverbs of the present collection belong to the folk wisdom that has found a nationwide distribution in their vast country of origin, with many of them belonging to the paremiological minimum

of American English (Mieder 1992b: 185–203; Lau 1996; Chlosta and Grzybek 2004; Haas 2008; Grzybek and Chlosta 2009; Čermák 2010: 58–71).

Structures and Variants

Like English proverbs in general, American proverbs consist on average of about seven words. The shortest texts have only two words in which the first word indicates a certain topic and the following verb presents a commentary. For example:

Safety first. (1818)
Think big. (1907)
Manners matter. (1909)
Speed kills. (1939)
Everybody shits. (1968)

More common are proverbs that express a plausible folk wisdom in three short words. Here, indeed, the soul of wit is in brevity, as can be seen in the following selection:

Facts don't lie. (1748)
Talk is cheap. (1843)
Work before play. (1894)
Hurry and wait. (1930)
Can't never could. (1952)

Particularly frequent are proverbs that consist of four words, which often show a parallel structure to enhance the memorability of such short, but concise, wisdom:

·⟸·

Late children, early orphans. (1742)
Crime does not pay. (1874)
You can't have everything. (1893)
All talk, no action. (1948)
Aim small, miss small. (2000)

·⟸·

A small special group is formed by those proverbs that follow the modern structural formula "My X, my Y." These may also lead to variants in which the personal pronoun "my" is replaced by "your":

·⟸·

My game, my rules. (1963)
My money, my rules. (1975)
My house, my party. (1979)
My house, my rules. (1983)
My party, my rules. (2003)

·⟸·

Of course, there are also much longer proverbs, but they can make memorization difficult, and they do occur less frequently because they are too cumbersome, especially in rapid oral conversation. Not surprisingly, these complex proverbs generate variations. It is often sufficient for the more familiar lengthy texts to simply allude to them in a shortened way:

·⟸·

A lie can go around the world and back while the truth is lacing up its boots. (1885)
    Variant: A lie can travel round the world while the truth is tying up its shoestrings.
It's not the size of the dog in the fight that matters; it's the size of the fight in the dog. (1911)

If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, it's a duck. (1948)

In order to get where you want to go, you have to start from where you are now. (1965)

When you're up to your ass in alligators, it's hard to remember you're there to drain the swamp. (1971)

Variant: When you're up to your ass in alligators, it's too late to start figuring out how to drain the swamp.

Proverbial variants are by no means limited to longer proverbs. On the contrary, particularly orally transmitted proverbs develop into fixed standard texts only over time, and often one or even two variants continue to exist on the side. Here are a few examples:

Shoot for the stars. (1847)

Variant: Aim for the stars.

Don't judge someone till you have walked a mile in his shoes. (1930)

Variant: Don't criticize a man till you have walked a mile in his moccasins.

A messy desk is a sign of a messy mind. (1974)

Variant: A cluttered desk is a sign of a messy person.

God doesn't make junk. (1975)

Variant: God doesn't make trash.

Never bring a knife to a gunfight. (1988)

Variant: You don't take a knife to a gunfight.

Of course, decency sometimes creates euphemistic variants, as, for example, in the case of these two offensive proverbs:

Fuck them and forget them. (1922)
Variant: Fool them and forget them.
Shit happens. (1944)
Variant: Stuff happens.

With these texts, we come to the topic of scatology and sexuality in proverbs, which has been suppressed in most proverb collections to date. However, it is a fact that such proverbs exist and that they occur in oral use and in literary works (just think of William Shakespeare or a number of modern writers), movies, songs, etc. with considerable frequency. They should not be omitted because of prudishness, and so the present collection contains a significant number of scatological and sexual texts for keywords such as "fuck," "piss," "sex," "shit," etc., to wit these examples:

Scatology:
Shit or get off the pot. (1935)
Shit in one hand and hope in the other; see which one fills up first. (1941)
The one who smelt it dealt it. (1971)
You can't kill shit. (1997)

Sexuality:
Situation normal – all fucked up. (1941)
If you've got it, flaunt it. (1968)
Bad sex is better than no sex. (1969)
Old enough to bleed, old enough to breed. (1971)

For some proverbs that express sexuality only indirectly, explanations of words and metaphors are necessary to clarify the meaning—for example:

The blacker [skin color] the berry, the sweeter the juice. (1929)
It's not the meat [penis], it's the motion. (1951)
It's not what you've got [penis size], it's what you do with it. (1934)
If there is grass [female pubic hair] on the field, you can play ball. (1998)

In contrast to such often not only offensive but also brutally aggressive proverbs, there is the following metaphorical proverb: "No glove, no love" (1982). Here "glove" stands for condom, and the proverb has the very important message of "safe sex" in light of the AIDS epidemic.

As one would expect, certain structural patterns form the syntactic basis for a considerable number of proverbs. While many proverbs are simple words of wisdom, such as "A true friend is the best possession" (1744), "Great minds think alike" (1856), "Children are our future" (1920), and "It's not easy to be green" (1970), others are sentences of negation or imperatives utilizing the following structures:

You can't . . .
You can't ever tell what a lousy calf will come to be. (1836)
You can't fight city hall. (1933)
You can't be a little pregnant. (1942)
You can't make chicken salad out of chicken shit. (1980)

Don't . . .
Don't kick a fellow when he is down. (1809)
Don't bite off more than you can chew. (1895)

Don't rock the boat. (1920)
Don't rearrange the deck chairs on the Titanic. (1991)

Never . . .
Never say die. (1814)
Never give a sucker an even break. (1923)
Never try to teach a pig to sing; it wastes your time, and it annoys the pig. (1973)
Never play leapfrog with a unicorn. (1977)

·⟸·

Then there are such proverbs that occur as interrogatives that might need an explanatory comment at their citation in the collection:

·⟸·

Why buy milk when you've got a cow at home? (1957)
A bird may love a fish, but where would they live? (1964)
Why go out for hamburger when you can eat steak at home? (1971)
Where's the beef? (1984; see Barrick 1986)

·⟸·

But there are also structural formulas that are well-suited to express modern wisdom (Mieder 2014c). Some particularly productive base structures are the following:

·⟸·

No X, no Y
No guts, no glory. (1945)
No body, no crime. (1947)
No dough, no go. (1952)
No harm, no foul. (1956)

X is (are) X
Facts are facts. (1760)
A bet is a bet. (1857)
Bosses are bosses. (1907)
A deadline is a deadline. (1933)

X is better than Y
A friend nearby is better than a brother far off. (1682)
The chase is better than the kill. (1904)
A live trout is better than a dead whale. (1941)
A long shot is better than no shot. (1947)

X is a journey, not a destination.
Success is a journey, not a destination. (1933)
Education is a journey, not a destination. (1936)
Happiness is a journey, not a destination. (1937)
Marriage is a journey, not a destination. (1943)

If you can't X, Y
If you can't beat them, join them. (1882)
If you can't be good, be careful. (1902)
If you can't dazzle them with brilliance, baffle them with bullshit. (1972)
If you can't run with the big dogs, stay on the porch. (1985)

There are no X, only (just) Y
There are no dull subjects, just dull writers. (1922)
There are no problems, only opportunities. (1948)
There are no bad dogs, only bad owners. (1949)
There are no bad students, only bad teachers. (1958)

There's more than one way to X
There's more than one way to beat the devil around the bush. (1776)

There's more than one way to skin a cat. (1843)
There's more than one way to cook a goose. (1941)
There's more than one way to peel an orange. (1954)

Counter Proverbs and Anti-Proverbs

Yet new proverbs are not only based on such structural formulas, they also arise from disagreement with traditional words of wisdom when they become questionable. Proverbs are not philosophical constructions built on logic, but contain and reflect the contradictions of life. Therefore, there are proverbs that rephrase an existing proverb into its opposite. Charles Clay Doyle has coined the term "counter proverb" (Doyle, Mieder, and Shapiro 2012: xi–xii). A few examples of this phenomenon:

Size doesn't matter. (1903)
Counter proverb: Size does matter. (1964) (the size of a penis)
Good enough is not good enough. (1907)
Counter proverb: Good enough is good enough. (1910)
Not all publicity is good publicity. (1915)
Counter proverb: All publicity is good publicity. (1925)
Flattery will get you everywhere. (1926)
Counter proverb: Flattery will get you nowhere. (1938)

More prevalent are those reactions to common proverbs that I have called "Antisprichwörter" (anti-proverbs), which are

humorous, ironic, or satirical modifications that contain new insights and generalizations, with the possibility of becoming new proverbs (Mieder 2004b: 150–153; Doyle, Mieder, and Shapiro 2012: xi). Here are a few examples:

Beauty is only skin deep. (1615)
Anti-proverb: Beauty is only skin. (1963)
Experience is the best teacher. (1617)
Anti-proverb: Expedience is the best teacher. (1966)
Nobody is perfect. (1763)
Anti-proverb: No body is perfect. (1958)
If at first you don't succeed, try, try(, try) again. (1838)
Anti-proverb: If at first you don't succeed, try reading the instructions. (1962)

Even ancient proverbs such as "Tempus fugit" or "Time flies" may lead to new insights through anti-proverbs: "Time flies when you are having fun" (1939). The same is true for Bible proverbs: "Love thy neighbor" (Galatians 5:14) turns into "Love thy neighbor, but do not get caught" (1967), and the Biblical golden rule "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" (Matthew 7:12) has been competing for a hundred years now with the pitiful wisdom "Do unto others before they do unto you" (1915).

Proverbs with Known or Attributed Authors

For most proverbs, the author is obviously unknown, but this new collection contains a considerable number of proverbs that go back to well-known public personalities and specific

dates of American politics (Mieder 2005: 147–186 and 2014b: 198–229):

Give me liberty, or give me death. (1775)
(revolutionary slogan of Patrick Henry)
All men are created equal. (1776)
(President Thomas Jefferson, Declaration of Independence; see Mieder 2015a)
These are the times that try men's souls. (1776)
(publisher and revolutionary Thomas Paine)
Sounds often terrify more than realities. (1796)
(President George Washington)
Happy is the country which has no history. (1807)
(President Thomas Jefferson)
Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. (1837)
(President Andrew Jackson)
My country, right or wrong. (1847)
(President John Quincy Adams)
All men and women are created equal. (1848)
(feminist Elizabeth Cady Stanton; see Mieder 2014a)
The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice. (1853)
(abolitionist and preacher Theodore Parker; see Kraller 2016)
If there is no struggle, there is no progress. (1857)
(escaped slave and abolitionist Frederick Douglass; see Mieder 2001)
Broken eggs cannot be mended. (1860)
(President Abraham Lincoln; see Mieder 2000f)
Equal pay for equal work. (1869)
(feminist Susan B. Anthony; see Mieder 2014a)
Honor lies in honest toil. (1884)
(President Grover Cleveland)

Speak softly and carry a big stick. (1900)
(President Theodore Roosevelt)
The business of America is business. (1925)
(President Calvin Coolidge)
The only thing we have to fear is fear itself. (1933)
(President Franklin Delano Roosevelt)
Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. (1958)
(civil rights leader Martin Luther King)
Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country. (1961)
(President John F. Kennedy)
Freedom is not given, it is won. (1967)
(civil rights leader Martin Luther King; see Mieder 2010a)
What is good for Main Street is good for Wall Street. (2007)
(President Barack Obama; see Mieder 2009c)

Revolutionaries, presidents, and social reformers have contributed to the richness of American proverbs, and that is especially true for the diplomat, inventor, scientist, businessman, politician, journalist, revolutionary, and early American par excellence Benjamin Franklin. Between 1733 and 1758, he published his *Poor Richard's Almanack* for the enlightenment and entertainment of his compatriots; it contained about forty proverbs as didactic stopgaps in each annual edition (Franklin 1964; Barbour 1974). In 1758, he added the essay "The Way to Wealth" to the last edition, which basically consisted of a selection of 105 proverbs that were intended to show readers the way to a healthy, busy, and decent life. This article has become a kind of bible for "puritan ethics" and was translated into many languages. Some ten thousand copies of the *Almanack* were printed each year, and with its many proverbs became sort

of a secular bible. The proverbs, however, were largely copied from older English proverb collections (Franklin eventually admitted to this in 1788). But the *Almanack* also included texts that he created, and these have long become popular proverbs (Gallacher 1949; Gallagher 1973; Meister 1952; Mieder 1989a: 129–142; 1993a: 98–134; and 2004b: 171–180; Newcomb 1957). Without doubt, Franklin has to be regarded as the greatest known author of American proverbs. Among the proverbs that he actually coined himself are the following:

By diligence and patience the mouse bit in two the cable. (1735)
Some are weatherwise, some are otherwise. (1735)
Industry need not wish. (1739)
There will be sleeping enough in the grave. (1741)
Experience keeps a dear school, but fools learn in no other. (1743)
Drive thy business, or it will drive thee. (1744)
If passion drives, let reason hold the reins. (1749)
Laziness travels so slowly, that poverty soon overtakes it. (1756)
Sloth makes all things difficult, but industry all easy. (1758)
Three removes is as bad as a fire. (1758)

Even though some of these texts have long been forgotten, Franklin's creations and his deep interest in proverbs were instrumental in bringing about an American worldview informed by the capitalistic emphasis on hard work and steady progress as a society. Franklin's repeated citation of proverbs as rules for a productive life (Templeton 1997) reached a point that "his" proverbs became part of American material culture by way of cups and saucers with the inscriptions of "Poor Richard's" prov-

erbs and pedagogical drawings. Franklin's influence on the social life of America can still be observed today. However, the popular proverb "Time is money" did not originate with him. He did reference it in his "Advice to a Young Tradesman" (1748) as a wise saying: "Remember that Time is Money." In his *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1751 he repeated the proverb in a short paragraph: "In vain did she [a wife] inculcate him [her husband] *That Time is Money*." And yet, it has now been ascertained that this statement had originally been printed on 18 May 1719 in London in the newspaper *Free Thinker*. It reappeared in 1723 and 1739 in compilations of small prose pieces. Franklin must have encountered the earlier reprint when he was employed as a typesetter during the year 1725 in London. When he published it verbatim twenty-five years later he did not cite his source, an action that would be considered plagiarism today (Villers and Mieder 2017). Nevertheless, people continue to believe that Franklin coined the proverb when in fact he only helped to popularize it as the motto for solid work ethics (Manders 2006: 148–154). It might be added here that Franklin was also only the popularizing agent of the fifteenth-century English proverb "Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise," which most Americans believe he came up with by himself. (Mieder 1993a). The fact that "Time is money" gained its international currency in the United States justifies its inclusion in this collection with a short accompanying note. However, since the "early to bed" proverb has a long tradition in England before arriving in America, it is understandably not listed.

In any case, nobody can compete with this master of proverbs, but here are some well-known authors whose proverbs circulate mostly anonymously today:

Stoop low and it will save you many a bump through life. (1724)
(preacher and writer Cotton Mather)

Hear before you blame. (1798)
(Abigail Adams, wife of President John Adams)
Be sure you are right, then go ahead. (1812)
(patriot and folk hero David Crockett)
It is a poor rule that will not work both ways. (1837)
(writer James Fenimore Cooper)
Behind the clouds the sun is shining. (1841)
(writer Henry Wadsworth Longfellow)
The houses hope builds are castles in the air. (1853)
(Canadian writer Thomas Chandler Haliburton)
Hitch your wagon to a star. (1862)
(transcendentalist and writer Ralph Waldo Emerson; see Mieder 2014b: 261–283)
It is not the trumpeters that fight the battles. (1887)
(preacher and writer Henry Ward Beecher)
It is difference of opinion that makes horse races. (1894)
(writer Mark Twain)
Genius is 1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration. (1898)
(inventor and businessman Thomas Alva Edison)
The bigger they are, the harder they fall. (1905)
(boxer Robert Fitzsimmons)
History is bunk. (1916)
(car maker Henry Ford)
It's not over till it's over. (1921)
(baseball player Yogi Berra)
Gentlemen prefer blondes. (1925)
(writer Anita Loos)
There must be pioneers, and some of them get killed. (1928)
(aviator Charles A. Lindbergh)
Candy is dandy but liquor is quicker. (1931)
(writer Ogden Nash)

War will cease when men refuse to fight. (1933)
(physicist Albert Einstein)
You can't go home again. (1940)
(writer Thomas Wolfe)
You can run, but you can't hide. (1946)
(boxer Joe Louis)
Each generation is better than the last. (1954)
(Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of President Franklin D. Roosevelt)
Everybody will be famous for fifteen minutes. (1968)
(artist Andy Warhol)

Sometimes proverbs are attributed to famous individuals without providing any evidence—for example, in Germany the saying "Wer nicht liebt Wein, Weib und Gesang, der bleibt ein Narr sein Leben lang" (He who does not love wine, women and song remains a fool all his life) is accredited to Martin Luther, although the first written document was discovered only in 1775 in a short poem possibly written by Johann Heinrich Voss (Mieder 1993b: 80–89). Such unproven attributions often remain in place even if there are solid scholarly refutations. President Harry Truman has publicly stated that the two immensely popular proverbs "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen" (1931) and "The buck stops here" (1942) were not coined by him. However, because he used them often, both proverbs are still quoted with a reference to him (Mieder and Bryan 1997). A special phenomenon is the origin of the well-known proverb "You can fool all of the people some of the time; you can fool some of the people all of the time; but you can't fool all of the people all of the time" (1877). It has been repeatedly asserted that Abraham Lincoln used this phrase on 29 May 1856 in a speech that is not documented. Although the proverb cannot be found in Lincoln's writings, on 27 August 1887,

the otherwise reliable *New York Times* attributed it to him. This claim has remained in popular opinion to this day, and it will probably not change. A number of such doubtful attributions are the following, where primary documents discovered so far often do not match the biographical dates of the alleged author:

Taxation without representation is tyranny. (1761)
(revolutionary patriot James Otis?)

Good fences make good neighbors. (1834)
(poet Robert Frost?; see Monteiro 1976; Mieder 2003b)

There is room enough at the top. (1867)
(statesman Daniel Webster?)

From shirtsleeves to shirtsleeves in three generations. (1874)
(industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie?)

War is hell. (1880)
(general William Tecumseh Sherman?)

Build a better mousetrap and the world will beat a path to your door. (1871)
(transcendentalist and writer Ralph Waldo Emerson?)

No one ever went bankrupt taking a profit. (1902)
(banker J. P. Morgan?)

Winning isn't everything; it's the only thing. (1950)
(football coach Vince Lombardi?)

When the going gets tough, the tough get going. (1954)
(Joseph P. Kennedy?, father of President John F. Kennedy)

Trust but verify. (1966)
(President Ronald Reagan?)

Old age is not for sissies. (1969)
(actress Bette Davis?)

In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity. (1975)
(physicist Albert Einstein?)
A woman without a man is like a fish without a bicycle. (1976)
(feminist Gloria Steinem?)

Sources from Songs, Films, and Advertisements

In regard to the identification of an exact origin for certain proverbs, it should be mentioned that the world of music, film, and especially advertising spread many new proverbs using the enormous influence of the media (Mieder 1993b: 135–151; Winick 2011 and 2013; Konstantinova 2015). Here are a few examples:

Songs

Everybody wants to go to heaven, but nobody wants to die. (1950)
(song title by Tommy Dorsey)
For every drop of rain that falls a flower grows. (1953)
(line from the song "I Believe" by Ervin Drake and Jimmy Shirl)
The world is a place. (1976)
(song title and chorus by the Rhythm Group)

Films

There are no rules in a knife fight. (1969)
(line from the movie *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*)
No glove, no love. (1982)
(line from the movie *The World According to Garp*)
Life is like a box of chocolates. (1994)
(line from the movie *Forrest Gump*; see Winick 2013)

Advertising
When it rains, it pours. (1914)
(advertising slogan by Morton Salt company)
Reach out and touch someone. (1970)
(advertising slogan by AT&T phone company)
Shop till you drop. (1984)
(advertising slogan by Volkswagen in Los Angeles)

An indication of the enormous influence of American advertising agencies are the two early proverbs "It pays to advertise" (1868) and "Do not advertise what you can't fulfill" (1919), whose messages obviously hold true today, where advertising of any kind appears in all media. It is not surprising, then, that short advertising slogans claiming a general validity become new proverbs.

Proverbs from the World of Sports, Technology, Finance

Of course, the world of sports, which plays a dominating role in all kinds of media, has contributed many proverbs to the repertoire of American folk wisdom. It should be noted, however, that their use is not limited to sports alone, because their imagery and message usually have an indirect correlation to life itself. Of the many examples in this collection, only a few striking samples are given here, which, as mentioned before, do not necessarily have to refer to a competition or a game in the linguistic context:

You can't win them all. (1918)
Play to win or don't play at all. (1938)
Every game has a winner and a loser. (1943)
There is no "I" in team. (1960)
You can't score if you don't shoot. (1965)

It has to be surprising that the modern world of technology, by comparison, plays a very small role in proverbs. However, there are several proverbs that refer to the automobile. About ten years after the appearance of the American proverb "You can't judge a book by its cover" (1897), the new proverb "You can't judge a car by its paintjob" (1908) became popular, representing the same idea with a different metaphor. Also in America, the land of the automobile, the following piece of wisdom was created: "Nobody washes a rental car" (1985). And then there is the proverb "Dogs do not bark at parked cars" (1993), which has nothing to do with automobiles; the general meaning is that people do not show a reaction until something moves or changes. Finally, the car contributes the metaphorical image to a variant of the proverb "Trust in God, but lock your door": "Trust in God, but lock your car" (1991).

The world of finance in the land of capitalism, on the other hand, plays a considerable role in proverbs. Money, stocks, trade, etc. have led to general rules and insights that have found their way into the proverbial language, such as these:

Money is power. (1741)
Competition is the life of trade. (1816)
Banks have no heart. (1853)
Buy low, sell high. (1895)
The customer is always right. (1905; see Taylor 1958)
Another day, another dollar. (1907)
Business goes where it is invited and stays where it is treated well. (1910)
If you have to ask the price, you can't afford it. (1926)
You never accumulate, if you don't speculate. (1941)
Money has no memory. (1991)

Dominant Themes of Success, Time, and Life

Of course, "success" plays a significant role in American proverbs because accomplishments in all aspects of life are undoubtedly an important objective, be it in college, at work, or in sports (White 1987; Arthurs 1994). As the following examples make clear, it does require proper commitment to achieve and to secure success:

Nothing succeeds like success. (1867)
Success comes in *cans*, failure in *can'ts*. (1910)
Success is never final. (1920)
Success is a journey, not a destination. (1933)
The only place where success comes before work is in a dictionary. (1955)
Success is always preceded by preparation. (1981)

As expected, there are also many proverbs that deal with "time," because the element of time governs human life continually:

Time and chance happen to all men. (1677)
Lost time is never found again. (1748)
Nothing is more precious than time, yet nothing is less valued. (1775)
Time wasted is time lost. (1865)
The best way to kill time is to work it to death. (1914)
The time to shoot bears is when they are out. (1914)

And what can generally be derived from proverbs about "life"? They ultimately reflect a certain philosophy of life—as generalizations of human existence and also as a guide to a dedicated life. This collection contains thirty-five proverbs with "life" as

the key word, a clear sign of the preoccupation with the meaning, value, and purpose of life:

Life has its ups and downs. (1853)
You get out of life what you put into it. (1901)
If life hands you lemons, make lemonade. (1910)
Life is a bowl of cherries. (1931)
Life is too short to waste sleeping. (1944)
Life is not a spectator sport. (1958)
Nobody ever said life is easy. (1965)
Life is a bitch and then you die. (1982)
If life gives you a bag of hammers, build something. (2000)
Life comes at you fast. (2004)

American Values

The proverbial triad "Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" (1776) from Thomas Jefferson's "Declaration of Independence" includes the basic rights of all people (Mieder 2014b: 133–171). The phrase is considered self-evident for all Americans, along with the triadic definition of democracy: "Government of the people, by the people, and for the people" (1850), which has become proverbial via Abraham Lincoln's famous "Gettysburg Address" on 19 November 1863. These two proverbs are, of course, to be understood only as desirable ideals (Mieder 2005c: 15–55). But here are some characteristic proverbs from America that refer in a very concise way to independence, individualism, initiative, freedom, and unlimited opportunities. These values are not limited to the American people (Nussbaum 2005; Mieder 2020), but the following proverbs—which all originated in the United States, a place generally associated with freedom

and liberty—may contribute somewhat to an understanding of the worldview in this large and differentiated country:

Paddle your own canoe. (1802)
Hoe your own row. (1844)
This is a free country. (1848)
You have to pull your own wagon. (1907)
The sky is the limit. (1909)
Making a way out of no way. (1922)
Freedom is not for sale. (1949)
Go with the flow. (1962)
Follow your own bliss. (1971)
Think outside the box. (1971)
Our choices define us. (1985)

Last but not least, the anonymous proverb "Different strokes for different folks" (1945), which was coined among the African American population, must be mentioned. It has been well known at least since 1968 because of the song "Everyday People" by the group Sly and the Family Stone (Mieder 1989a: 317–332 and 2006a; McKenzie 1996). The verses contain the wisdom of the proverb "All men are created equal" (1776) and its extension "All men and women are created equal" (1848), and draw attention to equality and equal rights for all people, no matter how different they may be:

Everyday People
Sometimes I'm right,
Then I can be wrong.
My own beliefs are in my song.
The butcher, the baker, the drummer and then,
Makes no difference what group I'm in.
I am everyday people.

There is a blue one who can't accept the green one
or living with the fat one, trying to be the skinny
one.
Different strokes for different folks.
And so on and so on and scooby dooby doo.

We've got to live together.
I am no better and neither are you.
We are the same in whatever we do.
Love me or hate me; get to know me and then
You can figure out what bag I'm in.
I am everyday people.

There is a long hair who doesn't like the short hair
For being such a rich one who will not help the
poor one.
Different strokes for different folks.
And so on and so on and scooby dooby doo.

We've got to live together.
There is a yellow one that won't accept the black one
That won't accept the red one that won't accept the
white one.
Different strokes for different folks.
And so on and so on and scooby dooby doo.
I am everyday people.

Undoubtedly, the proverb "Different strokes for different folks" has to be considered the embodiment of the sense of individual freedom in America, where the people of this "melting pot" or "tossed salad" can develop more or less freely, as long as one's personal liberties allow for ethical coexistence with others. In principle, it is all about the human—all too human—existence, and this is not just the case for American proverbs, but also the proverbial folk wisdom all over the world.

Collection

A

1 You can get straight **A's** and still flunk life. (1980)
Variant: You can get all A's and still flunk life.

2 **Ability** can take you to the top, but character is what will keep you there. (1980)
Variant: Talent can get you to the top, but character is what will keep you there.

3 **Absence** makes the heart grow fonder. (1844)

4 **Absence** makes the heart go wander. (1908)
Anti-proverb of: Absence makes the heart grow fonder.

5 **Abuse** it and lose it. (1985)
Anti-proverb of: Use it or lose it.

6 It always takes longer than you expect, even when you take into **account** this rule [Hofstadter's Law]. (1979)
This modern proverb started originally as an anti-proverb of "Everything takes longer than you expect" from 1900. It is known as the (Douglas R.) Hofstadter's Law.

7 You never **accumulate**, if you don't speculate. (1941)

8 **Act** first, think later. (1965)

9 **Act** like you've been there before. (1984)

10 Get your **act** together. (1972)

11 **Action** and reaction are equal. (1834)
Variant: Every action has an opposite and equal reaction. First reference in Ralph Waldo Emerson.

12 **Actions** speak louder than words. (1736)

13 There are no second **acts**. (1941)
The proverb originated in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Last Tycoon* (1941).

14 **Adversity** is the touchstone of friendship. (1775)
Variant: Adversity is the test of friendship.

15 Don't **advertise** what you cannot fulfill. (1919)
Variant: Don't advertise if you cannot deliver.

16 The best advertising is free **advertising**. (1918)
Variant: The best publicity is free publicity.

17 Free **advice** is worth what you pay for it. (1913)
Variant: Free advice is worth the price.

18 Act your **age**. (1925)

19 Act your **age,** not your IQ. (1995)
Anti-proverb of: Act your age.

20 **Age** before beauty. (1873)

21 **Age** gives good advice when it is no longer able to give bad example. (1828)
First reference in Ralph Waldo Emerson's diaries.

22 **Age** is a state of mind. (1930)
Variants: "Age is just (only, nothing but) a state of mind" and "Old age is a state of mind."

23 **Age** is just a number. (1957)
See Mieder 2019a.

24 **Age** must have allowance. (1690)

25 Old **age** is better than the alternative. (1960)
Variants: "Old age sucks, but it's better than the alternative" and "Getting old is better than the alternative." See "Life sucks, but it's better than the alternative" (2002).

26 Old **age** is hell. (1952)

27 Old **age** is not for sissies. (1969)
Attributed to the film actress Bette Davis.

28 The surest sign of **age** is loneliness. (1868)
A line found in Amos Bronson Alcott's *Tablets* (1868).

29 **Aim** small, miss small. (2000)
The proverb, in reference to firing a rifle, was popularized by the motion picture *The Patriot* (2003).

30 **Air castles** are good; now put foundations under them. (1854)

31 An **alibi** is the last refuge of a felon. (1810)
The proverb appears in the lectures of John Quincy Adams.

32 Be **all** that you can be. (1956)
Variant: Be the best you can be. Since 1980 it has been used as an advertisement slogan for the United States Army.

33 **Almost** is not good enough. (1921)
Variant: Close (Nearly, About) is not good enough.

34 Don't sell **America** short. (1922)
Variant: Never sell America short.

35 If you invest in **America**, America will invest in you. (2008)
President Barack Obama employed this pseudo-proverb for the first time on 16 June 2008. It is well on its way to becoming a general proverb.

36 See **America** first. (1910)
Originally an advertisement slogan of the Great Northern Railway in order to attract tourists to visit Glacier National Park.

37 An **American** will go to hell for a bag of coffee. (1809)
No longer used much since coffee has stopped being a luxury item.

38 Good **Americans**, when they die, go to Paris. (1858)
The proverb first appeared in *The Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table* (1858) by Oliver Wendell Holmes, but it originated with his literary friend Thomas Gold Appleton during their time

together in Paris. Paris was a sort of paradise for American writers and artists at the time.

39 Praise the Lord and pass the **ammunition**. (1941)
The proverb goes back to the navy minister Howell Forgy, who coined it as a battle cry during the Japanese attack of Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941.

40 **Anger** is never without reason but seldom with a good one. (1753)
The proverb is found in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1753.

41 The **answer** is in the dirt. (1997)
The proverb originated with the professional golf player Ben Hogan, who meant by it that it takes practice and hard work to do well.

42 There is an **app** for everything. (2010).
App = application software.

43 An **apple** a day keeps the doctor away. (1870)

44 The **apple** does not fall far from the tree. (ca. 1830)
This is a loan translation of the German proverb "Der Apfel fällt nicht weit vom Stamm" from 1554. It appeared in English first in Ralph Waldo Emerson's *Notebooks* for the years 1824–1836. It is one of the few German proverbs that made it in English into American usage. See Mieder 1993c.

45 There is one rotten **apple** in every barrel. (1943)
Variant: There is at least one bad apple in every barrel.

46 Do not compare **apples** and oranges. (1949)
Variant: You cannot compare apples and oranges.

47 The **arc** of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice. (1853)
The proverb originated with the abolitionist Theodore Parker and was popularized by way of Martin Luther King's repetitive use of it.

48 A good **arrow** cannot be made of a sow's tail. (1742)
First in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack*. Compare the English proverb "You can't make a silk purse from a sow's ear" from the 16th century.

49 Don't **ask**, don't get. (1913)

50 Don't **ask**, don't tell. (1993)
Coined by the sociologist Charles Moskos in regard to homosexuality in the military.

51 When you're up to your **ass** in alligators, it's hard to remember you're there to drain the swamp. (1971)
Variant: When you're up to your ass in alligators, it's too late to start figuring out how to drain the swamp. The proverbial expression "to be up to one's ass (neck) in alligators" is older.

52 There are no **atheists** in foxholes. (1942)

53 If you are not outraged, you are not paying **attention**. (1990)
Variant: If you are not angry, you are not paying attention.

54 It pays to pay **attention**. (1902)

55 **Attitudes** don't prove anything. (1866)

56 **Authority** without wisdom is like a heavy ax without an edge: fitter to bruise than to polish. (1670)
The proverb appears in the literary works of Anne Bradstreet.

57 You can delegate **authority** but not responsibility. (1945)

B

58 Folks that tend **babies** mustn't have pins about them. (1845)

59 An old **bachelor** is a poor critter. (1862)

60 **Bachelors** are but half a pair of scissors. (1781)

61 Strong **back**, weak mind. (1929)

62 Clean up your own **backyard** first. (1943)

63 Your **backyard** should look as pretty as your front yard. (1917)

64 You have to take the **bad** with the good. (1715)

65 The bigger the **bait**, the bigger the fish. (1913)

66 It is not how hard you hit the **ball** but where you hit it that counts. (1964)
Variant: It is not how hard you hit the ball but where it goes that counts.

67 The **ball** doesn't lie. (1988)
The proverb might have originated with the basketball player Maz Trakh, who used to say it after successfully shooting a free-throw.

68 You can't hit the **ball** if you don't swing. (1943)
Variant: You can't get a hit if you don't swing the bat.

69 No matter how you slice it, it's still **baloney**. (1926)
Variant: No matter how thin you cut it, it is still baloney.

70 **Banks** have no heart. (1853)
A line in George Henry Boker's play *Bankrupt* (1853).

71 You can't argue with the **barrel** of a gun. (1937)
Variants: You can't argue with a forty-five (revolver).

72 Nobody **bats** a thousand. (1930)

73 The harder the **battle**, the sweeter the victory. (1906)

74 You must fight one **battle** at a time. (1903)

75 Choose your **battles** wisely. (1972)
Variant: Pick your battles carefully.

76 If you're going to be a **bear**, be a grizzly. (1908)

77 If you can't **beat** them, join them. (1882)
Variant: If you can't lick them, join them.

78 The **beat** goes on. (1967)
Title and refrain of a song by Sonny Bono.

79 **Beauty** can't buy happiness. (1989)
Variant: Beauty does not buy happiness. See the older proverb "Money can't buy happiness" from 1856.

80 **Beauty** doesn't make the pot boil. (1860)
The first reference appears in the works of the Canadian author Thomas Chandler Haliburton, who was also very popular in the United States.

81 **Beauty** is only skin. (1963)
Anti-proverb of: Beauty is only skin deep (1615).

82 **Beauty** is pain. (1978)
See also "No beauty without pain" (1987).

83 **Beauty** knows no pain. (1920)
Variant: Beauty feels no pain.

84 Every **beauty** needs her beast. (1973)
The proverb is a summation of sorts of the folk tales around the motif of "Beauty and the Beast."

85 No **beauty** without pain. (1987)
Variant: There is no beauty without pain. See also: Beauty is pain.

86 Don't let the same **bee** sting you twice. (1911)
Title of a song in the musical comedy *In the Jungle*. See also the newer proverb "Don't let the same dog bite you twice" (1932).

87 Where's the **beef**? (1984)
Advertisement slogan for Wendy's fast food company. See Barrick 1986.

88 I had rather be a **beggar** and spend my last dollar like a king, than be a king and spend my money like a beggar. (1877)

89 Being born is only the **beginning**. (1919)

90 Don't **believe** everything you think. (1948)
Anti-proverb of: Don't believe everything you hear (read, see).

91 If the **Bermudas** let you pass, you must beware of Hatteras. (1830)
First reference in Nathaniel Ames's *A Mariner's Sketches* (1830). These areas of the Atlantic Ocean are known for their bad storms and shipwrecks.

92 The blacker the **berry**, the sweeter the juice. (1929)
Variant of: The blacker the meat, the sweeter the juice. The proverb praises an especially dark skin color and can refer to sexuality. See also the proverb "The blacker the meat, the sweeter the bone (piece)."

93 Everything is **best** when it is ended. (1850)
Variant: Whatever is, is best.

94 Save the **best** until last. (1881)
Variant: The best is usually saved for last.

95 A **bet** is a bet. (1857)

96 You never forget how to ride a **bicycle**. (1933)

97 A **bid** is a bid. (1919)
The proverb started as an advertisement for a bond broker in the *Wall Street Journal* of 8 September 1919.

98 **Big** is beautiful. (1927)
There is also the much younger anti-proverb "Small is beautiful" from 1971.

99 When they are **big** enough, they are old enough. (1932)
Variant: When they are old enough, they are big enough.
Regarding this sexual proverb, see also "Old enough to bleed, old enough to breed" from 1971.

100 **Bigger** is not always better. (1928)
Variant: Bigger is not necessarily better.

101 The **bigger** the better. (1891)

102 No one is born a **bigot**. (1945)
Variant: No child is born a racist.

103 A **billion** here and a billion there—pretty soon it adds up to real money. (1938)
Variant: A million here and a million there—pretty soon it begins to add up to real money.

104 A **bird** may love a fish, but where would they live? (1964)
Variant: A bird may love a fish, but where would they build a home (a nest)? The proverb about mixed marriages appeared first in Joseph Stein's play *The Fiddler on the Roof* (1964), which gained much popularity as a musical in 1965. See Mahoney 2009.

105 If you want a **bird** and a cage, buy the cage first. (1807)
A proverb that first appeared in Washington Irving's satirical magazine *Salmagundi*.

106 **Birds** sing after a storm, so why shouldn't we? (1974)
The earliest reference found is from Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, the mother of President John F. Kennedy.

107 Faraway **birds** have fine feathers. (1794)
Variant: Faraway hills are green. See also the modern proverb "The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence" from 1913.

108 You have to risk it to get the **biscuit**. (2009)
The proverb originated with the film *Fired Up!* (2009).

109 Every little **bit** helps. (1787)

110 Don't **bite** off more than you can chew. (1895)

111 **Black** is beautiful. (1927)

112 If it **bleeds**, it leads. (1983)
Variant: What bleeds leads. A reference to journalistic sensationalism.

113 Old enough to **bleed**, old enough to breed. (1971)
"Bleed" refers to menstruation. See also the sexual proverb "When they are big enough, they are old enough" from 1932.

114 Follow your own **bliss**. (1971)
The proverb originated with the popular mythology scholar Joseph Campbell.

115 **Blondes** have more fun. (1939)
Later the proverb became the advertising slogan "Is it true blondes have more fun?" for Clairol hair coloring products.

116 **Blood** boils without fire. (1844)

117 **Bloom** where you are planted. (1971)
Variant: Grow where you are planted.

118 Don't rock the **boat**. (1920)

119 Every person should row his own **boat**. (1829)
Variant: Everyone should row his own boat.

120 Whatever floats your **boat**. (1981)

121 My **body**, my choice. (1989)
The proverb originally referred to abortion rights, but it can now also relate to choices regarding sexuality, suicide, vaccination, etc.

122 No **body** is perfect. (1958)
Anti-proverb of: Nobody is perfect (1763).

123 No **body**, no crime. (1947)
Variant: No corpse, no crime. See also "No victim, no crime."

124 A **book** is a friend. (1807)
Variants: A good book is a great (the best of) friend(s). First found in Washington Irving's satirical magazine *Salmagundi*.

125 Don't judge a **book** by its cover. (1897)
Variants: You can't judge (tell) a book by its cover. See also the only ten-years-younger proverb "You can't judge a car by its paint (job)" from 1908.

126 **Boots** are made for walking. (1966)
Title and refrain of a song by Lee Hazelwood that was popularized by Nancy Sinatra's interpretation of it.

127 You **booze**, you lose. (1986)
Anti-proverb of: You snooze, you lose.

128 The **boss** is always right. (1918)

129 **Bosses** are bosses. (1907)
Variant: Bosses will be bosses.

130 **Boston** folks are full of notions. (1788)
Stereotypical view of the early high society of Boston.

131 Think outside the **box**. (1971)
This very popular modern proverb refers to innovative thinking.

132 A **boy** cannot do a man's work. (1904)

133 Don't send a **boy** to do a man's job. (1880)
Variant: Don't send a boy to do a man's work.

134 Anything **boys** can do girls can do better. (1971)
This feminist proverb might be based on the song title "Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better" from the musical *Annie, Get Your Gun* (1946) by Irving Berlin.

135 **Boys** will be boys. (1832)

136 The **bread** never falls but on its buttered side. (1867)
See also the modern proverb "If anything can go wrong, it will" (Murphy's Law) from 1908.

137 You **break** it, you buy it. (1952)

138 Always a **bridesmaid**, never a bride. (1871)

139 Do not cross the **bridge** till you come to it. (1850)
Variant: Don't cross your bridges before you get to them. The earliest reference is from a diary entry by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

140 Don't burn your **bridges** in front of you. (1917)
Variant: Don't burn your bridges before you get to them. An anti-proverb of the older proverbs "Don't burn your bridges behind you" and "Don't cross your bridges before you get to them."

141 If you can't dazzle them with **brilliance**, baffle them with bullshit. (1972)

142 The **buck** stops here. (1942)
Favorite proverb of President Harry S. Truman, who since 1945 had an inscribed sign of it on his desk. Although he did not originate it, his name is often attached to it.

143 If you **build** it, they will come. (1979)
The proverb was popularized by way of the film *Field of Dreams* (1989).

144 It makes a lot of difference whose **bull** gores the ox. (1845)
The proverb's first appearance is in James Fenimore Cooper's *The Chainbearer* (1845).

145 Play with a **bull** and you will get the horns. (1967)

146 Take the **bull** by the balls. (1954)
The proverb is based on the proverbial expression "to take the bull by the horns" from the 17th century.

147 **Bull markets** climb a wall of worry. (1977)
Variants: "A bull market climbs a wall of worry" and "Every bull market climbs a wall of worry."

148 A **bullet** does not have a name on it. (1942)
Variant: There is no name on a bullet. The unmentioned name on the bullet can refer to the victim or the shooter.

149 The **bullet** you don't hear is the one that gets you. (1905)
Variant: The shot you don't hear is the one that kills you.

150 You can't put the **bullet** back in the gun. (1891)
See the much newer proverb "You can't put the toothpaste back in the tube" from 1936.

151 A little **bullshit** goes a long way. (1943)

152 Don't bullshit a **bullshitter**. (1973)

153 If you stand up to a **bully**, he will back down. (1947)

154 Do not put a **bumper sticker** on a Ferrari (Bentley, Mercedes, etc.). (2009)
Variants: "Never put a bumper sticker on a Ferrari" and "You do (would) not put a bumper sticker on a Ferrari."

155 There will always be another **bus**. (1925)
Variant: There will always be another streetcar. See also the stereotypical proverb "Never run after a woman or a streetcar; if you miss one, another will come along soon" from 1910.

156 It's a low **bush** that the sun never shines on. (1942)

157 It takes a **bushel** of corn to fatten a pig's tail. (1819)

158 **Business** goes where it is invited and stays where it is treated well. (1910)

159 Don't mix **business** with pleasure. (1847)

160 Drive thy **business**, or it will drive thee. (1744)
The proverb was coined by Benjamin Franklin and appears first in his *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1744.

161 If you would have your **business** done, go; if not, send. (1743)
First reference in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1743.

162 The **business** of America is business. (1925)
Coined by President Calvin Coolidge during a speech on 17 January 1925.

163 There's no **business** like show business. (1946)
Song title by Irving Berlin.

164 Get **busy** living or get busy dying. (1973)
The proverb appears in similar wording already in Bob Dylan's song "It's Alright, Ma" (1965).

165 Float like a **butterfly**, sting like a bee. (1964)
The proverb has been ascribed to Muhammad Ali (Cassius Clay), but it was actually coined by his trainer Drew Brown.

166 **Buy** low, sell high. (1895)

167 I **buy**, you fly. (1989)
Variants: "I'll buy, you fly," "You buy, I fly," and "You fly, I buy." The verb "fly" refers to going out to get take-out food and/or beverages to be shared with the person who provides the payment.

C

168 The **cake** is a lie. (2007)
The proverb is a cryptic reference to the video game *Portal*.

169 You can't ever tell what a lousy **calf** will come to be. (1836)
Variant: You can never tell how a mangy calf will come out in the spring.

170 The **camera** does not lie. (1889)
Variant: The camera cannot lie.

171 A **candle** loses nothing by lighting another candle. (1918)

172 **Candy** is dandy but liquor is quicker. (1931)
From Ogden Nash's poem "Reflection on Ice-Breaking" (1931).

173 If you have a **cannon**, shoot it. (1979)

174 Paddle your own **canoe.** (1802)
Popularized by way of Harry Clifton's song "Paddle Your Own Canoe" (1871), in which the proverb appears as its refrain.

175 **Can't** never could. (1952)

176 **Can't** never did anything. (1841)

177 There's no such word as **can't**. (1900)

178 Big **car**, small dick. (1991)
Variant: Big car, small prick. "Dick" and "prick" are slang terms for penis.

179 Nobody washes a rental **car**. (1985)

180 You can't judge a **car** by its paint job. (1908)
Anti-proverb of: You can't judge a book by its cover (1897).

181 The **cards** beat all the players, be they ever so skillful. (1844)
First found in Ralph Waldo Emerson's essay "Nominalist and Realist" (1844).

182 Trust everyone, but cut the **cards**. (1900)
The proverb first appears in Peter Dunne's *Mr. Dooley's Philosophy* (1900).

183 **Caring** is sharing. (1924)
Variants: "Caring means sharing" and "Sharing is caring."

184 **Cat** will not eat cat. (1818)
See the similar English proverb "Dog will not eat dog" from the 16th century.

185 Even a dead **cat** will bounce. (1987)

186 There is always a **catch**. (1890)

187 **Catching** is before hanging. (1818)

188 It is better to have the good will of **cats** than their ill will. (1809)

189 A bad **cause** will ever be supported by bad means and bad men. (1777)
The proverb has its origin in Thomas Paine's *The American Crisis* (1777).

190 Similar **causes** produce similar effects. (1689)

191 A **chain** is no stronger than its weakest link. (1861)

192 Don't rearrange the deck **chairs** on the *Titanic*. (1991)
The proverb refers to useless or unnecessary actions.

193 A slim **chance** is better than none. (1912)

194 Any **chance** is better than none. (1901)
Variants: "Any chance is better than no chance" and "A slight (slim) chance beats no chance." See also "A long shot is better than no shot" (1947).

195 You never get a second **chance** to make a first impression. (1952)
See the older proverb "First impressions are lasting" from the 18th century.

196 Be the **change** you want to see. (1974)
Variant: Be the change you wish to see in the world. The proverb is often attributed to Mohandas Gandhi.

197 **Change** is the only constant in life. (1831)
Variant: Change is the only certain thing in this world.

198 The **chase** is better than the kill. (1904)

199 **Chastity** is a virtue with some, with the majority almost a vice. (1920)
The first reference occurs in James Huneker's novel *Painted Veils* (1920).

200 **Cheapest** is the dearest labor. (1841)
"Dearest" in the sense of most expensive. The proverb occurs first in Ralph Waldo Emerson's essay "Compensation" (1841).

201 Two **cheats** make an even bargain. (1748)

202 **Check** yourself before you wreck yourself. (1994)

203 There's always free **cheese** in a mousetrap. (1962)

204 **Chicken** today, feathers tomorrow. (1958)
See the older proverb "A rooster one day, a feather duster the next" from 1907.

205 You can't make **chicken salad** out of chicken shit. (1949)

206 Too many **chiefs**, not enough Indians. (1950)
Variant: Too many chiefs, not enough braves. American version of the European proverb "Too many cooks spoil the broth." It is not in much use any longer since it can be interpreted as stereotyping.

207 Better die a **child** at four than live and die so at four score. (1777)

208 **Children** are our future. (1920)
First reference in *Dark Water* by W. E. B. Du Bois (1920).

209 **Children** should be seen and not had. (1928)
Anti-proverb of: Children should be seen and not heard.

210 **Children** should be seen and not heard. (1820)
First found in the writings of President John Quincy Adams.

211 Late **children**, early orphans. (1742)
Found in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1742. Franklin repeated it in a letter from 1768 in which he argues for early marriages so that children do not become orphans.

212 Teach your **children** to walk and then to walk away. (1964)

213 There are no bad **children**, only bad parents. (1910)
See the similar proverbial structure of the proverbs "There are no bad dogs, only bad owners" and "There are no bad students, only bad teachers."

214 A little **chimney** is soon fired. (1700)

215 You can't build a **chimney** from the top down. (1881)

216 Let the **chips** fall where they may. (1880)

217 Our **choices** define us. (1985)

218 **Choose** it or lose it. (1979)
Anti-proverb of: Use it or lose it.

219 **Church** is not out till they sing. (1966)

220 He that drinks his **cider** alone, let him catch his horse alone. (1744)
First reference in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1744. See also the English proverb "Who eats his cock alone, must saddle his horse alone" from the 16th century.

221 Sometimes a **cigar** is just a cigar. (1950)
The proverb is often attributed to Sigmund Freud, who was widely read in the United States.

222 Not my **circus**, not my monkeys. (2014)
The proverb originated in Poland and was loan translated into English with the first written reference thus far found in a Canadian newspaper.

223 **Circumstances** alter cases. (1776)

224 Small **circumstances** produce great events. (1774)

225 You can't fight **city hall**. (1933)

226 Even a stopped **clock** is right twice a day. (1877)
Variant: Even a broken clock is right sometimes.

227 **Close** doesn't count. (1916)
Variant: Almost (nearly) doesn't count.

228 **Close** enough is close enough. (1978)
Variant: Close enough is good enough.

229 Every **cloud** has a silver lining. (1855)
There is also the newer proverb "Always look for the silver lining" from 1920.

230 **Coaxing** is better than driving. (1814)

231 **Cocks** make free with the horse's corn. (1797)
The proverb refers to parasites or sponges.

232 There is never just one **cockroach**. (1991)
Variant: There is never just one cockroach in the kitchen.

233 Wake up and smell the **coffee**. (1943)

234 Stuff a **cold** and starve a fever. (1829)

235 **Competition** is the life of trade. (1816)
Variant. Competition is the soul of trade.

236 **Compromise** makes a good umbrella but a poor roof. (1884)

237 They **conquer** who believe they can. (1870)
Variant: To conquer, you must believe you can. First reference in Ralph Waldo Emerson's *Society and Solitude* (1870).

238 No man is such a **conqueror** as the man who has defeated himself. (1887)
First reference in Henry Ward Beecher's *Proverbs from Plymouth Pulpit* (1887).

239 Keep **conscience** clear; then never fear. (1749)
Located in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1749.

240 An ignorant **consent** is no consent. (1709)

241 The most important **considerations** for buying a home are location, location, and location. (1926)
Variant: The most important considerations for selling a home are location, location, and location.

242 **Consistency** is a jewel. (1867)

243 **Corporations** have no souls. (1812)

244 It **costs** nothing to dream. (1920)
Variant: Dreaming doesn't cost anything.

245 **Coughs** and sneezes spread diseases. (1918)

246 Everyone **counts** or no one counts. (1979)
Variant: Everyone matters or no one.

247 Ask not what your **country** can do for you, ask what you can do for your country. (1961)
Stated by President John F. Kennedy in his inaugural address on 20 January 1961. Its source might well have been a statement in a speech by Oliver Wendell Holmes of 30 May 1884: "It is now the moment . . . to recall what our country has done for each of us, and to ask ourselves what we can do for our country in return."

248 Happy is the **country** which has no history. (1807)
Statement by President Thomas Jefferson in a letter of 29 March 1807.

249 My **country**, right or wrong. (1847)
First reference in *Congress, Slavery, and an Unjust War* (1847) by President John Quincy Adams.

250 The **country** pays for all. (1692)

251 This is a free **country**. (1848)
Variant: It's a free country.

252 It's what's up front that **counts**. (1957)
Advertising slogan of the Winston cigarette company, based on the older proverb "It's what's inside that counts."

253 **Courtesy** costs nothing. (1837)
First found in the writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson.

254 The cross **cow** holds up her milk. (1870)
First reference in Ralph Waldo Emerson's *Society and Solitude* (1870).

255 Give **credit** where credit is due. (1812)

256 **Credulity** is not a crime. (1794)
The proverb originated in Thomas Paine's *Age of Reason* (1794).

257 **Crime** does not pay. (1874)

258 Don't do the **crime** if you can't do the time. (1957)
Variant: If you can't do the time, don't do the crime.

259 It's not the **crime** but the cover-up. (1973)

260 The only **crime** is getting caught. (1940)
Variant: It isn't a crime unless you get caught.

261 A **crisis** is an opportunity. (1900)
Variant: With crisis comes opportunity. See also the newer proverb "Tragedy is an opportunity" from 1978.

262 Don't waste a **crisis**. (1976)
Variant: Never let a crisis go to waste.

263 A bad **custom** is easier introduced than removed. (1753)

264 The **customer** is always right. (1905)
See Taylor 1958.

D

265 **Danger** is the sauce for prayer. (1753)
"Sauce" in the sense of "spice." First reference in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1753.

266 **Danger** makes men bold. (1775)
First found in a letter of Abigail Adams to her husband and later president John Adams.

267 A cold **day** or two does not make a winter. (1755)

268 Another **day**, another dollar. (1907)

269 Any **day** above ground is a good day. (1973)

270 The only easy **day** was yesterday. (1994)
This is the motto of the Navy Seals, which has been attributed to Michael Thornton.

271 There is no **day** but today. (1979)

272 Better **dead** than Red. (1961)
The proverb was originally directed against a pro-Castro demonstration in San Francisco. It might have been based on the German anti-Communist slogan "Lieber tot als rot" from the time of World War II. It is an anti-proverb of "Better Red than dead" from 1958.

273 A **deadline** is a deadline. (1933)

274 **Death** is nature's way of telling you to slow down. (1960)
Anti-proverb of: Pain is nature's way of telling you to slow down (1920).

275 **Death** is the gate of life. (1792)

276 **Death** observes no ceremony. (1717)

277 Nothing can be said to be certain, except **death** and taxes. (1789)

First found in a letter by Benjamin Franklin to Jean Baptiste Le Roy. The English dramatist Christopher Bullock made a similar statement in his comedy *The Cobbler of Preston* (1716): "'Tis impossible to be sure of any thing but Death and Taxes."

278 An ounce of **decision** is worth a pound of doubt. (1809)

The proverb is found in Washington Irving's writings.

279 Bad **decisions** make good stories. (2009)

Variants: "Bad decisions make great stories" and "Bad decisions make the best stories."

280 No good **deed** goes unpunished. (1942)

Anti-proverb of: No bad deed goes unpunished.

281 One **deed** is worth a thousand speeches. (1767)

See also the modern proverb "One picture is worth a thousand words" of 1911.

282 Great **deeds** live. (1767)

See the older English proverb "A good deed is never lost" from the early 17th century.

283 The best **defense** is a good offense. (1790)

284 We boil at different **degrees**. (1870)

It appears in print first in Ralph Waldo Emerson's essay "Eloquence" (1870).

285 **Delights** dwell as well in the cottage as the palace. (1775)

286 You cannot tell the **depth** of the well by the length of the handle on the pump. (1915)

287 A messy **desk** is a sign of intelligence. (1973)
Variants: A cluttered desk is a sign of brilliance (genius, a busy person).

288 A messy **desk** is a sign of a messy mind. (1974)
Variant: A cluttered desk is a sign of a messy person.

289 A neat **desk** is a sign of a sick mind. (1973)

290 **Despair** never pays any debts. (1767)

291 If you dance with the **devil,** you will get burned. (1996)
See the older proverb "If you dance with the devil, you will have to pay the fiddler (piper)" from the 17th century.

292 The **devil** is in the details. (1963)
Anti-proverb of: God is in the details (1925).

293 The **devil** is the root of all evil. (1733)

294 The bigger the **devil** the better the soldier. (1819)
The reference is to an "inner" courageous devil.

295 Though the **devil** is up early, God is up before him. (1676)
The first reference is found in the writings of Roger Williams, the founder of the later state of Rhode Island.

296 A **diamond** is forever. (1948)
Variant: Diamonds are forever. The proverb started as an advertising slogan of the DeBeers mining company.

297 **Diamonds** are a girl's best friend. (1949)
Variant: A diamond is a girl's best friend. The proverb is the title and refrain of a song by Leo Robin.

298 When you **die**, you can't take it with you. (1855)
Variant: No matter how much money you have, when you die, you must leave it.

299 You (We) have to **die** of something. (1934)
Variant: Everyone has to die from something. There is an older English proverb "Everyone has to die sometime" from the 16th century.

300 Just because you're on a **diet** doesn't mean you can't look at the menu. (1959)
Variant: Just because you've already eaten doesn't mean that you can't look at the menu.

301 The only **difference** between men and boys is the price of their toys. (1963)

302 The only **difference** between a rut and a grave is that a grave is a little longer. (1905)
There is also the proverbial expression "to be in a rut."

303 What a **difference** a day makes. (1914)
Variant: What a difference a day can make.

304 By **diligence** and patience the mouse bit in two the cable. (1735)
The proverb was coined by Benjamin Franklin and appears first in his *Poor Richard's Almanack* of 1735.

305 A little **dirt** never hurt. (1904)
Variants: A little dirt never hurt you (anyone).

306 **Dirt** will rub off when it is dry. (1774)
Identified by Benjamin Franklin in 1774 as a proverb in his writings.

307 If you sift through enough **dirt**, you may find gold. (1997)
Variant: If you sift through enough mud, you may find a diamond.

308 You can **disagree** without being disagreeable. (1927)

309 **Discount** is good pay. (1780)

310 You are not your **disease**. (1984)
Variant: You are not the disease.

311 Don't **dish** it out if you can't take it. (1930)

312 Every new **dish** creates a fresh appetite. (1692)

313 **Distrust** is the mother of security. (1776)

314 **Do** it once, do it right. (1953)
The proverb started as an advertisement for the Carbo-Tex company.

315 **Do** it, then talk about it. (1952)
Variant: Do it first, then talk about it.

316 **Do** unto others before they do unto you. (1915)
Variant: Do unto others before they can do you. Anti-proverb of the Bible proverb (golden rule): Do unto others as you would have them do unto you (Matthew 7:12).

317 Just **do** it. (1988)
Originally an advertisement slogan by the Nike shoe company.

318 You can **do** anything you put your mind to. (1875)

319 You can **do** anything you want to if you want to badly enough. (1961)

320 Don't let the same **dog** bite you twice. (1932)
See the older proverb "Don't let the same bee sting you twice" (1911).

321 If you aren't the lead **dog**, the scenery never changes. (1980)
Variant: If you aren't the lead dog, the view never changes.

322 It's a poor **dog** that won't wag its own tail. (1922)
An older proverb is "It's an ill (tired) horse that cannot whinny or wag its tail."

323 Sometimes you're the **dog**, and sometimes you're the hydrant. (1989)
Variant: Some days you're the dog, and some days you're the hydrant.

324 When a **dog** bites a man, that is not news, but when a man bites a dog that is news. (1880)
The proverb originated with the journalist John B. Bogart of the *Sun* (New York) newspaper.

325 **Dogs** don't bark at parked cars. (1993)

326 **Dogs** show their teeth when they dare not bite. (1791)

327 If you can't run with the big **dogs**, stay on the porch. (1985)
The first written reference is from Canada.

328 There are no bad **dogs**, only bad owners. (1949)
See also the proverbs "There are no bad children, only bad parents" and "There are no bad students, only bad teachers" based on the same structure.

329 You can't run with the big **dogs** if you pee like a pup. (1986)

330 A **dollar** in the bank is worth two in the hand. (1904)
Anti-proverb of the old English proverb "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush" from the 15th century.

331 A **dollar** saved is a dollar earned. (1859)
Based on the old English proverb "A penny saved is a penny earned" from the 17th century.

332 There's no friend like a **dollar**. (1942)
Variant: Your best friend is your dollar.

333 You can spend a **dollar** only once. (1913)

334 There are no **do-overs** in life. (1998)

335 When in **doubt**, leave it out. (1884)
Variants: "When in doubt what to do, don't do it" and "When in doubt, do without."

336 When in **doubt**, look about. (1902)

337 When in **doubt**, punt. (1924)

338 When in **doubt**, tell the truth. (1893)
First reference in Mark Twain's *Pudd'nhead Wilson's Calendar* (1893).

339 When in **doubt**, throw it out. (1919)
Variant: When in doubt, toss it.

340 No **dough**, no go. (1952)

341 Don't miss the **doughnut** (donut) by looking through the hole. (1999)
See also the older proverb "Keep your eye on the doughnut and not on the hole" from 1908.

342 **Down** is not out. (1910)
Variant: A man may be down but not out.

343 Sometimes the **dragon** wins. (1981)

344 If you're going to **dream**, dream big. (1984)
Variant: If you're going to dream, you might as well dream big.

345 If you can **dream** it, you can do it. (1970)
Variants: If you can dream it, you can be it (have it). See also the slightly newer proverb "If you can see it, you can be it" (1973).

346 No **dream** lasts forever. (1865)

347 **Dreams** can't come true unless you wake up. (1928)
Variant: Dreams won't come true unless you wake up and go to work.

348 **Dress** to impress. (1952)
See also "Dress for success" (1933).

349 Keep your **dress** down and your panties up. (1975)
Variant: Keep your dress down and your drawers up.

350 Finish the **drill**. (2002)

351 **Drink** is the source of all evil. (1789)
The proverb appears in the writings of George Washington.

352 The smaller the **drink**, the clearer the head, and the cooler the blood. (1693)
The proverb first appears in William Penn's *Some Fruits of Solitude* (1693).

353 **Drinking** and driving don't mix. (1928)
Variant: Alcohol and driving don't mix.

354 **Drinking** and thinking don't mix. (1980)
Anti-proverb of: Drinking and driving don't mix.

355 If you **drive**, don't drink; if you drink, don't drive. (1935)

356 For every **drop** of rain that falls a flower grows. (1953)
The proverb comes from the song "I Believe" by Ervin Drake and Jimmy Shirl, which became popular by way of the singer Frankie Laine.

357 If it looks like a **duck**, walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, it's a duck. (1948)

358 It is better to be a big **duck** in a little pond than a little duck in a big pond. (1934)
See also the similar proverb "It is better to be a big fish in a little pond than a little fish in a big pond" (1903).

359 Get your **ducks** in a row. (1956)

360 Go hunting where the **ducks** are. (1930)
See the similar proverb "If you are looking for elephants, go to elephant country" (1954).

361 Do your **duty** and be afraid of none. (1749)

362 **Dynamite** comes in small packages. (1937)
Anti-proverb of: Good things come in small packages.

E

363 An **eagle's** mind never fits a raven's feather. (1708)

364 It is hard to soar with the **eagles** when you are surrounded by turkeys. (1980)

365 If you're always **early**, you're never late. (2006)
Variant: If you're always early, you'll never be late.

366 **Easy** does it. (1848)

367 It's not **easy** being green. (1970)
Variant: It's not easy to be green. The proverb appears in a song about a green frog in *The Muppets* television program. It describes how painful it can be to have a different skin color. Today it is often cited in connection with environmental issues.

368 You are what you **eat**. (1887)
Variant: We are what we eat. Similar to Ludwig Feuerbach's German proverb "Der Mensch ist, was er ißt" (Man is what he eats) from 1850.

369 You can **eat** well or sleep well. (1912)
Variant: You can either sleep well or eat well.

370 **Eavesdroppers** never hear any good of themselves. (1880)
Variant: An eavesdropper never hears anything good about himself. The first reference appears in *Uncle Remus: His Songs and His Sayings* (1880) by Joel Chandler Harris.

371 **Education** is a journey, not a destination. (1936)
Variants: Success (Life) is a journey, not a destination.

372 There is no **education** in the second kick of a mule. (1966)
Variant: There is little wisdom in the second kick of a mule.

373 Let every man skin his own **eel**. (1840)

374 A boiled **egg** won't hatch. (1901)
Variants: A fried (cooked) egg won't hatch.

375 You can't spoil a rotten **egg**. (1882)

376 Broken **eggs** cannot be mended.(1860)
The proverb appears first in President Abraham Lincoln's speech of 31 July 1860.

377 You can't unscramble **eggs**. (1911)

378 An **elephant** never forgets. (1886)
Variant: Elephants never forget.

379 If you are looking for **elephants,** go to elephant country. (1954)
See the somewhat older similar proverb "Go hunting where the ducks are" from 1930.

380 Every **employee** tends to rise to his level of incompetence. (1967)
A proverbial principle coined by Laurence J. Peter.

381 The **enemy** has a vote. (1997)
Variants: The enemy also (always) gets a vote.

382 Your worst **enemy** could be your best friend. (1970)
Variant: Your best friend could be your worst enemy.

383 Nothing great was ever achieved without **enthusiasm**. (1841)
Earliest reference in Ralph Waldo Emerson's essay "Circles" (1841).

384 One **error** breeds more. (1849)
First cited in the works of the Canadian author Thomas Chandler Haliburton, who was very popular in the United States as well.

385 Great **events** are brought about by small beginnings. (1773)

386 **Everything** is for the best. (1758)
First found in the writings of President George Washington.

387 You can't have **everything**. (1893)

388 It is better to prevent an **evil** than to attend to it. (1689)

389 **Evolve** or die. (1991)
See also "Innovate or die" from 1958. Since the earliest written reference is from 10 September 1991 in the *Globe and Mail* newspaper of Toronto, the proverb might have been coined in Canada.

390 **Excuses** are like assholes; everybody has them. (1974)
Variant: Excuses are like armpits; everybody has them and most of them stink. First found as a wall inscription (graffito).

391 **Expedience** is the best teacher. (1966)
Anti-proverb of: Experience is the best teacher (1617).

392 **Experience** is the best rule to walk by. (1779)
Earliest reference in the writings of President George Washington.

393 **Experience** keeps a dear school, but fools learn in no other. (1743)
The proverb was coined by Benjamin Franklin and appears first in his *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1743.

394 **Experience** makes men wise. (1774)
Variant: Experience makes folks wise.

395 An **eye** for an eye leaves the whole world blind. (1948)
See the Bible proverb "Eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth" (Exodus 21:24).

396 Every shut **eye** is not asleep. (1900)

397 Keep your **eye** on the ball. (1892)

398 Keep your **eye** on the doughnut (donut) and not on the hole. (1908)
See also the much newer proverb "Don't miss the doughnut (donut) by looking through the hole" (1999).

399 The **eyes** do not lie. (1982)
Variant: The eyes don't lie.

400 Given enough **eyeballs**, all bugs are shallow. (1997)
Variants: "Given enough eyes, all bugs are shallow" and "Many eyes make all bugs shallow." The proverb asserts that given enough people working on them, all problems, especially of the computer, are solvable. This is also known as "Linus's Law" after Linus Torvalde from Finland, who invented the Linux computer operating system around 1991.

F

401 **Facts** are facts. (1760)

402 **Facts** are stranger than fiction. (1853)
First reference in the works of the Canadian author Thomas Chandler Haliburton. An older English proverb is "Truth is stranger than fiction" from the early 19th century.

403 **Facts** don't lie. (1748)

404 **Facts** speak for themselves. (1780)
Earliest reference found in the writings of President George Washington.

405 **Facts** speak louder than words. (1788)
Anti-proverb of the proverb "Actions speak louder than words" (1736).

406 When all else **fails**, pray. (1957)
Variant: When all else fails, try prayer.

407 **Failure** is not falling down but staying down. (1936)

408 It is better to be **faithful** than famous. (1903)
Variant: Better to be faithful than successful. A law of life by President Theodore Roosevelt that has become proverbial.

409 **Fake** it till you make it. (1972)

410 The bigger they are, the harder they **fall**. (1905)
Coined by the boxer Robert Fitzsimmons.

411 **Fame** has a price. (1932)
See the somewhat older proverb "Glory has a price" (1917).

412 **Fame** is a bitch. (1961)

413 The **family** that prays together stays together. (1947)
The proverb started as a slogan of the "Family Theater of the Air" radio program.

414 You do what you have to for **family**. (1995)
Variant: We do what we have to do for family.

415 If the **farmer** fails all will starve. (1721)

416 **Father** knows best. (1870)
Coined by the feminist Susan B. Anthony, who employed it ironically. See also "Mother knows best" from 1871.

417 **Fatigue** is better than a bed of down. (1809)

418 One should prize small **favors**. (1640)

419 **Fear** makes people loving. (1775)
Cited as a proverb in a letter by Abigail Adams.

420 The only thing we have to fear is **fear** itself. (1933)
Proverbial statement by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in his first inaugural address on 4 March 1933. There exist a few similar comments that might have served as sources: "There is only one thing to fear, and that is fear" (St. Teresa of Avila, ca. 1575), "Nothing is terrible except fear itself" (Francis Bacon, 1623), and "Nothing is so much to be feared as fear" (Henry David Thoreau, 1851).

421 **Feast** today, fast tomorrow. (1908)

422 Sticking **feathers** up your butt doesn't make you a chicken. (1996)

423 **Feel** good, play good. (1987)
Variants: "Look good, play good" and "Look good, feel good, play good." The first written reference appeared in a Toronto newspaper.

424 Move your **feet**, lose your seat. (1987)
Variant: Move your meat, lose your seat.

425 Slow **feet** don't eat. (2014)
The proverb originated in the world of American football, where good footwork is important. The meaning is that you have to move quickly if you want to succeed. It has become a popular slogan on T-shirts for exercise in general.

426 When you pray, move your **fee**t. (1936)

427 Don't kick a **fellow** when he is down. (1809)

428 Don't take down a **fence** unless you are sure why it was put up. (1964)
Variant: Don't tear down a wall unless you are sure why it was put up.

429 Good **fences** make good neighbors. (1834)
The proverb is often attributed to Robert Frost, who employed it as a leitmotif in his famous poem "Mending Wall" (1914). See Monteiro 1976; Mieder 2003b.

430 You cannot play a **fiddle** without a fiddlestick. (1851)

431 Don't start a **fight** you can't finish. (1921)

432 **Figures** don't lie. (1739)
Variant: Figures will not lie. Today it is at times cited as the anti-proverb "Figures don't lie, but liars can figure."

433 So much **finery**, so much poverty. (1745)

434 A little **fire** may kindle a great matter. (1699)
The proverb appears in Cotton Mather's diary.

435 Don't play with **fire** if you don't want to get burned. (1977)
See also the older, related proverb "If you play with fire you get burnt" from 1884.

436 If you play with **fire** you get burnt. (1884)
See also the newer related proverb "Don't play with fire if you don't want to get burned" from 1977.

437 Big **fires** start small. (1918)
Variant: All fires start small.

438 Everyone can't be **first**. (1955)

439 You can't steal **first base**. (1915)

440 **Fish** and visitors stink in three days. (1736)
In this precise wording the proverb appears in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1736. However, it has a long history with numerous variants, such as, for example, the British "Fish and guests in three days are stale" (1580), "Guests and fish stink in three days" (1659), and "Fish and guests smell at three days old" (1732). Franklin certainly picked up this

much older English proverb, but in the minds of Americans, it is "his" proverb. Since his name is often attached to it, the proverb is included in this collection.

441 **Fish** or cut bait. (1860)

442 He that would catch **fish** must venture his bait. (1757)
First cited in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1757.

443 It is better to be a big **fish** in a little pond than a little fish in a big pond. (1903)
See the proverb "It is better to be a big duck in a little pond than a little duck in a big pond" (1934) with the same structure.

444 Smart **fish** don't bite. (1935)
Variants: "Smart fish don't get caught" and "Smart fish keep their mouth shut."

445 Only dead **fish** go with the flow. (1989)
The proverb is soften cited as a negative reaction to the proverbial advice "Go with the flow."

446 You've got to **fish** while they are biting. (1921)

447 If it doesn't **fit**, you must acquit. (1995)
Proverbial statement by the lawyer Johnnie Cochran during the murder trial of the football player O. J. Simpson. It refers to a glove that did not fit Simpson, which led to an unexpected not guilty verdict.

448 If it ain't broke, don't **fix** it. (1960)
Variant: If it isn't broken, why fix it?

449 If you can't **fix** it, feature it. (1985)
Variants: "Fix it or feature it" and "Don't fix it, feature it."

450 You can't **fix** everything. (1933)

451 **Flattery** will get you everywhere. (1926)
Variant: Flattery will get you anywhere.

452 **Flattery** will get you nowhere. (1938)
Anti-proverb of: Flattery will get you everywhere (anywhere).

453 A reasonable amount of **fleas** is good for a dog—they keep him from broodin' on bein' a dog. (1898)
The first reference appears in Edward Noyes Westcott's novel *David Harum* (1898).

454 If it **flies,** it dies. (1984)
The proverb deals with weapons (military) and guns (hunting), asserting that once they have been shot they will kill.

455 One **flock,** one shepherd. (1696)

456 You can't fall off the **floor**. (1957)
Variant: It's hard to fall off the floor.

457 Go with the **flow**. (1962)

458 Many a fair **flower** springs out of a dunghill. (1807)
Proverb cited in Washington Irving's satirical journal *Salmagundi*.

459 Say it with **flowers**. (1917)
Advertisement slogan by the Society of American Florists.

460 Stop and smell the **flowers**. (1951)
Variant: Stop and smell the roses.

461 A **fly** may conquer a lion. (1813)

462 A **foe** vanquished is a foe no more. (1795)

463 A **fool** always finds a greater fool to admire. (1797)

464 **Fool** me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me. (1891)

465 A **fool** never makes a good husband. (1807)

466 It takes a **fool** to know a fool. (1901)

467 **Force** shits upon reason's back. (1736)
Cited in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1736.

468 **Fortune** may fail us, but a prudent conduct never will. (1776)

469 The more **free** the more welcome. (1788)
"Free" also in the sense of unlimited and unrestricted.

470 **Freedom** is not for sale. (1949)

471 **Freedom** is not free. (1943)

472 **Freedom** is not given, it is won. (1967)
Coined by Martin Luther King in his book *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?* (1967).

473 A **friend** nearby is better than a brother far off. (1682)

474 A **friend** with weed is a friend indeed. (1968)
Anti-proverb of: A friend in need is a friend indeed.

475 A true **friend** is one who knows all your faults and still loves you. (1917)
Variant: A true friend is one who knows all your faults and still likes you.

476 A true **friend** is the best possession. (1744)
A proverb first found in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1744.

477 If you want a **friend**, get a dog. (1941)
A proverbial allusion to the British proverb "A dog is man's best friend," with its earliest reference found in 1843.

478 The only way to have a **friend** is to be one. (1841)
Variant: The way to gain a friend is to be one. First cited in Ralph Waldo Emerson's essay "Friendship" (1841).

479 To make a **friend**, be a friend. (1977)

480 **Friends** don't let friends drive drunk. (1976)

481 There are three faithful **friends**: an old wife, an old dog, and ready money. (1738)
The proverb is first found in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1738.

482 You cannot use your **friends** and have them too. (1954)
Anti-proverb of: You cannot have your cake and eat it too.

483 There is no **friendship** in trade. (1784)
The influential early politician Samuel Adams from Massachusetts states that this is a proverb; it is thus most likely older than this first written reference.

484 You have to kiss a lot of **frogs** to find a prince. (1976)
Variant: You have to kiss a lot of toads before you meet your handsome prince. The proverb is an allusion to the Grimm's fairy tale "The Frog Prince" even though it does not contain a kissing scene. But there are tales in the "Beauty and the Beast" cycle in which a kiss is to be found. See Mieder 2014g.

485 **Froth** always swims on the surface. (1800)

486 **Fuck** them and forget them. (1922)
Euphemistic variant: Fool them and forget them. An expanded version: Find them, feel them, fuck them, forget them. It is also an anti-proverb to the sexually less explicit proverb "Love them and leave them."

487 The **future** is a moving target. (1975)

488 There is no **future** like the present. (1909)
Anti-proverb of: There is no time like the present.

489 You can't create the **future** by clinging to the past. (1988)
Variants: You can't create the future by living in (being married to, using the tools of) the past.

G

490 Small **gain** from ill-gotten gear. (1791)

491 A living **gallant** is better than a dead husband. (1712)

492 Every **game** has a winner and a loser. (1943)

493 If you don't play the **game**, you can't make the rules. (1963)

494 It isn't how you play the **game** that counts; it's whether you win or lose. (1967)
Satirical anti-proverb of: It isn't whether you win or lose that counts; it's how you play the game.

495 It isn't whether you win or lose that counts; it's how you play the **game**. (1913)

496 My **game**, my rules. (1963)
Variant: Your game, your rules.

497 The **game** never changes, just the players do. (1988)
Variants: The game never changes, only (but) the players do.

498 **Gaping** is catching. (1783)

499 **Garbage** in, garbage out. (1957)
The proverb is also cited as "GIGO." See Winick 2001.

500 It's not enough for a **gardener** to love flowers; he must hate weeds. (1950)

501 **Gasoline** and whiskey don't mix. (1915)
Variant: Alcohol and gasoline don't mix.

502 **Genes** are not destiny. (1952)
Variants: "Genetics is not destiny" and "Heredity is not destiny."

503 What is good for **General Motors** is good for America. (1953)
A proverbial statement by the General Motors executive Charles E. Wilson in front of a U.S. Senate committee on 15 January 1953. See also the much newer proverb "What is good for Main Street is good for Wall Street" from 2007, which was used frequently by President Barack Obama.

504 Each **generation** is better than the last. (1954)
First reference in Eleanor Roosevelt's book *It Seems to Me* (1954).

505 You can't put the **genie** back in the bottle. (1919)
See the older proverb "You can't put the bullet back in the gun" from 1891.

506 **Genius** is 1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration. (1898)
The proverb was coined by Thomas Alva Edison.

507 **Genius** without education is like silver in the mine. (1750)
The proverb appears first in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1750.

508 **Gentlemen** prefer blondes. (1925)
Title of a novel by Anita Loos that was turned into a popular film in 1953 starring Marilyn Monroe.

509 **Gentleness** in the manner, but substance in the thing. (1811)

510 Let **George** do it. (1902)
The proverb probably was in oral currency by 1880. It refers to African American railroad porters who were generally and stereotypically addressed as "George" in reference to their employer George Pullman. Its negative connotation has been lost today, and, due to the fact that America has had several presidents with this first name, it finds its use in the political rhetoric of letting someone else do the mundane work. See Mieder 2013 and 2014e.

511 Don't **get** mad, get even. (1956)
Variant: Don't get angry, get even.

512 Don't **get** mad, get ahead. (1986)
Anti-proverb of: Don't get mad, get even.

513 If it is for you, you will **get** it. (1959)
Variant: What is for you, you will get.

514 In order to **get** where you want to go, you have to start from where you are now. (1965)

515 You are not late till you **get** there. (1980)

516 Get while the **getting** is good. (1911)

517 **Getting** there is half the fun. (1952)

518 If you aren't **getting** better, you're getting worse. (1982)
Variant: You're either getting better or worse.

519 You've got to have a **gimmick**. (1956)
Variant: Everyone's got to have a gimmick.

520 Never **give** anything away that you can sell. (1953)
Variant: Why give something away when you can sell it?

521 The **glass** is either half empty or half full. (1930)

522 Through rose-colored **glasses** the world is always bright. (1977)

523 **Glory** has a price. (1917)
See the somewhat younger proverb "Fame has a price" from 1932.

524 No **glove**, no love. (1982)
"Glove" refers to a condom. While the proverb does not appear in John Irving's novel *The World According to Garp* (1978), it is cited in Steve Tesich's script for the film version of 1982.

525 **Go** all the way or don't go at all. (1968)
See also "Go big or go home" (1965).

526 **Go** big or go home. (1965)
See also "Go all the way or don't go at all" (1968).

527 **Go** with what you've got. (1960)
Variant: You have to go with what you've got.

528 If you want to **go** fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go with others. (1917)
Variant: If you want to travel fastest, go alone; if you want to go farthest, go with company (companions, friends). The proverb might be regarded as an anti-proverb of the English proverb "He travels fastest who travels alone," which is found in Rudyard Kipling's *The Story of the Gadsbys* (1889). It has at times been claimed that it is of African origin, but no such text has been found thus far.

529 When you've got to **go**, you've got to go. (1937)

530 If anything can **go wrong**, it will. (1908)
Variant: Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong. The proverb has become known as "Murphy's Law" since Edward A. Murphy supposedly came up with this wisdom in 1949. But the proverb is actually considerably older.

531 Just because there's a **goalie** doesn't mean you can't score. (2008)
Variant: Just because there's a goalkeeper doesn't mean you can't score.

532 **God** can make a way out of no way. (1922)
Secularized variant: Making a way out of no way. Used repeatedly by Martin Luther King in his struggle for civil rights. See Mieder 2010a and Doyle 2014.

533 **God** doesn't make junk. (1975)
Variant: God doesn't make trash. The proverb appears at a significant point in President Barack Obama's autobiography *Dreams from My Father* (1995).

534 **God** doesn't play dice. (1926)
The proverb appears in German in a letter from Albert Einstein to Max Born about quantum mechanics: "Jedenfalls bin ich überzeugt, daß der [Gott] nicht würfelt" (At least I am convinced that God does not throw dice). It appeared in English translation in 1971 and has become proverbial as "God doesn't play dice."

535 **God** gives all things to industry. (1755)
The proverb appears in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1755.

536 **God** is above the law. (1644)
First reference found in the works of Roger Williams, the founder of the later state of Rhode Island.

537 **God** is in the details. (1925)
Most likely a loan translation of the German statement "Der liebe Gott steckt im Detail" by the art historian Aby Warburg. See the anti-proverb: The devil is in the details (1963).

538 **God** sends no cross that you cannot bear. (1985)

539 Thank **God** for Mississippi. (1929)
A stereotypical proverb meaning that no matter how bad things might get elsewhere, there's at least Mississippi, where it is worse.

540 Trust **God**, but lock your door. (1991)
Variant: Trust in God, but lock your car.

541 What **goes** around comes around. (1961)
Variant: What comes around goes around.

542 Whatever **goes up** must come down. (1847)
Variant: Everything that goes up must come down.

543 Go while the **going** is good. (1911)

544 When the **going** gets tough, the tough get going. (1954)
The proverb is often attributed to Joseph P. Kennedy, the father of President John F. Kennedy.

545 If you cheat at **golf**, you will cheat at life. (1989)
Variant: To cheat at golf is to cheat at life.

546 Go for the **gold**. (1963)

547 Whoever has the **gold** makes the rules. (1967)

548 Anything **good** is either illegal, immoral, or fattening. (1933)

549 Be **good** or be gone. (1932)

550 **Good** enough is good enough. (1910)
Anti-proverb of: Good enough is not good enough.

551 **Good** enough is not good enough. (1907)

552 **Good** often comes out of evil. (1767)

553 If you can't be **good**, be careful. (1902)
The proverb was coined by the humorist George Ade.

554 Sometimes the **good** you do does you no good. (2003)

555 The **good** is the enemy of the best. (1879)

556 The **good** is the enemy of the perfect. (1946)
See also "The perfect is the enemy of the good" (1946).

557 When you're **good**, you're good. (1967)
See also the proverb "When you're hot, you're hot."

558 **Good-bye** is not gone. (1929)

559 New **goods** are better than bargains. (1919)

560 The more **goods** at market the cheaper. (1784)

561 All is well and the **goose** hangs high. (1863)
Variant: The goose hangs (honks) high.

562 If you've **got** it, flaunt it. (1968)

563 It's not what you've **got**, it's what you do with it. (1934)
Variant: It's not what you've got, it's how you use it.

564 **Government** of the people, by the people, and for the people. (1850)
This proverbial triad is perhaps the best short definition of democracy. There are some precursors, but the most important rendering is by the abolitionist Theodore Parker from 29 May 1850: "Government of all the people, by all the people, for all the people." It was subsequently used by President Abraham

Lincoln at the end of his famous "Gettysburg Address" of 19 November 1863: "Government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." He unfortunately dropped the "all" from his statement, which has long become proverbial. See Mieder 2003c.

565 The best **government** is that in which the law speaks instead of the lawyer. (1852)

566 The best **government** is that which governs least. (1837)

Variant: That government is best which governs least. The proverb was coined by the diplomat and journalist John O'Sullivan. Henry David Thoreau cited it in his book *Civil Disobedience* (1849) and added the anti-proverb "That government is best which governs not at all."

567 The less **government** we have, the better. (1844)

The earliest reference appears in Ralph Waldo Emerson's essay "Politics" (1844).

568 **Grades** aren't everything. (1939)

569 A **grain** of caution is worth a pound of medicine. (1780)

Variant: A grain of prevention is worth a ton of remedy. See the nearly fifty years older proverb "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" with the same structure.

570 If there is **grass** on the field, you can play ball. (1998)

In this sexual proverb, "grass" stands for pubic hair, and "play ball" for intercourse at a young age.

571 The **grass** is always greener on the other side of the fence. (1913)
The proverb was popularized by Raymond B. Egan's song "The Grass Is Always Greener" (1924). See also the older proverb "Distant pastures always look greener" from 1899. See Mieder 1993d.

572 The **graveyard** is full of indispensable people. (1951)
Variant: The cemetery is full of indispensable people.

573 **Grief** is the price we pay for love. (1912)

574 In any **group** of eagles, there will be at least one turkey. (1979)

575 To **grow** is to change. (1908)

576 One **guess** is as good as another. (1834)

577 Don't draw a **gun** unless you're going to use it. (1905)

578 **Guns** don't kill people; people kill people. (1959)

579 The biggest **gun** wins. (1988)
Variants: "The man with the biggest gun wins" and "He who has the biggest gun wins."

580 **Guts** can sometimes do more than brains. (1742)

581 No **guts,** no glory. (1945)

582 Nice **guys** finish last. (1948)
Variant: Nice guys always finish last.

H

583 **Habit** makes all things agreeable. (1770)
First reference in the writings of President John Adams.

584 **Habits** are hard to break. (1758)
The proverb is cited in Benjamin Franklin's papers.

585 Old **habits** die hard. (1895)

586 What you've never **had** you never miss. (1850)

587 **Half** of something is better than all of nothing. (1901)
Variants: "Half of nothing is better than the whole of nothing" and "Half of something is better than half of nothing."

588 Why go out for **hamburger** when you can get steak at home? (1971)
The proverb was coined by the actor Paul Newman to characterize his satisfactory marriage with Joanne Woodward. See also the somewhat older proverb "Why buy milk when you've got a cow at home?" from 1957. Both texts include sexual meanings.

589 Be the **hammer**, not the nail. (1988)
The first written reference is from 17 November 1988 in the *Ottawa Citizen* newspaper in Canada.

590 One must be either **hammer** or anvil. (1803)
The proverb is found in the papers of Thomas Jefferson.

591 When all you have is a **hammer**, everything looks like a nail. (1962)
The proverb is known as Alfred Kaplan's "Law of the Instrument."

592 A light **hand** makes a heavy pocket. (1820)
The "light hand" refers to moderation in spending. The proverb has at times been attributed to Benjamin Franklin.

593 Don't put your **hand** in a dog's mouth. (1790)
In other words, be careful whom you trust.

594 The **hand** that rocks the cradle rules the world. (1849)

595 Shit in one **hand** and hope in the other; see which one fills up first. (1941)
Variants: Pee (Spit) in one hand and wish in the other; see which one fills up first.

596 You play the **hand** you are dealt. (1953)
Variant: You play the cards you are dealt.

597 A **handicap** is what you make it. (1946)

598 Busy h**ands** are happy hands. (1956)

599 Let us all **hang** together or hang separately. (1776)
Variant: We must hang together, or we shall hang separately. The proverb has its origin with Benjamin Franklin's statement at the signing of the Declaration of Independence on 4 July 1776 in Philadelphia: "We must all hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately."

600 There is no **hanging** a man for his thoughts. (1760)
Variant: A man cannot be hanged for thinking. The first reference is found in the writings of Benjamin Franklin.

601 Anything can **happen** and probably will. (1926)
Anti-proverb of: Anything can happen.

602 What has **happened** once can happen again. (1815)
Variant: What has happened once may happen again.

603 **Happiness** is a habit. (1914)
Variant: Happiness is a habit; cultivate it. The proverb is part of an epigram by Elbert Hubbard.

604 **Happiness** is a journey, not a destination. (1937)
See also the proverb "Success is a journey, not a destination" (1933) with the same structure.

605 **Happiness** is where you find it. (1937)
See also the proverb "Love is where you find it" (1938) with the same structure.

606 Leave not the **harbor** in a gale. (1815)

607 No **harm**, no foul. (1956)

608 Better a **has-been** than a never-was. (1907)
Variant: Better to be a has-been than a never-was. The proverb originated from the song title "I'd Rather Be a Has-Been Than a Never-Was-At-All" by William Jerome in the stage musical *Lola from Berlin* (1907) by John J. McNally, with music by Jean Schwartz.

609 The bigger the **hat**, the smaller the property. (1922)
Variant: The wider the brim, the smaller the holding (ranch, herd). A proverb from the world of ranchers and cowboys.

610 **Hate** destroys the hater. (1934)
Variants: Hating (Hatred) destroys the hater.

611 **Haters** are going to hate. (2000)

612 The **haughty** in prosperity are meanest in adversity. (1775)

613 You either **have** it or you don't. (1921)

614 Keep your **head** down and your feet moving. (1990)

615 **Health** is a call loan. (1858)
An aphorism by Josh Billings that became proverbial.

616 **Hear** before you blame. (1798)
The first reference is found in a letter by Abigail Adams to her husband, President John Adams.

617 **Hearing** is not listening. (1949)

618 A merry **heart** does good like a medicine. (1789)
Earliest reference in a letter by Abigail Adams. See the older British proverb "A merry heart lives long" from 1600.

619 The **heart** has a mind of its own. (1960)
Title and refrain of the song "My Heart Has a Mind of Its Own" by Howard Greenfield and Jack Keller, which was made popular by the singer Connie Francis.

620 The stoutest **heart** must fail at last. (1776)
The proverb is found in the writings of Robert Treat Paine.

621 You can't measure **heart**. (1967)

622 If you can't stand the **heat**, get out of the kitchen. (1931)
One of President Harry S. Truman's favorite proverbs. It is often attributed to him, but he most likely heard it from judge E. I. Purcell from Jackson County, Missouri.

623 Everybody wants to go to **heaven**, but nobody wants to die. (1950)
Title of a song by Tommy Dorsey.

624 If you're going through **hell**, keep going. (1994)
Variant: When you're going through hell, don't stop.

625 In **hell** one should pay court to the devil. (1800)

626 It's **hell** to be poor. (1904)

627 **Hindsight** is twenty-twenty. (1949)

628 Last **hired**, first fired. (1918)

629 **History** is bunk. (1916)
The proverb was coined by Henry Ford.

630 **History** is written by the victors. (1903)
Variants: History is written by the winners (survivors).

631 A **hog** swimming cuts his own throat. (1806)
The proverb refers to someone being out of his element.

632 No man's own **hog** can trespass on his master's ground. (1809)

633 Root, **hog**, or die. (1834)
First reference in David Crockett's *A Narrative of the Life of David Crockett* (1834). It became popular through Richard J. McGowan's song "Root, Hog, or Die" (1856) with its proverbial refrain. See Shelton 2014.

634 When you are in a **hole**, stop digging. (1911)
Known as the "Law of Holes." In England, it is also known as "Healey's Law" after the politician Dennis Healey, who popularized it there during the 1980s.

635 **Home** is where one hangs his hat. (1886)

636 **Home** is where the heart is. (1868)

637 **Home** is where the mortgage is. (1904)
Anti-proverb of: Home is where the heart is.

638 You can't go **home** again. (1940)
The proverbial title of Thomas Wolfe's novel.

639 **Honesty** is such a lonely word. (1979)
A line from Billy Joel's song "Honesty" (1979).

640 **Honesty** pays. (1876)

641 **Honor** lies in honest toil. (1884)
First appearance in a letter of 18 August 1884 by Grover Cleveland in which he accepted the nomination to become president of the United States.

642 When you hear **hoofbeats**, think horses, not zebras. (1969)
Variant: When you hear hoofbeats, don't look for zebras. The proverb is current in the medical profession and gives advice to look for the obvious in examining patients. See Dundes, Streiff, and Dundes 1999.

643 **Hope** is not a plan. (1948)
Variant: Hope is not a strategy.

644 **Hope** of gain lessens pain. (1734)
First reference in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1734.

645 Always ride the **horse** in the direction it's going. (1975)
Variant: Always ride your horse in the direction it wants to go. Favorite proverb of President Ronald Reagan.

646 It is better to be a **horse** than a cart. (1803)

647 The **horse** is (already) out of the barn. (1961)
Variant: The horse has left the stable. The proverb is somewhat reminiscent of the older English proverb "Don't shut the barn (stable) door after the horse is stolen" from the 14th century. See also "The train has (already) left the station" (1976) and "The ship has (already) sailed" (1978).

648 Though you ride, remember the **horse** goes on foot. (1782)

649 When you fall off a **horse**, you have to get right back on. (1962)
Variant: When you fall of a bicycle, you have to get right back on.

650 Don't change **horses** in mid-stream. (1834)
Variant: Don't swap horses in the middle of the stream. Since President Abraham Lincoln used this proverb on 9 June 1864 regarding his possible reelection, it has become associated with his name even though he had clearly stated that he had heard the proverb from an old farmer. The first found newspaper reference is thirty years older than his use of the proverb. See Mieder 2007b and 2010c: 323–340.

651 There are more **horses' asses** than horses in the world. (1957)

652 Don't take a **hostage** you aren't willing to shoot. (1999)
Variant: If you're going to take a hostage, you'd better be willing to shoot him.

653 What's **hot** is hot. (1982)
Expanded variant: What's hot is hot, and what's not is not. Generalized version of the following proverb from 1969.

654 When you're **hot**, you're hot. (1969)
Expanded variant: When you're hot, you're hot, and when you're not, you're not. See also the newer proverb "When you're on a roll, you're on a roll" from 1984.

655 **Hours** were made for slaves. (1819)
The proverb refers to slaves having to work from morning until evening while their owners lived a free and unregulated life.

656 A **house** divided against itself cannot stand. (1704)
This proverb appears in the King James Bible (Mark 3:25) of 1611. The first American appearance outside of the Bible is from 1704. President Abraham Lincoln used it in his famous "House-Divided" speech of 16 June 1858 in connection with the issue of slavery, which was threatening the unity of the country. He used it on numerous occasions before the Civil War, and his name has become attached to the proverb ever since. See Mieder 2000a.

657 A **house** without woman and firelight is like a body without soul or sprite. (1733)
First reference in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1733.

658 If the **house** is on fire, it is no matter where it kindled. (1783)
Variant: If the house is on fire, it is no matter who blew the flame.

659 My **house**, my party. (1979)
Variant: Your house, your party.

660 My **house**, my rules. (1983)
Variants: "Your house, your rules" and "My room, my rules." See also "My money, my rules" from 1975.

661 The **house** always wins. (1921)
The proverb originated in the world of gambling, where the casino (house) always comes out ahead.

662 The **houses** hope builds are castles in the air. (1853)
First reference in the works of the Canadian author Thomas Chandler Haliburton.

663 **Hugs** not drugs. (1981)
This proverb against drugs appears on posters, bumper stickers, and T-shirts.

664 **Humility** makes great men twice honorable. (1735)
First reference in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1735.

665 **Hunger** never saw bad bread. (1733)
The proverb is found in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1733.

666 **Hunters** never grow rich. (1819)

667 Don't **hurry**, start early. (1915)

668 **Hurry** and wait. (1930)

I

669 There is no "**I**" in team. (1960)
Variant: There is no "me" in team.

670 In skating over thin **ice**, our safety is in our speed. (1841)
Earliest reference in Ralph Waldo Emerson's essay "Prudence" (1841).

671 **Ideas** are bulletproof. (1988)
See the older proverb "You can't kill an idea" (1908).

672 You can't kill an **idea**. (1908)
The first reference is found in the American novelist Winston Churchill's *Mr. Crewe's Career* (1908). See also "Ideas are bulletproof" (1988).

673 The only good **Indian** is a dead Indian. (1868)
Terrible stereotype against Native Americans coined after the Civil War. Unfortunately, the structure of the proverb has become the basis for other slanderous comments in which the "Indian" is replaced by other designations. See Mieder 1993e.

674 **Industry** need not wish. (1739)
The proverb was coined by Benjamin Franklin and appears first in his *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1739.

675 **Industry** pays debts, while despair increases them. (1742)
The proverb was coined by Benjamin Franklin in his *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1742.

676 **Information** wants to be free. (1984)

677 **Injustice** anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. (1958)
The proverb was coined by Martin Luther King in his book *Stride toward Freedom* (1958). He repeated it numerous times in his speeches for civil rights. It is usually cited together with his name.

678 **Innovate** or die. (1958)
See also "Evolve or die" from 1991.

679 It's what's **inside** that counts. (1889)

680 If at first you don't succeed, try reading the **instructions**. (1962)
Variant: If at first you don't succeed, try reading the directions.
Anti-proverb of: If at first you don't succeed, try, try (, try) again (1838).

681 A little **insurance** never hurt anyone. (1965)

682 **Interest** rules the world. (1809)

683 The **Internet** never forgets. (1996)
Variant: The Internet does not forget.

684 If you have an **itch**, scratch it. (1968)
Variant: If it itches, scratch it.

685 The **ivy** destroys the oak. (1689)

JJ

686 Dress for the **job** you want. (1976)
Variant: Dress for the job you want, not the job you have.

687 Just do your **job**. (1934)

688 The **joy** is in the journey. (1915)

689 Every **journey** begins somewhere. (1935)
Variants: "Every journey starts somewhere" and "Every journey must begin somewhere."

690 The **journey** is the destination. (1997)
See also "The journey is the reward" (1978) and "The way is the goal" (1992).

691 The **journey** is the reward. (1978)
Variant: The journey is its own reward. See also "The journey is the destination" (1997) and "The way is the goal" (1992).

692 Don't **judge** yourself by others. (1909)
Anti-proverb of: Don't judge others by yourself.

693 It's a **jungle** out there. (1951)

K

694 **Keep** it real. (1975)

695 **Keep** it simple. (1919)
Variant: "Keep it short and simple" and "Keep it simple, stupid."

696 **Keep** on trucking. (1936)

697 **Keep** what you've got, and catch what you can. (1790)

698 Little **kids**, little problems; big kids, big problems. (1973)

699 **Kindness** begets kindness. (1818)

700 A **kiss** is just a kiss. (1931)
From the song "As Time Goes By" of the musical *Everybody's Welcome* (1931). The song with its proverb became the musical leitmotif of the BBC television series *As Time Goes By* (1992–2005), with Judi Dench and Geoffrey Palmer.

701 Never bring a **knife** to a gunfight. (1988)
Variant: You don't take a knife to a gunfight.

702 There was never a good **knife** made of bad steel. (1755)
First reference in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1755.

703 Don't **knock** it till you've tried it. (1960)

704 Soft **knocks** enter hard blocks. (1738)
Variant: Little knocks rive great blocks.

705 If you don't **know** what it is, don't mess with it. (1950)
Variants: If you don't know what it is, then don't fool with (touch, eat) it.

706 It's not what you **know**, it's whom you know. (1914)
Variant: It's not what you know, it's whom you know that counts.

707 It's who you **know** and who you blow. (1974)
The ungrammatical (who should be whom) proverb can be expanded to include "that determines your success." This can

include fellatio, as the sexual meaning of the word "blow" implies.

708 It's not who you **know** but who you blow. (1965)
See the previous entry.

709 To **know** all one must see all. (1789)

710 You can't **know** where you're going unless you know where you've been. (1937)

711 You have to **know** when to hold them and know when to fold them. (1977)
A line from Don Schlitz's song "The Gambler (1977), which was popularized by the singer Kenny Rogers.

712 You never **know** till you go. (1957)

713 You never **know** what you have till it's gone. (1952)

714 **Knowledge** and timber shouldn't be much used until they are seasoned. (1858)
The first reference appears in *The Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table* (1858) by Oliver Wendell Holmes.

L

715 Don't rely on the **label** of the bag. (1885)
An American version of the classical proverb "Caveat emptor."

716 **Labels** are for cans, not for people. (1984)

717 Learn to **labor** and to wait. (1838)
A line from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem "A Psalm of Life" (1838).

718 The **land** won't burn. (1881)
The proverb means that it is better to own land than houses and other material items that might get lost in a fire. See Leary 1975.

719 If the **landlord** lives, the tenant starves. (1728)
"Lives" in the sense of living extravagantly.

720 Stay in your **lane**. (1995)
Variant: Keep to your lane. In other words, mind your own business and stick to what you know how to do.

721 What happens in **Las Vegas**, stays in Las Vegas. (2002)
The proverb started as an advertisement slogan for tourists to come to Las Vegas. Its structure has led to numerous adaptations. See Bock 2014.

722 **Last** in, first out. (1914)
The proverb is also known as "LIFO."

723 Better **late** than pregnant. (1995)
Anti-proverb of: Better late than never.

724 **Laugh** and the world laughs with you; weep and you weep alone. (1883)
A line from the poem "Solitude" (1883) by Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

725 A cunning **lawyer** beats the devil. (1817)

726 We all hate **lawyers** except our own. (1992)
Variant: Everyone hates lawyers except their own.

727 We all hate **lawyers** until we need one. (1992)
Variant: Everybody hates lawyers until you need one.

728 **Laziness** travels so slowly, that poverty soon overtakes it. (1756)
A proverb coined by Benjamin Franklin in his *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1756.

729 Never play **leapfrog** with a unicorn. (1977)

730 **Learning** has no enemy but ignorance. (1797)

731 **Less** is the new more. (2001)
Anti-proverb of the paradoxical wisdom "Less is more" from the 19th century. The proverb refers to minimalistic ideas concerning consumerism, the environment, etc.

732 A bought **lesson** is a taught lesson. (1996)
Variants: "A lesson bought is a lesson taught" and "A bought lesson is better than a taught lesson."

733 **Lessons** are blessings. (1991)

734 **Let** it all hang out. (1970)

735 A **liar** is always a coward. (1807)

736 Give me **liberty**, or give me death. (1775)
Revolutionary slogan coined by Patrick Henry in his speech of 23 March 1775 in Virginia.

737 **Liberty** ought to be dearer than life. (1786)

738 A **lie** can go around the world and back while the truth is lacing up its boots. (1885)
Variant: A lie can travel round the world while the truth is tying up its shoestrings.

739 Repeating a **lie** doesn't make it true. (1969)

740 If **life** gives you a bag of hammers, build something. (2000)

741 If **life** hands you lemons, make lemonade. (1910)

742 If **life** hands you scraps, make a quilt. (1992)

743 If you save one **life**, you save the world. (1982)
Variants: "Whoever saves one life saves the world" and "Save one life and you save the world." The proverb entered the language from Thomas Keneally's *Schindler's List* (1982).

744 Inch-by-inch, **life** is a cinch, but yard-by-yard it is hard. (1980)
Variant: Inch-by-inch, everything is a cinch, but yard-by-yard it is hard.

745 **Life** begins at forty. (1932)
Coined by Walter Pitkin as a book title that was also used for its film version of 1935 with Will Rogers.

746 **Life** comes at you fast. (2004)
The proverb started as an advertisement slogan for the Nationwide insurance company.

747 **Life** deals us each a hand. (1997)

748 **Life** has its ups and downs. (1853)
Variant: Life is subject to ups and downs.

749 **Life** is a beach. (1986)
Anti-proverb of: Life is a bitch (1940).

750 **Life** is a bitch. (1940)

751 **Life** is a bitch, and then you die. (1982)

752 **Life** is a bitch, and then you marry one. (1987)
Anti-feminist anti-proverb of: Life is a bitch and then you die.

753 **Life** is a bowl of cherries. (1931)
Variant: Life is just a bowl of cherries. Proverbial song title by Lew Brown and Ray Henderson that was popularized by the singer Ethel Merman.

754 **Life** is a cabaret. (1966)
Variant: Life is just a cabaret. From a song in the musical *Cabaret* and its film version of 1972 with Liza Minnelli.

755 **Life** is a gamble. (1894)

756 **Life** is a journey, not a destination. (1937)
Variants: Education (Success) is a journey, not a destination.

757 **Life** is a marathon, not a sprint. (1915)

758 **Life** is a picture; paint it well. (1956)

759 **Life** is a shit sandwich. (1966)
Variants: "Life is like a shit sandwich without bread" and "Life is like a shit sandwich and every day we take another bite."

760 **Life** is a shit sandwich: the more bread you have, the less shit you eat. (1978)
Anti-proverb of the previous entry. "Bread" refers to money in this case.

761 **Life** is a treasure hunt. (1924)

762 **Life** is a zoo. (1937)

763 **Life** is like a box of chocolates. (1994)
Variant: Life is just a box of chocolates. The proverb had its start with the statement "Life is a box of chocolates, Forrest. You never know what you're going to get" in the popular film *Forrest Gump*, starring Tom Hanks.

764 **Life** is not a bowl of cherries. (1931)
Anti-proverb of: Life is a bowl of cherries.

765 **Life** is not a spectator sport. (1958)
See also "Politics is not a spectator sport" (1963).

766 **Life** isn't all beer and skittles. (1855)
First reference in the writings of the Canadian author Thomas Chandler Haliburton. Charles Dickens had used the related proverbial expression "to be all porter and skittles" somewhat earlier in *The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club* (1837).

767 **Life** is one thing after another. (1909)
Variant: Life is just one damn thing after another.

768 **Life** is too short to waste it sleeping. (1944)

769 **Life** is tough; wear a helmet. (1992)

770 **Life** is what happens while you are making other plans. (1957)

771 **Life**, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. (1776)
Proverbial triad from the Declaration of Independence.

772 **Life** sucks. (1979)

773 **Life** sucks, but it is better than the alternative. (2002)
See also "Old age sucks, but it is better than the alternative" from 1960.

774 Live **life** to the fullest. (1934)
The American version of the classical proverb "Carpe diem."

775 Live your **life**, do your work, then take your hat. (1849)
Coined by Henry David Thoreau in his *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers* (1849).

776 No one gets out of **life** alive. (1963)
Variant: No one gets out of this life alive.

777 Nobody ever said **life** is easy. (1965)
See the older proverb "Life is not meant to be easy."

778 Nobody ever said **life** is fair. (1929)
See the older proverb "Life is unfair."

779 Take what **life** gives you. (1908)
Variant: You must take what life gives you.

780 To lengthen your **life,** lessen your meals. (1947)

781 You get out of **life** what you put into it. (1901)
See the older proverb "The more you put into something, the more you get out of it."

782 The **light** at the end of the tunnel may be a train. (1974)

783 There's always a **light** at the end of the tunnel. (1971)

784 **Lightning** never strikes twice in the same place. (1857)

785 It is not what you **like** that makes you fat. (1917)
Variant: It is not what you want that makes you fat, it is what you eat.

786 Always look for the silver **lining**. (1920)
Song title and refrain by Buddy DeSylva. See also the older proverb "Every cloud has a silver lining" from 1855.

787 You can put **lipstick** on a pig but it's still a pig. (1985)
Variant: A pig wearing lipstick is still a pig. Similar to older proverbs: "A pig with feathers behind its ears is still a pig," "A pig painted gold is still a pig," and "A pig in a palace is still a pig." A precursor of sorts might well be the British proverb "You can't make a silk purse from a sow's ear" from the 16th century.

788 Better risk a **little** than lose the whole. (1780)

789 He who gains **little**, gains much. (1802)

790 Those who do **little** expect the most. (1801)

791 **Live** like you mean it. (1972)

792 **Live** like you're dying. (2004)

793 **Live** what you love. (1926)

794 We only **live** once. (1926)
Variant: You only live once.

795 You have to **live** with yourself. (1902)
Variant: You have to be able to live with yourself.

796 Don't **look** back; something might be gaining on you. (1953)
Variant: Never look back, someone might be gaining on you.

797 If you don't **look** out for yourself, nobody else will. (1873)

798 **Look** before you leave. (1958)
Anti-proverb of: Look before you leap.

799 **Look** up and not down. (1871)

800 If you keep **looking** back, you can't see where you are going. (1990)

801 **Looking** at a hill won't move it. (1890)

802 **Losing** feels worse than winning feels good. (1994)
The proverb was often cited by the professional baseball catcher Joe Garagiola.

803 **Losers** deserve to lose. (2000)

804 If you **love** something, let it go; if it comes back to you, it is yours. (1972)
Variant: If you love something, set it free; if it comes back to you, it is yours.

805 In **love** and war no time should be lost. (1777)

806 ***Love*** is a four-letter word. (1937)
Variants: *Love* is just (only, nothing but) a four-letter word. The proverb was popularized as the title and refrain of a song by Bob Dylan and recorded by Joan Baez in 1967.

807 **Love** is where you find it. (1938)
See also the proverb "Happiness is where you find it" (1937) with the same structure.

808 **Love** it or leave it. (1901)
A chauvinistic proverbial slogan. Since 1966 during the Vietnam War, the slogan "Hell no, we won't go" was used by opponents, and since 1967 the slogan "America: Love it or leave it" was employed by people for the war.

809 **Love** means never having to say you're sorry. (1970)
First reference in the film version of Erich Segal's bestseller *Love Story*. In the novel it appears as "Love means not ever having to say you're sorry."

810 **Love** trumps hate. (1996)
The proverb gained in frequency as a satirical comment during the presidential campaign and election of Donald Trump in 2016.

811 **Love** well, whip well. (1733)
The proverb appears in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1733. See the old English proverb "Spare the rod and spoil the child" from the 14th century.

812 Make **love**, not war. (1965)
Slogan against the Vietnam War that has become an international anti-war proverb.

813 There are no ugly **loves** and no handsome prisons. (1737)
First cited in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1737.

814 **Luck** is for the unprepared. (1994)
Variant: Luck is for the ill-prepared.

815 **Luck** will turn. (1761)

816 You can't trust **luck**. (1928)

M

817 What is good for **Main Street** is good for Wall Street. (1995)
Variant: What is bad for Main Street, is bad for Wall Street.
The proverb was cited by presidential candidate Barack

Obama on 18 September 2007, and his repeated use helped to popularize the proverb. It is based on the well-known proverb "What is good for General Motors is good for America" (1953). The reversed proverb "What is good for Wall Street is good for Main Street" also originated in 1995.

818 If you can **make** it here, you can make it anywhere. (1959)
Coined by the actress Julie Newmar referring to the possibility of artistic success in New York City.

819 **Make up**, don't break up. (1997)

820 A good **man** is hard to find. (1918)
Song title by Eddie Green. See the older proverb "Good men are scarce." See also the nearly twenty-five years younger anti-proverb "A good woman is hard to find" (1942). Doyle 2007a.

821 A **man** got to do what he got to do. (1939)
Variant: A man's got to do what a man's got to do. The proverb originated in John Steinbeck's novel *Grapes of Wrath* (1939).

822 A **man** is as old as he feels; a woman as old as she looks. (1870)

823 A **man** without a woman is like a fish without a bicycle. (1983)
Anti-proverb of: "A man without a woman is like a fish without a tail" (1909) and also "A woman without a man is like a fish without a bicycle" (1976).

824 A **man** without a woman is like a fish without a tail. (1909)

825 A **man** without a woman is like a ship without a sail. (1909)

826 A **man** without faith is like a fish without a bicycle. (1958)
Variants: A man without religion (God) is like a fish without a bicycle. See also "A man without a woman is like a fish without a bicycle" (1983) and "A woman without a man is like a fish without a bicycle" (1976).

827 A quarrelsome **man** has no good neighbors. (1746)
First reference in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1746.

828 A wise **man** wonders at nothing. (1778)
The proverb is found in the writings of Samuel Adams.

829 Behind every great **man** is a great woman. (1886)
Variant: Behind every great man there's a great woman.

830 Every **man** to his own poison. (1922)
Anti-proverb of: Every man to his own taste.

831 **Man** is the only animal that can be skinned more than once. (1920)

832 **Man** is the only animal that is hungry with his belly full. (1776)

833 Never argue with a **man** who buys ink by the barrel. (1931)
The meaning is that there is no use to argue with the press, which will print whatever it wants.

834 No **man** is above the law, and no man is below it. (1903)
The proverb was coined by President Theodore Roosevelt and is an expanded anti-proverb of "No man is above the law."

835 The best **man** for the job may be a woman. (1974)

836 The rich **man** gets his ice in the summer and the poor man gets his in the winter. (1921)

837 You can take a **man** out of the country, but you can't take the country out of a man. (1916)
Variants: You can take a boy (girl) out of the country, but you can't take the country out of a boy (girl).

838 One **man's** fortune is another man's misfortune. (1962)
See the two following proverbs based on the same structure. The English proverb "One man's meat is another man's poison" from 1576 is their precursor.

839 One **man's** terrorist is another man's freedom fighter. (1970)

840 One **man's** trash is another man's treasure. (1924)

841 **Manners** matter. (1909)

842 The **map** is not the territory. (1933)
Coined by Alfred Korzybskis in his book *Science and Sanity* (1933), explaining that there is a difference between symbols and words and their referents.

843 **Marriage** is a journey, not a destination. (1943)
See also "Happiness (Life, Success) is a journey, not a destination" with the same structure.

844 Just because you are **married** doesn't mean you're blind. (1961)

845 The **master's** tools cannot destroy the master's house. (1981)
Variant: The master's tools cannot be used to dismantle the master's house. The proverb was coined by the feminist Audre Lorde and puts forth the argument that the world of men must be confronted and changed with new methods.

846 Use the **master's** tools to destroy the master's house. (1996)
Anti-proverb to the previous entry.

847 What **matters** is what works. (1958)

848 What gets **measured** gets done. (1968)
Variant: If it doesn't get measured, it doesn't get done.

849 Don't let your **meat** loaf. (1969)
"Meat" is slang for penis.

850 It's not the **meat**, it's the motion. (1951)
The proverb argues that penis size is irrelevant. See also "It's not the size of the boat but the motion of the ocean" (1968) and "Size doesn't matter" (1903).

851 Same **meat**, different gravy. (1967)
"Meat" in the sense of substance.

852 The blacker the **meat**, the sweeter the bone. (1935)
Variant: The blacker the meat, the sweeter the piece. The proverb praises the dark skin of African Americans together with sexual wishful thinking. See also "The blacker the berry (meat), the sweeter the juice" (1929).

853 The **medium** is the message. (1964)
The proverb appears as the title of the first chapter in Marshall McLuhan's book *Understanding Media*, which he published again three years later with the proverbial title *The Medium is the Message* (1967).

854 All **men** are created equal. (1776)
The proverb appears at the beginning of the Declaration of Independence (1776). It was changed to the inclusive variant "All men and women are created equal" in a speech by Elizabeth Cady Stanton on 19 July 1848 at Seneca Falls, New York, which marked the beginning of the early feminist movement in the United States. See Mieder 2015a.

855 Bad **men** hurt a good cause. (1793)

856 **Men** are from Mars, women are from Venus. (1992)
The proverb started as a book title by John Gray. "Mars" stands for war; "Venus," for love.

857 **Men** are only good for one thing. (1954)
A proverb with clear sexual meaning.

858 **Men** are only good for one thing—and sometimes they aren't even good for that. (1994)
Anti-proverb of: Men are only good for one thing.

859 **Men** are pigs. (1910)
Variant: All men are pigs.

860 **Men** seldom make passes at girls who wear glasses. (1926)
Variant: Boys don't make passes at girls who wear glasses. Title of a poem by Dorothy Parker.

861 Old **men** make wars, and young men fight them. (1912)
Variant: Old man make wars, and young men pay the price.

862 Don't kill the **messenger**. (1895)
Variant: Don't shoot the messenger.

863 In the **middle** of difficulty lies opportunity. (1975)
The proverb is often attributed to Albert Einstein.

864 Don't judge someone till you have walked a **mile** in his shoes. (1930)
Variants: Don't criticize a man till you have walked a mile in his moccasins (boots).

865 Why buy **milk** when you've got a cow at home? (1957)
See also "Why go out for hamburger when you can get steak at home?" from 1971.

866 A **mind** is a terrible thing to waste. (1972)
Variant: The mind is a terrible thing to waste. The proverb started as an advertisement slogan for the United Negro College Fund.

867 Great **minds** think alike. (1856)

868 **Minds**, like parachutes, function only when they are open. (1927)

869 Simple **minds**, simple pleasures. (1957)
Variant: Simple pleasures for simple minds.

870 There are lazy **minds** as well as lazy bodies. (1740)
The first reference appears in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1740.

871 Everybody will be famous for fifteen **minutes**. (1968)
The proverb was coined by the artist Andy Warhol.

872 Take care of the **minutes**, and the hours will take care of themselves. (1827)
Variant: Look out for the minutes, and the hours will look out for themselves. First reference is found in Ralph Waldo Emerson's diaries.

873 **Miracles** take hard work. (1946)
Variant: Miracles take a lot of hard work.

874 They don't make **mirrors** like they used to. (1949)
Humorous anti-proverb of: They don't make things like they used to. An allusion to Snow White's famous question "Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who is the fairest of them all?" is part of this text.

875 A M**iss** is as good as a male. (1942)
See also the newer proverb "A Ms. is as good as a male" (1974). Both texts are feminist anti-proverbs of the English proverb "A miss is as good as a mile" from the 17th century.

876 Don't make the same **mistake** twice. (1882)
Variant: Only fools make the same mistake twice.

877 There's many a **mistake** made on purpose. (1853)
The first reference appears in the writings of the Canadian author Thomas Chandler Haliburton.

878 **Mistakes** will happen. (1835)
First cited in David Crockett's *An Account of Col. Crockett's Tour to the North and Down East* (1835).

879 **Mistrust** is the mother of safety. (1680)

880 A **mockingbird** has no voice of its own. (1855)
Its first appearance is in the writings of the Canadian author Thomas Chandler Haliburton.

881 Great **modesty** often hides great merit. (1758)
It appears in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1758.

882 A **moment** on the lips, a lifetime on the hips. (1940)
Variant: A minute on the lips, forever on the hips.

883 Follow the **money**. (1974)

884 Make **money** honestly if you can, but make money. (1815)

885 **Money** can't buy happiness. (1856)

886 **Money** has no memory. (1991)

887 **Money** has no morality. (1905)

888 **Money** isn't everything. (1870)

889 **Money** is power. (1741)

890 **Money** is the sinews of trade. (1731)

891 **Money** is thicker than blood. (1904)
The proverb started as an anti-proverb of the English proverb "Blood is thicker than water" from the early 19th century, which is also known in other languages.

892 **Money** is wasted on the rich. (1981)
Variant: Wealth is wasted on the wealthy. The proverb follows the structure of the earlier American proverb "Youth is wasted on the young" from 1931.

893 **Money** makes the world go around. (1871)

894 **Money** never sleeps. (1907)

895 **Money** once gone never returns. (1771)

896 **Money** talks, wealth whispers. (1989)

897 **Money** works miracles. (1766)

898 My **money**, my rules. (1975)
Variant: Your money, your rules. See also "My house, my rules" from 1983.

899 Never spend your **money** before you have it. (1817)
The first reference appears in a letter by Thomas Jefferson.

900 Put your **money** where your mouth is. (1913)

901 Scared **money** can't make money. (1935)
Variants: "Scared money won't win," "Scared money is dead money," and "Don't play with scared money."

902 There are some things that **money** can't buy. (1864)

903 **Monkey see**, monkey do. (1895)

904 Only **monkeys** work for peanuts. (1953)
"Peanuts" refers to small pay, and "monkeys" stand for poor workers.

905 Don't throw a **monkey wrench** into the works. (1920)

906 **Moonlight** does not dry mittens. (1924)
The proverb might be of Canadian origin.

907 You cannot legislate **morality**. (1877)
The variant "You cannot legislate virtue" appears in a speech by Cardinal James Gibbons given on 13 September 1909.

908 Always leave them wanting **more**. (1910)
Variant: Always leave them wishing for more. The proverb originated in the world of the theater.

909 **More** can be worse. (1960)
Variant: More can mean worse.

910 A serene **morning** succeeds a stormy night. (1720)

911 A **mother** can take care of ten children, but ten children can't take care of one mother. (1956)

912 **Mother** knows best. (1871)
See also "Father knows best" from 1870.

913 It isn't nice to fool **Mother Nature**. (1970)
The proverb started as an advertisement slogan for Chiffon margarine.

914 Slow **motion** is better than no motion. (1938)
Variant: Slow motion beats no motion.

915 Build a better **mousetrap** and the world will beat a path to your door. (1871)
The proverb has been attributed to Ralph Waldo Emerson, who, during a speech in 1871 at San Francisco, is supposed to have said, "If a man can write a better book, preach a better sermon or make a better mouse trap than his neighbor, though he builds his house in the woods, the world will make a beaten path to his door." This claim appears in a newspaper of 19 May 1882. See Stevenson 1935.

916 A closed **mouth** does not get fed. (1989)

917 A closed **mouth** gathers no feet. (1956)
Anti-proverb of the older English proverbs "A closed mouth catches no flies" and "A rolling stone gathers no mouth." It is also alluding to the proverbial expression "to put one's foot in one's mouth."

918 A closed **mouth** makes a wise head. (1865)
The proverb appears in the papers of Thomas Ruffin.

919 Big **mouth**, small brain. (1958)
Variant: Big mouth, small mind.

920 Big **mouth**, small pecker. (1993)
Variants: Big mouth, small dick (prick). The proverbs refer to the penis.

921 Don't let your **mouth** write a check that your ass can't cash. (1966)
Variant: Don't write a check that your behind can't cash.

922 If you keep your **mouth** shut, you won't put your foot in. (1915)
The proverb combines the two proverbial expressions "to keep one's mouth shut" and "to put one's foot in one's mouth."

923 **Move** it or lose it. (1973)
See also the older proverb "Use it or lose it" (1838).

924 You **move**, you lose. (1925)
Variant: When you move, you lose.

925 Too **much** is enough. (1918)

926 **Mud** thrown is lost ground. (1923)

927 Hustle for the **muscle**. (2013)
Variant: Hustle for that muscle. The proverb originated as a slogan for body-building and physical exercise in general.

928 The better the **music**, the better the dance. (1991)
The proverb might have a Canadian origin.

N

929 Human **nature** is the same everywhere. (1778)

930 **Nature** bats last. (1969)
Variant: Mother Nature bats last. The proverb is often attributed to the biologist Paul Ralph Ehrlich, who is known for his warnings about population explosion and the problem of limited resources. See also the older proverb "Nature has the last say" (1921).

931 **Nature** has the last say. (1921)
Variants: "Nature has the last word," "Nature has the last laugh," and "Mother Nature has the last laugh." See also the newer proverb "Nature bats last" (1969).

932 Great **necessities** call out great virtues. (1780)
The first reference appears in a letter by Abigail Adams.

933 **Necessity** must speak. (1802)

934 **Necessity** never made a good bargain. (1735)
First reference appears in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1735.

935 A little **neglect** may breed great mischief. (1758)
First reference is found in the writings of Benjamin Franklin.

936 Love thy **neighbor**, but don't get caught. (1967)
Anti-proverb of the Bible proverb "Love thy neighbor" (Galatian 5:14).

937 No one can love his **neighbor** on an empty stomach. (1912)
The proverb first appears in a letter of 23 May 1912 by President Woodrow Wilson.

938 Leap, and the **net** will appear. (1995)
Variant: Jump, and the net will appear.

939 It's **never** too late until it's too late. (1988)

940 **Never** say die. (1814)

941 **Never** say never. (1887)

942 Good **news** travels fast. (1867)
Anti-proverb of the older English proverb "Bad news travels fast" from the 16th century.

943 **Nice** doesn't win games. (1981)
Variants: Being nice doesn't win awards (elections).

944 Don't take wooden **nickels**. (1912)
The proverb argues against gullibility in that there are no such wooden coins.

945 Just say **no**. (1983)
A proverbial slogan in the battle against drugs that was popularized by Nancy Reagan. It can now be used as a somewhat satirical statement against any type of temptation.

946 **No** means no. (1980)
Usually employed against unwanted sexual advances.

947 Keep your **nose** clean. (1903)

948 Keep your **nose** out of other people's business. (1841)

949 Don't make something out of **nothing**. (1907)
Variant: Don't try to make something out of nothing.

950 If **nothing** changes, nothing changes. (1978)
Variant: Nothing changes, if nothing changes.

951 **Nothing** comes easy. (1900)
Variant: Nothing comes easy in this world.

952 **Nothing** comes to us unmixed. (1786)

953 **Nothing** grows forever. (1978)
Often used in a financial context.

954 **Nothing** in life is simple. (1801)

955 **Nothing** is as dead as yesterday's newspaper. (1921)
See also the proverb "There is nothing deader than yesterday's news" from 1934.

956 **Nothing** lasts forever. (1836)
Variant: Nothing is forever.

957 **Nothing** should be bought that can be made or done without. (1793)
The first reference is found in the writings of George Washington.

958 **Nothing** tastes as good as thin feels. (1989)
Variant: Nothing tastes as good as being skinny looks. The proverb might be of Canadian origin.

959 There is **nothing** deader than yesterday's news. (1934)
Variant: There's nothing deader than old news. See also the proverb "Nothing is as dead as yesterday's newspaper" from 1921.

960 There is **nothing** worse than an educated fool. (1904)

961 When you have **nothing**, you have nothing to lose. (1965)
The proverb appears as "When you got nothing, you got nothing to lose" in Bob Dylan's well-known song "Like a Rolling Stone" (1965).

962 Anything for a **novelty**. (1815)

963 **Number two** tries harder. (1962)
Variant: When you're number two, you try harder. The proverb started as an advertisement slogan for the Avis car-rental company.

964 There's a **nut** on every family tree. (1915)

O

965 Great **occasions** make great men. (1816)

966 It is always five **o'clock** somewhere in the world. (1964)
Variant: It must be six o'clock somewhere in the world.

967 Public **office** is a public trust. (1835)
The proverb originated in a speech by John C. Calhoun on 13 February 1835.

968 **Oil** and water don't mix. (1783)

969 Too much **oil** extinguishes the light. (1700)

970 Clout the **old** as the new is dear. (1783)
The meaning is to patch up the old (dress, trousers, etc.) because a new one would be expensive.

971 It isn't how **old** you are but how old you look. (1922)
Variant: It isn't how old you are but how old you feel.

972 We get **old** too soon and smart too late. (1942)

973 It takes **one** to know one. (1946)
See also the older proverbs "It takes a fool to know a fool" and "It takes a thief to catch a thief."

974 The **one** who smelt it dealt it. (1971)

975 The **opera** isn't over till the fat lady sings. (1976)
The proverb was coined by Ralph Carpenter while reporting on a basketball game. See Rössner 2014.

976 It is difference of **opinion** that makes horse races. (1894)
Variant: It's difference of opinion that makes a horse race. First reference in Mark Twain's *Pudd'nhead Wilson's Calendar* (1894).

977 **Opportunity** is a precious companion. (1797)

978 **Opportunity** never knocks twice (at any man's door). (1896)

979 Be fearful when **others** are greedy and greedy when others are fearful. (1987)
Variant: Be afraid when others are greedy and greedy only when others are afraid. The proverb is often attributed to the financier Warren Buffett.

980 It's not **over** till it's over. (1921)
Variant: The game is not over till it's over. The proverb is often attributed to Yogi Berra.

981 **Overdone** is worse than underdone. (1945)
The proverb might have originated in Canada.

982 If you hoot with the **owls** at night, you can't soar with the eagles in the morning. (1961)
Variant: If you wish to soar with the eagles in the morning, you can't hoot with the owls at night.

P

983 You can't tell what's in a **package** by the box. (1961)
Variant: You can't tell what's in a package by the wrapping.

984 Don't tell me about the **pain**; just show me the baby. (1979)

985 **Pain** is nature's way of telling you to slow down. (1920)
Variant: Fatigue is nature's way of telling you to slow down.

986 **Pain** is the price of glory. (2005)

987 Don't get your **panties** in a twist. (1965)
Variants: Don't get your undies (drawers) in a knot.

988 Don't get caught with your **pants** down. (1944)
Variants: Don't get caught with your trousers (britches) down.

989 You can't choose your **parents**. (1966)
Variant: You can't pick your family. The proverb originated in Canada.

990 If you're not **part** of the solution, you're part of the problem. (1937)

991 Always leave the **party** while you're still having fun. (1953)
Variant: Always go home (quit) while you're still having a good time.

992 My **party**, my rules. (2003)
Variant: Your party, your rules.

993 When one **party** is willing the match is half made. (1767)
Mentioned as a proverb in the writings of Benjamin Franklin. The proverb relates to a marriage match.

994 If **passion** drives, let reason hold the reins. (1749)
The proverb was coined by Benjamin Franklin and appears first in his *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1749.

995 The **past** does not equal the future. (1991)

996 Distant **pastures** always look greener. (1899)
Variants: "Faraway pastures look green," "Distant fields are always green," and "Distant fields look greener." See also the newer proverb "The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence" from 1913.

997 Equal **pay** for equal work. (1869)
The proverb was coined by the early feminist Susan B. Anthony on 8 October 1869 in her journal *The Revolution*. She also repeated it several times in her speeches.

998 Half **pay** is better than no pay. (1770)

999 It **pays** to advertise. (1868)

1000 It **pays** to look well. (1902)
Variant: It pays to look good.

1001 Everything is not **peaches** and cream. (1923)
Variant: All is not peaches and cream.

1002 If you pay **peanuts,** you get monkeys. (1966)
"Peanuts" refers to small pay and "monkeys" stand for poor workers.

1003 A bad **penny** is sure to return. (1766)
Variant: A bad penny always comes back. The first reference appears in a letter by Abigail Adams to her husband President John Adams.

1004 Be nice to the **people** on your way up because you'll meet them on your way down. (1932)

1005 **People** who live in glass houses should wear clothes. (1904)
Variant: People who live in glass houses should dress in the dark. Anti-proverb of the English proverb "People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones" from the 17th century.

1006 Rich **people** have mean ways. (1924)
Variant: Rich folks have mean ways.

1007 The **people** love to tap a new barrel. (1702)
The proverb appears in Cotton Mather's *Magnalia Christi Americana* (1702).

1008 You can fool all of the **people** some of the time; you can fool some of the people all of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all the time. (1887)
It has been claimed that Abraham Lincoln made this statement in two lost speeches from 29 May 1856 and 2 September 1858. Its first written reference appeared in the *New York Times* on 27 August 1887, attributing it to Lincoln. The proverb might have been a translation of Denis Diderot's French statement from 1754: "On peut tromper quelques hommes, ou les tromper tous dans certains lieux & en certains temps, mais non pas tous les hommes dans tous les lieux & dans tous les siècles." Be that as it may, Lincoln's name is definitely attached to this satirical piece of wisdom.

1009 You have to winter and summer with **people** to know them. (1713)

1010 The **perfect** is the enemy of the good. (1946)
See also "The good is the enemy of the perfect" (1946).

1011 You're only as good as your last **performance**. (1935)
Variant: You're only as good as your last game.

1012 If you want something done, ask a busy **person**. (1905)

1013 **Pick** yourself up and dust yourself off. (1915)
The proverb was popularized by way of the song "Pick Yourself Up" (1936) by Dorothy Fields and Jerome Kern, as well as the film *Swing Time* (1936). It gained a renewed currency after President Barack Obama cited it in his first inaugural address on 20 January 2009: "Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again the work of remaking America."

1014 One **picture** is worth a thousand words. (1911)
See the much earlier American proverb "One deed is worth a thousand speeches" from 1767. Mieder 1990.

1015 Never try to teach a **pig** to sing; it wastes your time, and it annoys the pig. (1973)

1016 There are old **pilots** and bold pilots, but there are no old, bold pilots. (1934)

1017 No one can cut down a **pine** and live to see the stump rotten. (1792)
The roots of the pine are especially durable.

1018 A **pint** is a pound the world around. (1792)

1019 There must be **pioneers**. (1805)

1020 There must be **pioneers**, and some of them get killed. (1928)
Anti-proverb of: There must be pioneers. It was coined by Charles A. Lindbergh.

1021 It's better to be **pissed** off than pissed on. (1974)

1022 Second **place** is first loser. (1994)

1023 The best **place** to hide is in plain sight. (1920)
Variant: The safest place to hide is in plain sight.

1024 The only **place** where success comes before work is in a dictionary. (1955)

1025 Step up to the **plate**. (1965)

1026 Fair **play** is a jewel. (1809)
First reference in the writings of Washington Irving.

1027 **Play** big to win big. (1978)
Variant: You have to play big to win big.

1028 **Play** to win or don't play at all. (1938)

1029 Big-time **players** make big-time plays. (1991)
The proverb started with American football players.

1030 **Plenty** is strength. (1758)

1031 All **politics** is local. (1905)
The proverb has falsely been attributed to Congressman Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill Jr.

1032 **Politics** is a contact sport. (1960)
First recorded reference thus far is from Canada.

1033 **Politics** is not a spectator sport. (1963)
The proverb originated with Nelson Rockefeller on 17 November 1963 on the CBS News program "Face the Nation." It is based on the slightly older American proverb "Life is not a spectator sport" from 1958.

1034 **Politics** makes strange bedfellows. (1839)
Similar to the English proverb "Misery makes strange bedfellows" from the 17th century. William Shakespeare has "Misery acquaints a man with strange bedfellows" in *The Tempest* (1611).

1035 Shit or get off the **pot**. (1935)
Variant: Piss or get off the pot.

1036 You can't put ten **pounds** of shit in a five-pound bag. (1980)

1037 **Poverty** and peace is better than plenty with contention. (1814)

1038 **Power** concedes nothing without a demand. (1857)
The proverb originated in a speech by the former slave and abolitionist Frederick Douglass in a speech of 3 August 1857. It was also cited numerous times by President Barack Obama.

1039 **Power** has its price. (1966)

1040 How you **practice** is how you play. (1979)
Variant: The way you practice is the way you play. The earliest written reference appeared on 26 October 1979 in the *Globe and Mail* newspaper in Toronto, and the proverb might have originated in Canada.

1041 **Praise** little, dispraise less. (1754)
First reference in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1754.

1042 Cold **preachers** make bold sinners. (1710)
"Cold" in the sense of indifferent, unengaged. According to Cotton Mather, the famous preacher of Boston, this was a proverb in use around 1710.

1043 You can't be a little **pregnant**. (1942)

1044 **Pressure** makes diamonds. (1973)

1045 **Pretty** is as pretty does. (1853)
Found in the works of the Canadian author Thomas Chandler Haliburton. Like the older English proverb "Handsome is as handsome does" from the 17th century.

1046 An ounce of **prevention** is worth a pound of cure. (1735)
It was most likely the proverb enthusiast Benjamin Franklin who lengthened the English "Prevention is better than cure" from 1732. This longer version appears in his writings in 1735 and 1750.

1047 If you have to ask the **price**, you can't afford it. (1926)
Variant: If you have to ask how much it costs, you can't afford it.

1048 As **pride** increases, fortune declines. (1744)
First reference in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1744.

1049 Put your **pride** in your pocket. (1837)

1050 Keep your eyes on the **prize**. (1950)
The proverb goes back to the anonymous African American song "Keep Your Hands on that Plow" from the 19th century. Alice Wine changed its refrain "Keep your hands on that plow" around 1950 to "Keep your eyes on the prize." As such it became a slogan of the civil rights movement during the 1960s, with "prize" standing for freedom, equality, and the end of racism. See Mieder 2014d.

1051 There are no **problems**, only opportunities. (1948)
Variant: There are no problems, only challenges.

1052 No one ever went bankrupt taking a **profit**. (1902)
Variant: No one ever went broke making a profit. The proverb is often attributed to the financier J. P. Morgan.

1053 He **profits** most who serves best. (1915)
This is the proverbial motto of Rotary International and appeared first in Arthur F. Sheldon's book *The Science of Business* (1915).

1054 The line of **progress** is never straight. (1967)
The proverb was coined by Martin Luther King in his book *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?* (1967).

1055 **Progress** comes in small steps. (1935)
Variant: Progress comes one step at a time.

1056 Slow **progress** is progress. (1971)
Variant: Even slow progress is still progress.

1057 A bad **promise** is better broken than kept. (1769)

1058 **Promises** cost little. (1836)

1059 Under-**promise** and over-deliver. (1950)

1060 An ounce of **proof** is worth a ton of assertions. (1781)

1061 Don't **prophesy** unless you know. (1862)
The first reference appears in James Russell Lowell's book *The Biglow Papers* (1862).

1062 **Prosperity** is always just around the corner. (1936)

1063 **Prudence** looks before as well as behind. (1812)
The proverb appears in a letter by John Jay.

1064 Any **publicity** is good publicity. (1925)
Variants: "All publicity is good publicity," "Any press is good press," and "Any P.R. is good P.R." See also the ten-years-earlier anti-proverb "Not all publicity is good publicity" (1915).

1065 Not all **publicity** is good publicity. (1915)

1066 **Publish** or perish. (1927)
This internationally cited proverb had its first appearance in Clarence Marsh Case, "Scholarship in Sociology," *Sociology and Social Research* 12 (1927): 325.

1067 You can't tell how deep a **puddle** is till you step into it. (1977)

1068 **Punctuality** is the soul of business. (1853)
It first appears in the writings of the Canadian author Thomas Chandler Haliburton. The older proverb "Punctuality is the politeness of kings" has been attributed to King Louis XVIII.

1069 **Punishment** is always a two-edged sword. (1916)

1070 The longest **purse** will prevail. (1764)
"Longest purse" refers to having the most money.

1071 **Put up** or shut up. (1874)

Q

1072 If you have two **quarterbacks**, you don't have one. (1993)

1073 A civil **question** deserves a civil answer. (1853)
First reference found in the works of the Canadian author Thomas Chandler Haliburton.

1074 Ask a stupid **question** and you'll get a stupid answer. (1888)

1075 No **question** is ever settled until it is settled right. (1888)
This proverb appears first in two lines in the poem "Settle the Question Right" (1888) by Ella Wheeler Wilcox. With regard to slavery, it is at times attributed to President Abraham Lincoln.

1076 The only stupid **question** is the one you don't task. (1957)
Variants: The only dumb (foolish) question is the one you don't ask.

1077 There are no foolish **questions**. (1915)

1078 Weighty **questions** ask for delicate answers. (1735)
First reference in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1735.

1079 You have to ask the right **questions** to get the right answers. (1937)

1080 **Quit** while you're ahead. (1919)

R

1081 **Rain** is the best policeman. (1950)
The idea is that criminals prefer to stay home during inclement weather.

1082 When it **rains**, it pours. (1914)
The proverb started as an advertisement slogan for the Morton Salt Company and remains inscribed on their round salt containers to this day. This modern proverb has more or less replaced the older English proverb "It never rains but it pours" (1726), which originated as a book title by John Arbuthnot.

1083 Old **rats** like cheese too. (1977)
A euphemistic proverb stating that old people (mostly men) have sexual desires as well.

1084 **Reach** out and touch someone. (1970)
The proverb became an advertisement slogan for the AT&T telephone company in 1978.

1085 Everything happens for a **reason**. (1916)

1086 **Records** are made to be broken. (1897)

1087 Better **Red** than dead. (1958)
"Red" stand for communism. The proverb is often attributed to Bertrand Russell. See also the anti-proverb "Better dead than Red" from 1961. See Barrick 1979.

1088 God gives us **relatives**; thank God, we can choose our friends. (1910)

1089 **Relax** and enjoy it. (1926)
Variant: You might as well relax and enjoy it. The variant is unfortunately at times used as an argument for unwanted sex.

1090 Three **removes** is as bad as a fire. (1758)
Variant: Three removals are as bad as a fire. Benjamin Franklin coined this proverb that appears in the preface of his *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1758.

1091 There is no **repentance** in the grave. (1805)

1092 **Reputation** is a jewel whose loss cannot be repaired. (1797)

1093 Give **respect**, get respect. (1925)
Variant: Show respect, gain respect.

1094 No **rest** for the weary. (1880)
Variant: There is no rest for the weary. The proverb is based on the English proverb "There is no rest for the wicked," which in turn goes back to the Bible proverb "There is no peace, sayeth the Lord, unto the wicked" (Isaiah 48:22).

1095 Don't **retreat**, reload. (2009)

1096 There's no **reward** for bad behavior. (1998)

1097 The **rich** get richer and the poor get children. (1920)
Anti-proverb of: The rich get richer and the poor get poorer (1843).

1098 The **rich** get richer and the poor get poorer. (1843)
The first reference found thus far appeared on 5 August 1843 in the *New Mirror* in a short statement by the author and journalist Nathaniel Parker Willis. It was frequently quoted by Senator Bernie Sanders from Vermont during his presidential campaigns in 2016 and 2020. See Mieder 2018a.

1099 You can't be too **rich** or too thin. (1974)
Variant: You can't be too thin or too rich.

1100 He that will increase in **riches**, must not hoe corn in silk breeches. (1750)

1101 He who multiplies **riches** multiplies cares. (1744)
First reference in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1744.

1102 Good **riddance** to bad rubbish. (1771)

1103 Be sure you are **right**, then go ahead. (1812)
This proverb originated from David Crockett's personal motto during the war of 1812.

1104 If you want something done **right**, do it yourself. (1880)
Variant: If you want a thing well done, do it yourself.

1105 **Right** is a stubborn thing. (1750)

1106 **Right** makes might. (1700)
The earliest American reference found is from 1700, but it appeared in England in 1375 as the anti-proverb to the older "Might makes right" from 1311. Abraham Lincoln employed it at the end of his famous Cooper Union speech in New York City on 27 February 1860, in which he argued for maintaining the union while bringing slavery to an end: "Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it." In the United States it has been attributed to Lincoln ever since, and that is why it belongs in this collection. See Mieder 2014f.

1107 A **ring** on the finger is worth two on the phone. (1911)
The proverb started as the title of a song by Jack Mahoney.

1108 One must **risk** to win. (1832)
The proverb appears first in a letter by President Andrew Jackson.

1109 **Risk** is the price you pay for opportunity. (1981)
This proverb might be of Canadian origin.

1110 The **road** to success is under construction. (1963)
Variant: The path to success is always under construction.

1111 When you're on a **roll**, you're on a roll. (1984)
See the slightly older proverb "When you're hot, you're hot" (1969).

1112 Fix the **roof** before it rains. (1910)
Variant: Patch the roof before it rains.

1113 There is always **room** on the bandwagon. (1944)

1114 There is **room** enough at the top. (1867)
Variant: There is always room at the top. The proverb has been attributed to Daniel Webster, who around 1800 is supposed to have coined it in response to someone telling him not to become a lawyer because there were already many of them around. It gained modern popularity by way of John Lennon's "Working Class Hero" (1970), which points out that for workers there is no place at the top.

1115 A **rooster** one day, a feather duster the next. (1907)
See also the newer proverb "Chicken today, feathers tomorrow" (1958).

1116 A **rose** is a rose is a rose. (1913)
The proverb comes from Gertrude Stein's poem "Sacred Emily" (1913).

1117 The **rose** has its thorn, the peach its worm. (1853)
The first reference appears in the writings of the Canadian author Thomas Chandler Haliburton.

1118 Hoe your own **row**. (1844)
The proverb gained popularity by way of Alice Cary's didactic poem "Hoe Your Own Row" (1849).

1119 It is a poor **rule** that will not work both ways. (1837)
The first reference is in a letter by James Fenimore Cooper.

1120 Don't change the **rules** in the middle of the game. (1921)

1121 **Rules** are made to be broken. (1899)

1122 There are no **rules** in a knife fight. (1969)
The proverb appears first in the film *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* (1969).

1123 When you change the **rules**, you change the game. (1945)

1124 Buy the **rumor**, sell the news. (1977)
Variant: Buy the rumor, sell the facts.

1125 If you don't **run**, you can't win. (1964)
"Run" in the sense of seeking an elective office.

1126 You can **run** but you can't hide. (1946)
The proverb was coined by the boxer Joe Louis.

S

1127 Better be **safe** than sorry. (1882)

1128 **Safety** first. (1818)

1129 There is **safety** in numbers. (1869)

1130 Good **sailors** are tried in a storm. (1767)

1131 If you would be wealthy, think of **saving** more than of getting. (1743)
The first reference appears in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1743.

1132 You can't saw **sawdust**. (1931)

1133 If you can't **say** something nice, don't say anything. (1887)

1134 One **scale** sinks as the other rises. (1809)

1135 **Scheming** seldom has success. (1761)

1136 Clear the old **score** before beginning the new. (1720)
Similar to the older English proverb "Pay the old score and fetch on the new" from the 17th century. The American proverb is broader in that it does not deal only with payment.

1137 You can't **score** if you don't shoot. (1965)

1138 You can't steal **second base** while your foot is on first base. (1942)

1139 No one remembers **second place**. (1967)

1140 A **secret** shared is no secret. (1922)

1141 If you can **see** it, you can be it. (1973)
Variant: If you can see it, you can achieve it. See the slightly earlier proverb "If you can dream it, you can do it" from 1970.

1142 If you **see** something, say something. (1992)
Variant: See something, say something. The proverb encourages people to speak out against abuse, bullying, rape, terrorism, and other criminal offenses.

1143 What you **see** is what you get. (1936)
At times the proverb appears in writing as "WYSIWYG."

1144 If something **seems** too easy, it probably is. (1972)
Variant: If something looks too easy to be true, it probably is.

1145 Where **sense** is wanting, everything is wanting. (1754)
The first reference appears in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1754.

1146 Bad **sex** is better than no sex. (1969)
See the variants "Any sex is better than no sex" and "The only bad sex is no sex."

1147 Everybody lies about **sex**. (1973)

1148 **Sex** sells. (1926)

1149 **Shape up** or ship out. (1953)

1150 Don't give up the **ship**. (1813)
The proverb first appeared on 10 September 1813 on a battle banner by the naval officer Oliver Hazard Perry.

1151 The **ship** has (already) sailed. (1978)
See also "The horse is (already) out of the barn" (1961) and "The train has (already) left the station" (1976).

1152 From **shirtsleeves** to shirtsleeves in three generations. (1874)
The proverb has often been attributed to the industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie.

1153 Don't **shit** where you eat. (1953)
The first written reference appears in Saul Bellow's novel *The Adventures of Augie March* (1953).

1154 Everybody **shits**. (1968)
Variant: Everybody poops.

1155 If you stir **shit**, it will stink. (1982)

1156 Same **shit**, different day. (1988)
Variants: "Different day, same shit" and "New day, same old shit."

1157 **Shit** flows downhill. (1971)
Variants: Shit runs (rolls) downhill.

1158 **Shit** happens. (1944)
Euphemistic variant: Stuff happens. See Rees 2005.

1159 **Shit** happens, and then you die. (1991)
Anti-proverb combining the proverbs "Shit happens" (1944) and "Life is a bitch, and then you die" (1982).

1160 **Shit** rubs off. (1997)

1161 You can't kill **shit**. (1997)
The proverb originated in hospitals as a reaction to particularly unpleasant patients, but it now refers generally to people or situations that can't be gotten rid of. See Winick 2004.

1162 If the **shoe** fits, wear it. (1773)
Variant: If the shoe fits, put it on. The proverb corresponds to the earlier English proverb "If the cap fits, wear it" from the 17th century.

1163 We never feel the **shoe** until it pinches our own foot. (1846)
First reference in Ralph Waldo Emerson's diaries.

1164 **Shop** till you drop. (1984)
The proverb had its start as an advertisement slogan by a Volkswagen dealer in Los Angeles.

1165 A long **shot** is better than no shot. (1947)

1166 Two **shots** never go in the same place. (1778)
Variant: Two bullets never go in the same place (1779).

1167 You miss 100 percent of the **shots** you don't take. (1991)

1168 Drive for **show**, putt for dough. (1942)
"Dough" is slang for money. The proverb has been attributed to the golf player Bobby Locke.

1169 **Show** beats tell. (1988)

1170 The **show** must go on. (1879)

1171 If we stand the **shower** we shan't flinch for the drops. (1723)
"Shan't" is an old form for "shall not."

1172 **Shut up** and calculate. (1989)

1173 Be not **sick** too late or well too soon. (1734)
An early piece of medical advice first registered by Benjamin Franklin in his *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1734.

1174 It's best to be on the safe **side**. (1832)

1175 There are two **sides** to every pancake. (1915)
Anti-proverb of: There are two sides to every argument (story, coin).

1176 All s**igns** fail in dry weather. (1729)
Variant: All signs fail in dry times. "Signs" refer to weather signs such as clouds, wind, etc.

1177 **Signs** don't vote. (1981)
The proverb refers to campaign signs.

1178 **Silence** has a price. (1943)

1179 **Silence** is not always a sign of wisdom, but babbling is ever of folly. (1758)
First reference in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1758.

1180 **Silence** is still a noise. (1874)
First written reference in the writings of Josh Billings.

1181 **Silence** is the best policy. (1830)
Similar to the older English proverb "Honesty is the best policy" from the 17th century.

1182 Little **sins** have small pardons. (1700)
The proverb appears in a poem by Edward Taylor.

1183 **Situation** normal—all fucked up. (1941)
Euphemistic variants: Situation all fouled (fuddled) up. The proverb also appears in writing as "SNAFU."

1184 It's not the **size** of the boat but the motion of the ocean. (1968)
Variant: It's not the size of the ship but the motion of the ocean that matters. Sexual proverb referring to penis size. See also "It's not the meat, it's the motion" (1951) with the same meaning.

1185 It's not the **size** of the dog in the fight that matters; it's the size of the fight in the dog. (1911)

1186 One **size** does not fit all. (1956)
Variants: "One size will not fill all" and "One size cannot fit all." The proverb is a negative response to the common claim in advertisements of clothes and other products that "One size fits all."

1187 Pick on someone your own **size**. (1818)

1188 **Size** does matter. (1964)
Anti-proverb of: Size doesn't matter (1903). Both texts started as indirect references to penis size, but they can also be used in a broader sense.

1189 **Size** doesn't matter. (1903)
Variants: Size doesn't matter; it's what you do with it (it's how you use it). See also "It's not the meat, it's the motion" (1951) and "It's not the size of the boat but the motion of the ocean" (1968).

1190 The toughest **skin** will hold out the longest. (1816)

1191 Every man must skin his **skunk**. (1813)

1192 The **sky** is the limit. (1909)

1193 Don't use a **sledgehammer** to kill a fly. (1910)
Variants: "Don't try to kill a fly with a sledgehammer" and "Don't use a hammer (hatchet) to kill a mosquito (gnat)."

1194 You can **sleep** when you are dead. (1931)
Variant: Sleep is for the dead. See the older proverb "There will be sleeping enough in the grave," coined by Benjamin Franklin in his *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1741.

1195 Nothing comes to a **sleeper** but a dream. (1968)
Originally a line from the song "Wake Up" (1968) by Larry Williams.

1196 There will be **sleeping** enough in the grave. (1741)
This proverb was coined by Benjamin Franklin and appeared first in his *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1741. See also "There is no work in the grave" from 1700. There is also the modern American proverb "You can sleep when you are dead" (1931).

1197 **Sloth** makes all things difficult, but industry all easy. (1758)
Coined by Benjamin Franklin and included in his *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1758.

1198 Plough deep while **sluggards** sleep, and you shall have corn to sell and to keep. (1756)
The proverb appears in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1756.

1199 **Small** is beautiful. (1971)
Anti-proverb of: Big is beautiful (1927).

1200 **Small** is the new big. (2003)
Variant: Small is the new large.

1201 Nobody likes a **smart-ass**. (1930)
Euphemistic variant: Nobody likes a show-off.

1202 If she **smokes**, she pokes. (1996)
Sexual proverb with "poke" standing for intercourse.

1203 **Snitches** end up in ditches. (1997)

1204 **Snitches** get stitches. (1987)

1205 You **snooze**, you lose. (1950)

1206 Don't eat yellow **snow**. (1971)
The proverb had its start as a lavatory graffito warning against doing something so stupid as eating snow covered with urine.

1207 Just because there's **snow** on the roof doesn't mean the fire is out inside. (1943)
Variants: Just because there's snow on the roof doesn't mean there's no fire in the furnace (chimney, kitchen). "Snow on the roof" refers to gray or white hair on the head.

1208 **Snow** is the poor man's fertilizer. (1874)
Variant: Snow is the poor farmer's manure.

1209 Old **soldiers** never die; young ones do. (1951)
Anti-proverb of "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away," which first appeared in an anonymous British soldier song from 1916. In the United States, it is usually attributed to General Douglas McArthur, who cited it in his farewell speech in front of Congress on 19 April 1951: "I still remember the refrain of one of the most popular barracks ballads of that day [in World War I], which proclaimed most proudly that old soldiers never die; they just fade away. I now close my military career and just fade away."

1210 The bravest **soldiers** are the most civil to prisoners. (1736)

1211 Every **solution** creates new problems. (1920)

1212 There is **someone** for everyone. (1920)
From the title of D. O. Knapp's song "If There Is Someone for Everyone, Then There Must Be One for You" (1920).

1213 You don't get **something** for nothing. (1835)

1214 A **son** should begin where his father left off. (1786)
The proverb used to refer especially to sons of farmers.

1215 **Sounds** often terrify more than the realities. (1796)
The first reference appears in the writings of George Washington, who probably had distant war noise in mind. Today the proverb has a broader meaning.

1216 **Spare** and have is better than spend and crave. (1758)
The first reference is found in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1758.

1217 Every **spark** adds to the fire. (1738)

1218 **Speak** little, do much. (1755)
The proverb appears first in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1755.

1219 **Speak** softly and carry a big stick. (1900)
Variant: Talk softly but carry a big stick. Even though President Theodore Roosevelt called this a "West African

proverb" it has been established that he did in fact coin it himself. No such African proverb has been identified.

1220 **Speed** kills. (1939)

1221 It is impossible to **spoil** what never was good. (1807)

1222 The **spur** won't hurt when the hide is thick. (1853)

1223 Look for **squalls**, but don't make them. (1802)

1224 Even a blind **squirrel** can sometimes find an acorn. (1928)

1225 If you don't **stand** for something, you will fall for anything. (1945)

1226 When you think you **stand**, take heed—you may fall. (1656)

1227 If you shoot for the **stars**, maybe at least you will hit the moon. (1955)
Anti-proverb of: Shoot for the stars (1847).

1228 Only when it's dark can you see the **stars**. (1883)

1229 Shoot for the **stars**. (1847)
Variant: Aim for the stars.

1230 Don't **start** something you can't finish. (1915)

1231 Everybody has to **start** somewhere. (1926)

1232 It's not where you **start** that matters; it's where you finish. (1970)
Variant: It's not where you start that matters; it's where you end up.

1233 **Start** low, go slow. (1916)
Variant: Start low and go slow.

1234 **Start** small, go big. (1964)
Variant: Start small to get big.

1235 **Statistics** are for losers. (1960)

1236 You can prove anything with **statistics**. (1852)
Variant: You can prove anything with figures.

1237 If you **stay** ready, you won't have to get ready. (1994)

1238 One **stick** is easier broken than a bunch. (1677)
Variant: One stick is easier broken than a bundle. A good proverb for prerevolutionary America with its message that people are stronger in a group than standing alone.

1239 **Stick** together or get stuck separately. (1942)

1240 **Sticks** and stones will break my bones, but words will never harm me. (1862)

1241 He that is conscious of a **stink** in his breeches is jealous of every wrinkle in another's nose. (1751)
First reference in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1751.

1242 Do not marry a **stock**. (1938)
Variant: Do not fall in love with a stock.

1243 A hungry **stomach** has no ears. (1800)
Variant: A hungry belly has no ears.

1244 **Stoop** low and it will save you many a bump through life. (1724)
Variants: "Stoop as you go through the world, and you will miss many hard knocks" and "You must learn to stoop as you go through life." The proverb had its start with a comment that Cotton Mather made to the young Benjamin Franklin.

1245 **Stop**, look, listen. (1912)
The proverb was coined by Ralph R. Upton as a slogan to take heed at railroad crossings. It now serves as a general rule of caution.

1246 The **streets** talk. (1981)
Variant: The streets always talk.

1247 Three **strikes** and you're out. (1901)

1248 Different **strokes** for different folks. (1945)
The proverb originated among African Americans and is somewhat of a modern metaphorical equivalent to the classical "Suum cuique" that became "To each his own" in English. The quintessential American proverb became very well-known through its appearance in the song "Everyday People" (1968) by Sly and the Family Stone. See also "Different ways for (on) different days" from 1971. See Mieder 1989a: 317–332 and 2006a; McKenzie 1996.

1249 If there is no **struggle**, there is no progress. (1857)
Variant: No struggle, no progress. The proverb was coined by the former slave and abolitionist Frederick Douglass in a speech on 3 August 1857. See Mieder 2001.

1250 There are no bad **students**, only bad teachers. (1958)
See also the proverbs "There are no bad children, only bad parents" (1910) and "There are no bad dogs, only bad owners" (1949) based on the same structure.

1251 Don't sweat the small **stuff**. (1960)
Variant: Don't sweat the small shit.

1252 If you're going to be **stupid**, you have to be tough. (1984)

1253 **Stupid** is forever. (1969)
Variant: Sins can be forgiven, but stupid is forever.

1254 You can't fix **stupid**. (1995)

1255 **Stupidity** is its own reward. (1992)
The proverb appeared in writing first on 27 June 1992 in the *Toronto Star* newspaper in Canada. It started as an anti-proverb of the English proverb "Virtue is its own reward," from the early 16th century.

1256 If you keep anything long enough, it will come back in **style**. (1938)
Variant: If you keep a dress long enough, it will come back in style.

1257 There are no dull **subjects**, just dull writers. (1922)
Variant: There are no dull subjects, just dull teachers.

1258 There is no **substitute** for victory. (1932)
Variant: In war there is no substitute for victory.

1259 If at first you don't **succeed**, try, try, try again. (1838)
The first written reference appears in the anonymous poem "Perseverance: or, Try Again" (1838). It was popularized with only the double repetition of "try" in Thomas H. Palmer's four-line poem "'Tis a lesson you should heed, / Try, try again; / If at first you don't succeed, / Try, try again" (1840). Perhaps Palmer also wrote the earlier poem of 1838.

1260 Don't mess with **success**. (1978)

1261 Dress for **success**. (1933)
See also "Dress to impress" from 1952.

1262 Nothing succeeds like **success**. (1867)

1263 **Success** comes in *cans*, failure in *can'ts*. (1910)

1264 **Success** has many fathers, but failure is an orphan. (1961)
Variant: Victory has many fathers, but defeat is an orphan. Both variants were coined by President John F. Kennedy.

1265 **Success** is always preceded by preparation. (1981)

1266 **Success** is a journey, not a destination. (1933)
See also the proverbs "Education is a journey, not a destination" (1936) and "Life is a journey, not a destination" (1941) with the same structure.

1267 **Success** is never final. (1920)
Variant: Success is never final and failure is never fatal.

1268 **Success** is the best revenge. (1974)
See also the slightly newer proverb "Survival is the best revenge" from 1980.

1269 You can't argue with **success**. (1808)

1270 Never give a **sucker** an even break. (1923)

1271 There's a **sucker** born every minute. (1883)
Variant: A sucker is born every minute. The first reference appeared in the *New York Times* on 30 December 1883. It has been attributed to the entertainer P. T. Barnum.

1272 Behind the clouds the **sun** is shining. (1841)
Variant: The sun is always shining behind the clouds. The proverb first appeared in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's *The Rainy Day* (1841) and was used on 11 February 1861 by President Abraham Lincoln to express his hope that the slavery problem could be solved without a civil war. See the newer proverb "Every cloud has a silver lining" (1855).

1273 Somewhere the **sun** is shining; somewhere a little rain is falling. (1906)

1274 **Sun**'s out, guns out. (2007)
"Guns" refers to upper-arm muscles to be proudly shown on a sunny day.

1275 The **sun** doesn't shine on the same dog's ass every day. (1976)

1276 The **sun** shines on dunghills and on diamond mines. (1987)

1277 The **sun** will come out tomorrow. (1938)

1278 On any given **Sunday,** any team can beat any other team. (1952)
Variant: On any day, any team can beat any other team.

1279 **Survival** is the best revenge. (1980)
See the slightly older proverb "Success is the best revenge" from 1974.

1280 You can find **sympathy** between shit and syphilis in the dictionary. (1961)
Variant: You can find sympathy between sin and syphilis in the dictionary.

T

1281 Get up from the **table** while you are still hungry. (1953)
Variant: Leave the table before you are full.

1282 If you are not at the **table,** you may be on the menu. (1993)

1283 You can't win if you're not at the **table**. (1970)
The "table" is referring to gambling at casinos.

1284 All the good ones are already **taken**. (1935)
Variant: All the good ones are already married.

1285 Everything always **takes** longer than it should. (1900)
Variant: Everything always takes longer than you expect. See also the anti-proverb "It always takes longer than you expect even when you take into account this rule [Hofstadter's Law]" from 1979.

1286 Take while the **taking** is good. (1921)

1287 All **talk**, no action. (1946)

1288 All **talk**, no cider. (1807)
"Cider" in the sense of results. The proverb appears in the works of Washington Irving.

1289 If you want to talk the **talk**, you've got to walk the walk. (1967)
See also the proverb "Actions speak louder than words" (1736).

1290 **Talk** is cheap. (1843)
The first written reference appears in the works of the Canadian author Thomas Chandler Haliburton.

1291 All **talkers** and no hearers. (1750)

1292 **Taxation** without representation is tyranny. (1761)
Variant: No taxation without representation. This statement became one of the slogans of the American Revolution. It has been attributed to the patriot James Otis.

1293 Nobody forgets a good **teacher**. (1911)
Variant: You never forget a good teacher.

1294 Your best **teacher** is your last mistake. (1973)
Variant: Your last mistake is your best teacher.

1295 **Teamwork** makes a dream work. (1995)
The variant "Teamwork makes the dream work" sometimes alludes to Martin Luther King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech of 28 August 1963.

1296 He that has no **teeth** cannot crack nuts. (1795)

1297 **Tell** it like it is. (1939)

1298 Don't mess with **Texas**. (1985)

1299 A **thief** had rather steal a purse than find one. (1806)

1300 Do your own **thing**. (1929)

1301 If it isn't one **thing**, it's another. (1855)

1302 There is no such **thing** as a free lunch. (1917)
Variant: There is no free lunch.

1303 There is no such **thing** as bad publicity. (1941)
See also "Any publicity is good publicity" from 1925.

1304 There is no such **thing** as bad sex. (1971)
See also "Bad sex is better than no sex" from 1969.

1305 There is no such **thing** as too much sex. (1961)
Variant: You can't have too much sex.

1306 You can never do merely one **thing**. (1963)
Variants: You can never do just (only) one thing. The proverb originated with the biologist Garrett Hardin and is known as "Hardin's Law."

1307 All good **things** must come to an end. (1887)

1308 Good **things** happen to good people. (1980)
Variant: Good things come to good people.

1309 Little **things** mean a lot. (1901)

1310 Some **things** are best left undone. (1900)
Variant: Some things are better left undone.

1311 Some **things** never change. (1885)

1312 Some **things** you can't change. (1935)
Variant: Some things in life you can't change.

1313 The best **things** come in small packages. (1899)
Variant: Good things come in small packages.

1314 The best **things** in life are free. (1881)

1315 The best **things** in life are not things. (1977)

1316 They don't make **things** like they used to. (1959)
The proverb originated with the author George Garrett.

1317 **Things** are just things. (1929)
Variant: It's just things.

1318 **Things** are not always what they seem. (1876)

1319 **Think** big. (1907)
Variants: Think big things (thoughts).

1320 **Think** big, be big. (1951)

1321 **Think** globally, act locally. (1942)
Variant: Think global, act local. This has become an international proverbial slogan for globalization while also respecting local matters.

1322 **Think** twice, count ten. (1913)
Variants: Think twice, count to twenty (hundred, etc.).

1323 A kind **thought** is never lost. (1914)

1324 It's the **thought** that counts. (1907)

1325 Sow a **thought** and reap an act. (1870)
First reference found in Ralph Waldo Emerson's *Society and Solitude* (1870). See also the Bible proverb "Who sows the wind shall reap the whirlwind" (Hosea 8:7).

1326 **Three** may accord, but two never can. (1804)

1327 **Three** may keep a secret, if two of them are dead. (1735)
First reference found in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1735.

1328 The **thrill** is worth the risk. (1936)

1329 When **thunder** roars, go indoors. (2004)
Variant: If thunder roars, go indoors.

1330 No **tickee**, no washee. (1875)
Stereotypical proverb against Chinese immigrants who were in the laundry business in large cities. Its language is

ridiculing the language difficulties that this Asian population experienced. The meaning is that a customer would not get the laundry back without the proper identification ticket for it. See Mieder 1996a.

1331 You buy the **ticket**, you see the show. (1977)
Variant: You buy the ticket, you take the ride.

1332 A rising **tide** lifts all boats. (1915)
Variant: The rising tide lifts all ships.

1333 The **tide** may turn. (1766)

1334 The highest **tides** produce the lowest ebbs. (1770)
The proverb appears in the papers of John Adams.

1335 Lost **time** is never found gain. (1748)
The first reference occurs in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1748.

1336 Nothing is more precious than **time**, yet nothing is less valued. (1775)

1337 The **time** is always right to do what is right. (1965)
The proverb was coined by Martin Luther King during an interview with *Playboy* magazine in January 1965.

1338 The **time** to shoot bears is when they are out. (1914)
Variant: The time to catch bears is when they are around.

1339 There is always a first **time**. (1792)
Variant: There's a first time for everything. The first reference appears in the writings of Alexander Hamilton.

1340 **Time** and chance happen to all men. (1677)

1341 **Time** flies when you're having fun. (1939)
Anti-proverb of the English proverb "Time flies" from the 14th century, which is a loan translation of the classical proverb "Tempus fugit" that found its way into many languages.

1342 **Time** is an herb that cures all diseases. (1738)
First reference found in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1738.

1343 **Time** is money. (1719)
The proverb first appeared on 18 May 1719 in a short text in the British *Free Thinker* newspaper, which Benjamin Franklin cited in his essay "Advice to a Young Tradesman" (1748). He reprinted the piece from the newspaper in his *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1751 without citing his source. This caused his name to become attached to the proverb, which he did not coin! Be that as it may, the proverb has long conquered many languages of the world and is often cited together with Franklin's name. For most Americans, it is his proverb, and that is why it deserves to be included in this collection. See Villers and Mieder 2017.

1344 **Time** rules all things. (1788)

1345 **Time** spent wishing is time wasted. (1922)
The proverb has its origin with the proverb "Wishing is good time wasted" (1922) by Gus Kahn.

1346 **Time** wasted is time lost. (1865)

1347 **Time** will show. (1767)
Variant: Time must show.

1348 **Time** wounds all heels. (1913)
Anti-proverb of the English proverb "Time heals all wounds" from the 14th century.

1349 We're here for a good **time**, not a long time. (1977)

1350 When it's **time** to go, it's time to go. (1936)

1351 Hard **times** make hard men. (1909)
Variant: Tough times make tough people.

1352 These are the **times** that try men's souls. (1776)
Coined by Thomas Paine on 19 December 1776 in *The American Crisis*.

1353 Don't chew your **tobacco** twice. (1937)

1354 **Today** is the first day of the rest of your life. (1968)
Variants: This (Tomorrow) is the first day of the rest of your life.

1355 Don't tread on other people's **toes**. (1834)
Variant: Don't step on other people's toes.

1356 **Toes** that are tender will be stepped on. (1834)
First reference in David Crockett's *A Narrative of the Life of David* Crockett (1834).

1357 You say "**tomato**" [təme:to], I say "to-mah-to" [təma:to]. (1967)
The pronunciation wordplay entered oral tradition as a proverb from Ira and George Gershwin's song "Let's Call the Whole Thing Off" from the motion picture *Shall We Dance* (1936): "You like potato and I like po-tah-to; / You like tomato and

I like to-mah-to; / Potato, po-tah-to, tomato, to-mah-to— / Let's call the whole thing off!"

1358 A soft **tongue** may strike hard. (1744)
The first reference appears in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1744.

1359 You can't put **toothpaste** back in the tube. (1936)
See the older proverb "You can't put the bullet back in the gun" from 1891.

1360 It's lonely at the **top**. (1930)

1361 Small **town**, big heart (1982).
There is also the anti-proverb "Small town, big ears."

1362 All is fair in **trade**. (1815)

1363 There is no **trade** without returns. (1732)
The proverb appears first in the writings of Benjamin Franklin, where he identifies it as such. Thus it is most likely older than 1732.

1364 **Trade** is a lottery. (1703)

1365 **Trade** must regulate itself. (1780)

1366 **Tragedy** is an opportunity. (1978)
Variant: Every tragedy is an opportunity. See also the older proverb "A crisis is an opportunity" from 1900.

1367 A large **train** makes a light purse. (1742)
"Train" refers to a part of a garment. The first reference is found in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1742.

1368 The **train** has (already) left the station. (1976)
See also "The horse is (already) out of the barn" (1961) and "The ship has (already) sailed" (1978).

1369 There's no stopping the **train** once it leaves the station. (1915)
Variant: There is no boarding the train once it leaves the station.

1370 When you get hit by a **train**, it isn't the caboose that kills you. (1992)
The proverb is the motto of Alcoholics Anonymous and means that it is not the last drink but the first that gets an alcoholic into trouble.

1371 You cannot tell which way the **train** went by looking at the tracks. (1977)

1372 **Travel** light, travel far. (1943)

1373 It's easier to stay out of **trouble** than to get out of trouble. (1920)

1374 **Trouble** loves company. (1909)
The older English proverb "Misery loves company" is from the 16th century.

1375 **Trouble** springs from idleness; toil from ease. (1756)
Variant: Idleness breeds trouble. First reference in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1756.

1376 A live **trout** is better than a dead whale. (1941)

1377 It is not the **trumpeters** that fight the battles. (1887)
First reference in Henry Ward Beecher's *Proverbs from Plymouth Pulpit* (1887).

1378 **Trust** but verify. (1966)
The proverb is attributed to President Reagan, who claimed that he had learned it as a Russian proverb from Mikhail Gorbachev.

1379 **Trust** is earned. (1947)
Variant: Trust must be earned.

1380 The **truth** hurts. (1909)

1381 **Truth**, crushed to earth, will rise again. (1839)
The proverb originated as a line from William Cullen Bryant's poem "The Battle-Field" (1839). Martin Luther King cited it numerous times in his speeches and thus popularized it in more recent times.

1382 **Truth** is the first casualty of war. (1915)

1383 Don't **try** to be someone you are not. (1956)

1384 You **try** it, you buy it. (1983)

1385 Don't kick a fresh **turd** on a hot day. (1980)
It has been claimed that President Harry S. Truman used this proverb from time to time, but there are no records of it.

1386 You can't polish a **turd**. (1976)

1387 It takes **two** to tango. (1952)
Anti-proverb of the old English proverb "It takes two to quarrel" from the early 18th century. The proverb originated with the song "It Takes Two to Tango" by Al Hoffman and Dick Manning, which became a hit with the famous African American singer Pearl Bailey. See Mieder and Bryan 1983.

1388 **Two** can live as cheaply as one. (1874)
Variant: Two can live cheaper than one.

1389 **Two** cannot walk together unless they be agreed. (1818)

1390 **Two** is company, three is a crowd. (1892)

U

1391 If you leave your **umbrella** at home, it is sure to rain. (1906)

1392 **United** we stand, divided we fall. (1768)
The proverb comes from John Dickinson's song "The Liberty Song" (1768) and became a slogan during the American revolution.

1393 When the **United States** sneezes, the world catches pneumonia. (1977)
Variants: "When America sneezes, the world catches a cold" and "When Wall Street sneezes, the world catches a cold."

1394 **Use** it or lose it. (1838)
See also the newer proverb "Move it or lose it" (1973). See Doyle 2009.

1395 **Use** it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without. (1933)
Variant: Eat it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without. Very frequently employed proverb during the depression and World War II to encourage thriftiness.

1396 **Use** makes everything easy. (1815)

V

1397 The second **vice** is lying, the first is running into debt. (1748)
First reference found in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1748.

1398 No **victim**, no crime. (1971)
See "No body, no crime" from 1947.

1399 To the **victor** belong the spoils. (1832)
Variant: The victor gets the spoils. The proverb was coined by William L. Marcy in a Senate speech on 25 January 1832.

1400 It is harder to use **victory** than to get it. (1633)

1401 To see the **view**, you have to climb the mountain. (1945)
Variant: If you want to see the view, you have to climb the mountain.

1402 Eternal **vigilance** is the price of liberty. (1837)
In his farewell speech of 4 March 1837, President Andrew Jackson observed that "Eternal vigilance by the people is the price of liberty," which was somewhat shortened to the proverb. Four years earlier the very similar statement "The price of liberty is eternal vigilance" had appeared in a newspaper, which might have influenced Jackson.

1403 It takes a **village** to raise a child. (1981)
Even though the proverb is often cited as being from Africa, no such reference has been found. It might have been coined by Toni Morrison and was popularized by way of Hillary Rodham Clinton's book *It Takes a Village and Other Lessons Children Teach Us* (1996).

1404 **Violence** begets violence. (1765)
This was one of Martin Luther King's favorite proverbs; he used it to argue for a peaceful civil rights movement. For example, on 7 March 1961, he warned that "Hate begets hate. Force begets force. Violence begets violence."

1405 **Virtue** is but skin-deep. (1788)
Anti-proverb of the English proverb "Beauty is but skin-deep" from the beginning of the 17th century.

W

1406 Hitch your **wagon** to a star. (1862)
The proverb was coined by Ralph Waldo Emerson. See also the proverb "You have to pull your own wagon" from 1907.

1407 You have to pull your own **wagon**. (1907)
Variant: You have to pull your own little red wagon.

1408 ***Wait*** (weight) broke the wagon down. (1936)

1409 What's good for **Wall Street** is good for Main Street. (1995)
Variant: If it's good for Wall Street, it's good for Main Street. See also the reversed proverb "What's good for Main Street is good for Wall Street," which originated in 1995 as well.

1410 If you don't **want** it known, don't do it. (1943)

1411 **Want** of care does more damage than want of knowledge. (1746)
The first reference appears in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1746.

1412 Fiercer **war,** sooner peace. (1820)

1413 No one wins a **war**. (1928)

1414 Someday they will give a **war** and nobody will come. (1936)
The first written reference appears in Carl Sandburg's epic poem *The People, Yes* (1936).

1415 **War** is hell. (1880)
In French the proverb might go back to Napoleon, but in America it was first cited on 11 August 1880 by General William Tecumseh Sherman.

1416 **War** will cease when men refuse to fight. (1933)
The proverb was coined by Albert Einstein.

1417 It will all come out in the **wash**. (1896)

1418 In fleeing from the **water** do not run into the fire. (1818)

1419 **Water** gone over a dam never returns. (1797)

1420 Don't make **waves**. (1934)

1421 The **waves** do not rise but when the winds blow. (1760)
The proverb first appears in the writings of Benjamin Franklin.

1422 Lead, follow, or get out of the **way**. (1912)

1423 Push, pull, or get out of the **way**. (1909)

1424 That's the **way** the ball bounces. (1952)

1425 That's the **way** the cookie crumbles. (1955)

1426 The best **way** to get over someone is to get under someone else. (2000)
Variant: The best way to get over someone is to get on top of someone else.

1427 The best **way** to kill time is to work it to death. (1914)
The proverb first appeared in Faye N. Merriman's poem "Killing Time" (1914).

1428 The best **way** to make money is to save it. (1922)

1429 The only **way** out is through. (1918)
Variant: Sometimes the only way out is through.

1430 The **way** is the goal. (1992)
See also "The journey is the reward" (1978) and "The journey is the destination" (1997).

1431 The **way** to a man's heart is through his stomach. (1814)
In one of his letters, President John Adams wrote that "The shortest road to men's hearts is down their throats," which was probably the beginning of this proverb.

1432 There's more than one **way** to beat the devil around the bush. (1776)

1433 There's more than one **way** to cook a goose. (1941)

1434 There's more than one **way** to peel an orange. (1954)
Variant: There's more than one way to peel a banana. See the older American proverb "There's more than one way to skin a cat" from 1843.

1435 There's more than one **way** to skin a cat. (1843)

1436 When you're down, the only **way** is up. (1933)

1437 Different **ways** for different days. (1971)
Variant: Different ways on different days. This proverb is quite frequently cited as an addition to the more popular and somewhat older similar proverb "Different strokes for different folks" (1945).

1438 You can't have it both **ways**. (1773)
The proverb appears first in a letter by Benjamin Franklin from the year 1773.

1439 **Wealth** and content are not always bedfellows. (1749)
The first reference appears in Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1749.

1440 Everybody talks about the **weather**, but nobody does anything about it. (1897)
The proverb appeared in writing first on 24 August 1897 in the *Hartford Courant* newspaper in Connecticut. It might have been coined by its editor, Charles Dudley Warner, or perhaps more likely by Mark Twain.

1441 Some are **weatherwise**, some are otherwise. (1735)
The proverb was coined by Benjamin Franklin and appears first in his *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1735.

1442 A **week** is a long time in politics. (1961)
Even though this proverb appears to be of American origin, it is often attributed to Prime Minister Harold Wilson in Great Britain.

1443 Everyone must pull his own **weight**. (1902)
Variant: You must pull your own weight.

1444 Don't reinvent the **wheel**. (1970)
Variant: Don't try to reinvent the wheel. The proverbial expression "to reinvent the wheel" is older.

1445 The squeaking **wheel** gets the grease. (1903)
Variant: The squeaky wheel gets the grease.

1446 Happy **wife**, happy life. (1980)

1447 If you take a **wife** from hell, she will bring you back. (1793)

1448 The **wife** is the last one to know. (1901)
Variants: The wife is the last one to hear (find out). An older English proverb, "The husband (cuckold) is always the last to know," is from the early 17th century.

1449 An ugly **win** is better than a loss. (1984)
Variants: "An ugly win beats a pretty loss" and "An ugly win is still a win."

1450 You can't **win** if you don't play. (1940)

1451 You can't **win** them all. (1918)

1452 You can't **win** them all if you don't win the first one. (1947)
The proverb probably originated in Canada.

1453 You **win** a few, you lose a few. (1912)
Variant: You win some, you lose some.

1454 Sometimes you're the **windshield** and sometimes you're the bug. (1981)
Variant: Some days you're the windshield and some days sometimes you're the bird.

1455 He that loves **wine** wants no woes. (1650)
"Wants" in the sense of lacks. The puritanical proverb is found in the works of Anne Bradstreet, one of the most prominent authors in America of the 17th century.

1456 The **winner** gets the cookie and the loser gets the crumbs. (1986)

1457 **Winners** learn from mistakes, losers repeat them. (1956)

1458 **Winners** make the rules. (1940)
Variant: Victors make the rules. There are also expanded variants, such as "The winners make the rules for the losers" and "Winners make the rules, and losers live by them."

1459 **Winners** make their own luck. (1989)
Variant: Champions make their own luck.

1460 You can't have **winners** without losers. (1956)

1461 **Winning** isn't everything. (1912)

1462 **Winning** isn't everything; it's the only thing. (1950)
The proverb is often attributed to the football player and later trainer Vince Lombardi.

1463 Nine-tenths of **wisdom** consists in being wise in time. (1917)
President Theodore Roosevelt coined the proverb in his speech of 14 June 1917.

1464 **Wisdom** is in age. (1797)

1465 A good **woman** is hard to find. (1942)
Anti-proverb of the somewhat older proverb "A good man is hard to find" from 1918.

1466 A **woman** has to work twice as hard to get half as far as a man. (1974)

Variants: "A woman has to work twice as hard to get half as much as a man" and "A woman has to work twice as hard to get half the credit as a man."

1467 A **woman** with her skirt up can run faster than a man with his pants down. (1955)

Variant: A girl with her dress up can run faster than a man with his pants down.

1468 A **woman** without a man is like a fish without a bicycle. (1976)

Variant: A woman needs a man like a fish needs a bicycle. The first written reference has been found in a Texas newspaper from 5 May 1976. The proverb is often attributed to the feminist Gloria Steinem, who has denied having coined it. The Australian journalist and politician Irina Dunn has claimed that she came up with it in 1970, perhaps as an anti-proverb of the two older American proverbs "A man without a woman is like a fish without a tail" (1909) and "A man without a woman is like a ship without a sail" (1909). See also the slightly newer anti-proverb "A man without a woman is like a fish without a bicycle" from 1983.

1469 A **woman** without a man is like a fish without a net. (1993)

Variant: A woman needs a man like a fish needs a net. The proverb is yet another feminist version of the previous entry.

1470 A **woman's** place is any place she wants to be. (1918)

Feminist anti-proverb of: A woman's place is in the home (1844).

1471 A **woman's** place is in the home. (1844)

1472 Never run after a **woman** or a streetcar; if you miss one, another will come along soon. (1910)
See also the newer, and above all more neutral, proverb "There will always be another bus (streetcar)" from 1925.

1473 When **women** are on board there is no want of wind. (1789)
The anti-feminist proverb is found in the autobiography of President John Adams, who is citing his wife Abigail as having heard it from sailors.

1474 **Wood** warms a man twice. (1819)
Rural Vermonters are still citing this variant today: "Wood warms a man three times: when you cut it, when you split it, and when you burn it."

1475 A kind **word** is never lost. (1852)
Variant: A word of kindness is seldom spoken in vain.

1476 Hard **work** never hurt anyone. (1874)
Variant: Hard work never killed anyone.

1477 Network to get **work**. (1999)
Variant: You have to network to get work.

1478 The hardest **work** is to do nothing. (1798)

1479 There is no **work** in the grave. (1700)
See also the proverb "There will be sleeping enough in the grave" coined by Benjamin Franklin in his *Poor Richards's Almanack* for 1741.

1480 **Work** before play. (1894)

1481 **Work** smart, not hard. (1951)

1482 All the **world** loves a clown. (1929)
The proverb became popular by way of Cole Porter's song "Be a Clown" (1948).

1483 It is a dog-eat-dog **world**. (1935)
The older English proverb "Dog does not eat dog" is from the 16th century.

1484 It's a small **world**. (1896)

1485 The **world** hates a quitter. (1903)
Variant: Everyone hates a quitter.

1486 The **world** is a place. (1976)
This proverb, with the meaning that the world is filled with strange and anxious happenings, originated as the title of a song by the Rhythm Group that contains the lines "The world is a place / For the whole human race." The proverb plays a significant role in President Barack Obama's autobiography *Dreams from My Father* (1995; see Mieder 2010d). William Shakespeare's "All the world's a stage" in *As You Like It* (1599) may be a possible source.

1487 The **world** is what we make it. (1838)
Variant: The world is what people make it.

1488 The **world** was not made in a day. (1814)
Similar to the classical proverb "Rome was not built in a day."

1489 The **world** will do its own business. (1800)

1490 Don't **worry**, be happy. (1908)

1491 **Worry** is like a rocking chair; it gives you something to do but doesn't get you anywhere. (1916)

1492 Anything **worth** doing is worth overdoing. (1962)
Anti-proverb of the English proverb "Anything worth doing is worth doing well," which was coined by Lord Chesterfield in 1746.

1493 Two **wrongs** don't make a right. (1814)

Y

1494 New **year**, new you. (1946)
Variant: A new year, a new you.

1495 **Yes**, we can. (1973)
The proverb had its start with the song "Yes We Can Can" (1973) and its refrain "Oh yes we can" of the Pointer Sisters. President Barack Obama, who is well acquainted with popular music, used the proverb in a speech of 11 April 2005. In another important speech on 4 November 2008 in Chicago he cited it seven times as a leitmotif, making it, so to speak, "his" proverb.

1496 You are only **young** once. (1804)

1497 **Youth** is wasted on the young. (1931)
See also the proverb "Money is wasted on the rich" (1981), which follows the same structure.

Z

1498 There is no **zealot** like a convert. (1906)

1499 You can tell a **zebra** by its stripes. (1854)
Variant: A zebra cannot change its stripes.

1500 The most important erogenous **zone** is the brain. (1969)
Variant: The most erogenous zone is the mind.

Bibliography

Studies

This list includes only those publications that deal exclusively or at least partially with proverbs that originated in the United States and in a few cases in Canada.

Albig, William. 1931. "Proverbs and Social Control." *Sociology and Social Research* 15: 527–535.

Anand, J. S., Manminder Singh Anand, and Kiran Preet. 2013. *Metamorphosis: Emerging Cultural Constructs and English Proverbs*. Saarbrücken: Lambert Academic Publishing.

Aron, Paul. 2008. *We Hold These Truths . . . : And Other Words That Made America*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Arthurs, Jeffrey D. 1994. "Proverbs in Inspirational Literature: Sanctioning the American Dream." *Journal of Communication and Religion* 17: 1–15. Also in *Cognition, Comprehension, and Communication: A Decade of North American Proverb Studies (1990–2000)*, edited by Wolfgang Mieder, 37–52. Baltmannsweiler: Schneider Verlag Hohengehren, 2003.

Barbour, Frances M. 1963. "Some Uncommon Sources of Proverbs." *Midwest Folklore* 13: 97–100.

———. 1964. "Embellishment of the Proverb." *Southern Folklore Quarterly* 28: 291–298.

Barrick, Mac E. 1979. "Better Red Than Dead." *American Notes and Queries* 17: 143–144.

———. 1986. "'Where's the Beef?'" *Midwestern Journal of Language and Folklore* 12: 43–46.

Basso, Keith. 1996. *Wisdom Sits in Places: Landscape and Language among the Western Apache*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press.

Bhuvaneswar, Chilukuri. 2014. "Proverbial Linguistics: A Bibliographical Review of English Proverb Literature (1400–2000)." In *The Indo-Libyan Linguist: Occasional Papers in Linguistics, Language Teaching, and Literature*, edited by Chilukuri Bhuvaneswar, 35–91. Sebha, Libya: Department of English, University of Sebha.

Bock, Sheila. 2014. "'What Happens Here, Stays Here': Selling the Untellable in a Tourism Advertising Campaign." *Western Folklore* 73: 216–234.

Boller, Paul F. 1967. *Quotemanship: The Use and Abuse of Quotations for Polemical and Other Purposes*. Dallas, TX: Southern Methodist University Press.

Boronkai, Dora, and Anna T. Litovkina. 2009. "Appreciation of Humor in Anglo-American Anti-Proverbs." In *Phraseologie disziplinär und interdisziplinär*, edited by Csaba Földes, 671–682. Tübingen: Gunter Narr.

Bronner, Simon J. 1982. "The Haptic Experience of Culture ['Seeing Is Believing, but Feeling Is the Truth']." *Anthropos* 77: 351–362.

Brookes, Stella Brewer. 1950. "Proverbs and Folk-Say." In *Joel Chandler Harris – Folklorist*, edited by S. B. Brookes, 97–110. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press.

Browne, Ray B. 1982. "'The Wisdom of Many': Proverbs and Proverbial Expressions." In *Our Living Traditions. An Introduction to American Folklore*, edited by Tristram Potter Coffin, 192–203. New York: Basic Books.

Brunvand, Jan Harold. 1968. "Proverbs and Proverbial Phrases." In *The Study of American Folklore: An Introduction*, edited by J. H. Brunvand, 38–47. New York: W. W. Norton.

Bryant, Margaret M. 1945. *Proverbs and How to Collect Them*. Greensboro, NC: American Dialect Society.

———. 1951. "Proverbial Lore in American Life and Speech." *Western Folklore* 10: 134–142.

Burrell, Brian. 1997. *The Words We Live By: The Creeds, Mottoes, and Pledges That Have Shaped America*. New York: The Free Press.

Carmichael, David A. 2007. "'The Grand Slam' of Proverbs and Proverbial Expressions: Zur sprichwörtlichen Sprache amerikanischer Sportzeitschriften." In *Sprichwörter sind Goldes Wert: Parömiologische Studien zu Kultur, Literatur und Medien*, edited by Wolfgang Mieder, 195–222. Burlington: University of Vermont.

Čermák, František. 2010. "The Paremiological Minimum of English." In *". . . for thy speech bewrayeth thee." A Festschrift for Libuše Dušková*, edited by Markéta Malá and Pavlina Šaldová, 58–71. Praha: Univerzita Karlova v Praze. Also in F. Čermák, *Proverbs: Their Lexical and Semantic Features*, 225–234. Burlington: University of Vermont, 2014.

———. 2014. *Proverbs: Their Lexical and Semantic Features*. Burlington: University of Vermont.

———. 2019. "Basic English Proverbs: Their Variability and Corpus-Based Aspects." In *Proceedings of the Twelfth Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Proverbs, 4th to 11th November 2018, at Tavira, Portugal*, edited by Rui J. B. Soares and Outi Lauhakangas, 52–69. Tavira: Tipografia Tavirense.

Chlosta, Christoph, and Peter Grzybek. 2004. "Was heißt eigentlich 'Bekanntheit' von Sprichwörtern? Methodologische Bemerkungen anhand einer Fallstudie zur Bekanntheit anglo-amerikanischer Sprichwörter in Kanada und in den USA." In *Res humanae proverbiorum et sententiarum.*

Ad honorem Wolfgangi Mieder, edited by Csaba Földes, 37–57. Tübingen: Gunter Narr.

Cichon, Michael, and Yin Liu, eds. 2019. *Proverbia Septentrionalia: Essays on Proverbs in Medieval Scandinavian and English Literature*. Tempe: Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies.

Daniel, Jack L. 1973. "Towards an Ethnography of Afroamerican Proverbial Usage." *Black Lines* 2: 3–12.

Daniel, Jack L., Geneva Smitherman-Donaldson, and Milford A. Jeremiah. 1987. "Makin' a Way outa No Way: The Proverb Tradition in the Black Experience." *Journal of Black Studies* 17: 482–508.

Davidson, Levette J. 1951. "Folk Speech and Folk Sayings." In *A Guide to American Folklore*, edited by L. Davidson, 42–52. Denver, CO: University of Denver Press.

de Caro, Francis (Frank) A. 1987. "Talk Is Cheap: The Nature of Speech According to American Proverbs." *Proverbium* 4: 17–37.

de Caro, Francis (Frank) A., and William K. McNeil. 1971. *American Proverb Literature: A Bibliography*. Bloomington: Folklore Forum, Indiana University.

Dibos, William G. 1970. "Concerning a Quotation Commonly Attributed to Abraham Lincoln ['You Can Fool All the People . . .']." *Romance Notes* 11: 579–580.

Dolby, Sandra K. 2005. "Proverbs, Quotes, and Insights." In *Self-Help Books: Why Americans Keep Reading Them*, edited by S. K. Dolby, 135–146. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.

Doyle, Charles Clay. 1996. "On 'New' Proverbs and the Conservativeness of Proverb Dictionaries." *Proverbium* 13: 69–84. Also in *Cognition, Comprehension, and Communication: A Decade of North American Proverb Studies (1990–2000)*, edited by Wolfgang Mieder, 85–98. Baltmannsweiler: Schneider Verlag Hohengehren, 2003.

———. 2001. "Observations on the Diachronic Study of Proverbs." *Proverbium* 18: 57–75.

———. 2007a. "'A Good Man Is Hard to Find': The Proverb." *Flannery O'Connor Review* 5: 5–22. Also in C. C. Doyle, *Doing Proverbs and Other Kinds of Folklore*, 162–189. Burlington: University of Vermont, 2012.

———. 2007b. "Collections of Proverbs and Proverb Dictionaries: Some Historical Observations on What's in Them and What's Not (With a Note on Current 'Gendered' Proverbs)." In *Phraseology and Culture in English*, edited by Paul Skandera, 181–203. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.

———. 2009. "'Use It or Lose It': The Proverb, Its Pronoun, and Their Antecedents." *Proverbium* 26: 105–118.

———. 2012. *Doing Proverbs and Other Kinds of Folklore*. Burlington: University of Vermont.

———. 2014. "'A Way Out of No Way': A Note on the Background of the African American Proverbial Saying." *Proverbium* 31: 193–198.

———. 2015. "Proverbs in Literature." In *Introduction to Paremiology: A Comprehensive Guide to Proverb Studies*, edited by Hrisztalina Hrisztova-Gotthardt and Melita Aleksa Varga, 262–275. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.

———. 2019. "American Folk Speech, Names, and Gestures." In *American Folklore and Folklife Studies*, edited by Simon J. Bronner, 127–145. New York: Oxford University Press.

Dundes, Alan.1966. "Here I Sit: A Study of American Latrinalia." *The Kroeber Anthropological Society Papers*, no. 34: 91–105. Also in A. Dundes, *The Meaning of Folklore: The Analytical Essays of Alan Dundes*, edited by Simon J. Bronner, 360–374. Logan: Utah State University Press, 2007.

Dundes, Lauren, Michael B. Streiff, and Alan Dundes. 1999. "'When You Hear Hoofbeats, Think Horses, Not Zebras': A Folk Medical Diagnostic Proverb." *Proverbium* 16: 95–103. Also in *Cognition, Comprehension, and Communication: A Decade of North American Proverb Studies (1990–2000)*, edited by Wolfgang Mieder, 99–107. Baltmannsweiler: Schneider Verlag Hohengehren, 2003; again in A. Dundes, *The Meaning of Folklore: The Analytical Essays of Alan Dundes*, edited by Simon J. Bronner, 264–269. Logan: Utah State University Press, 2007; and once again in A. Dundes, *"The Kushmaker" and Other Essays on Folk Speech and Folk Humor*, edited by Wolfgang Mieder, 21–29. Burlington: University of Vermont, 2008.

Eret, Dylan. 2001. "'The Past Does Not Equal the Future': Anthony Robbins' Self-Help Maxims as Therapeutic Forms of Proverbial Rhetoric." *Proverbium* 18: 77–103.

Fiedler, Sabine. 2007. *English Phraseology: A Coursebook*. Tübingen: Gunter Narr.

———. 2010. "'Am Ende des Tages zählt die Performance': Der Einfluss des Englischen auf die Phraseologie der deutschen Gegenwartssprache." In *Phraseologie global – areal – regional. Akten der Konferenz Europhras 2008 vom 13.–16.8.2008 in Helsinki*, edited by Jarmo Korhonen, Wolfgang Mieder, Elisabeth Piirainen, and Rosa Piñel, 163–172. Tübingen: Gunter Narr.

———. 2011. "The Sky Is the Limit: The Influence of English on German Phraseology." In *Research Issues on Phraseology in Europe and Asia: Focal Issues of Phraseological Studies*, edited by Joanna Szerszunowicz, Boguslaw Nowowiejski, Katsumasa Yagi, and Takaai Kanzaki, vol. 1, 247–268. Białystok: University of Białystok Publishing House.

———. 2012a. "'Der Elefant im Raum . . .': The Influence of English on German Phraseology." In *The Anglicization of European Lexis*, edited by Cristiano Furiassi, Virginia Pulcini, and Felix Rodriguez Gonzalez, 239–259. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

———. 2012b. *Englische Redewendungen und Sprichwörter in der Praxis*. Leipzig: Engelsdorfer Verlag.

———. 2014. *"Gläserne Decke" und "Elefant im Raum": Phraseologische Anglizismen im Deutschen*. Berlin: Logos Verlag.

Folly, Dennis Wilson (Sw. Anand Prahlad). 1982. "'Getting the Butter from the Duck': Proverbs and Proverbial Expressions in an Afro-American Family." In *A Celebration of American Family Folklore: Tales and Traditions from the Smithsonian Collection*, edited by Steven J. Zeitlin, Amy J. Kotkin, and Holly Cutting Baker, 232–241 and 290–291 (notes). New York: Pantheon.

Folsom, Steven. 1993. "Proverbs in Recent American Country Music: Form and Function in the Hits of 1986–87." *Proverbium* 10: 65–88.

Frank, Lawrence. 1983. *Playing Hardball: The Dynamics of Baseball Folk Speech*. New York: Peter Lang.

Gallacher, Stuart A. 1949. "Franklin's *Way to Wealth*: A Florilegium of Proverbs and Wise Sayings." *Journal of English and Germanic Philology* 48: 229–251.

Gallagher, Edward J. 1973. "The Rhetorical Strategy of Franklin's *Way to Wealth*." *Eighteenth Century Studies* 6: 475-485.

Gläser, Rosemarie. 1986. *Phraseologie der englischen Sprache*. Leipzig: VEB Verlag Enzyklopädie.

———. 1992. "Phraseologismen im amerikanischen Englisch." *Fremdsprachen Lehren und Lernen* 21: 88–103.

Gossen, Gary H. 1973. "Chamula Tzotzil Proverbs: Neither Fish nor Fowl." In *Meaning in Mayan Languages: Ethnolinguistic Studies*, edited by Munro S. Edmondson, 205–233. The Hague: Mouton, 1973. Also in *Wise Words: Essays on the Proverb*, edited by Wolfgang Mieder, 351–392. New York: Garland Publishing, 1994.

Granbom-Herranen, Liisa. 2011. "How Do Proverbs Get Their Meanings? The Model of Interpretation Based on a Metaphor Theory." *Białostockie Archiwum Językowe* 10: 47–67.

———. 2013. "Some Theoretical Aspects of Processes behind the Meanings of Proverbs and Phrases." In *Research on Phraseology across Continents*, edited by Joanna Szerszunowicz, Boguslaw Nowowiejski, Katsumasa Yagi, and Takaai Kanzaki, vol. 2, 372–388. Białystok: University of Białystok Publishing House.

———. 2016. "The Proverb Genre. A Relic or Very Much Alive?" In *Genre – Text – Interpretation: Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Folklore and Beyond*, edited by Kaarina Koski and (Mr.) Frog with Ulla Savolainen, 317–339. Helsinki: Finnish Literature Society.

———. 2019. "SMS Messages: Context for Traditional and Modern Proverbs." In *Folkloristics in the Digital Age*, edited by Pekka Hakamies and Anne Heimo, 26–39. Helsinki: Suomalainen Tiedeakatemia.

Grzybek, Peter, and Christoph Chlosta. 2009. "Some Essentials on the Popularity of (American) Proverbs." In *The Proverbial "Pied Piper": A Festschrift Volume of Essays in Honor of Wolfgang Mieder on the Occasion of His Sixty-Fifth Birthday*, edited by Kevin J. McKenna, 95–110. New York: Peter Lang.

Haas, Heather A. 2008. "Proverb Familiarity in the United States: Cross-Regional Comparisons of the Paremiological Minimum." *Journal of American Folklore* 212: 319–347.

———. 2013. "If It Walks Like a Proverb and Talks Like a Question: Proverbial and Other Formulaic Interrogatives." *Proverbium* 30: 19–50.

Harder, Kelsie B. 1983. "Proverbs and Proverbial Sayings." *Publications of the American Dialect Society*, no. 71: 60–66.

Higbee, Kenneth L., and Richard J. Millard. 1983. "Visual Imagery and Familiarity Ratings for 203 Sayings." *American Journal of Psychology* 96: 211–222.

Hirsch, E. D. 1987. *Cultural Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know*. With an Appendix "What Literate Americans Know" by E. D. Hirsch, Joseph Kett, and James Trefil. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

Honeck, Richard P., and Jeffrey Welge. 1997. "Creation of Proverbial Wisdom in the Laboratory." *Journal of Psycholinguistic Research* 26: 605–629. Also in *Cognition, Comprehension, and Communication: A Decade of North American Proverb Studies (1990–2000)*, edited by Wolfgang Mieder, 205–230. Baltmannsweiler: Schneider Verlag Hohengehren, 2003.

Hrisztova-Gotthardt, Hrisztalina, and Melita Aleksa Varga, eds. 2015. *Introduction to Paremiology: A Comprehensive Guide to Proverb Studies*. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.

Hulme, F. Edward. 1902. *Proverb Lore*. London: Elliot Stock, 1902. Reprint edited by Wolfgang Mieder. Burlington: University of Vermont, 2007.

Ivanov, E. E., and Iu. A. Petrushevskaia. 2016. *English Proverbs from Literary Texts, in Literary Texts: Etymology, Usage, Variability*. Mogilev: MGU Imeni A. A. Kuleshova.

Jabbar, Lubna Riyadh Abdul. 2008. "A Linguistic Analysis of the Speech Act of Advice in American English Proverbs." *Journal of College of Education for Women* 19: 115–127.

Jente, Richard. 1931–1932. "The American Proverb." *American Speech* 7: 342–348.

Kerschen, Lois. 1998. *American Proverbs about Women: A Reference Guide*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.

Khaleefa, Shawky Mohamed El-Sayed. 2018. *Gender Stereotyping in Selected American and Egyptian Rural Proverbs: A Cogno-linguistic Study*. Diss., Minufiya University.

Klégr, Aleš. 2011. "Paradigmatic Relations between English Proverbs." In *Proceedings of the Fourth Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Proverbs, 7th to*

14th November 2010, at Tavira, Portugal, edited by Rui J. B. Soares and Outi Lauhakangas, 267–289. Tavira: Tipografia Tavirense.

Knortz, Karl. 1899. "Amerikanische Sprichwörter und Redensarten." In *Folkloristische Streifzüge*, edited by K. Knortz, 210–223. Oppeln: Georg Maske.

———. 1902. "Spruchweisheit." In *Streifzüge auf dem Gebiete amerikanischer Volkskunde*, edited by K. Knortz, 81–127. Leipzig: Ed. Wartigs Verlag Ernst Hoppe.

———. 1996. "Proverbs; Folk Speech and Slang; Folk Similes, Metaphors, Curses, Exclamations, and Sayings; Tongue Twisters and Words Which Can Be Read Backwards." In *A Pioneer of American Folklore: Karl Knortz and His Collections*, edited by Eleonore Schamschula, 237–272. Moscow, ID: University of Idaho Press.

Kochman-Haładyj, Bożena. 2018. "American Proverb Lore about Weather: An Attempt of Semantic Interpretation and Categorization." In *Proceedings of the Eleventh Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Proverbs, 5th to 12th November 2017, at Tavira, Portugal*, edited by Rui J. B. Soares and Outi Lauhakangas, 481–497. Tavira: Tipografia Tavirense.

Konstantinova, Anna. 2011. "Proverbs in Feature Interviews: A Cognitive-Discursive Study of Oprah Winfrey's Interviews." *Proverbium* 28: 45–75.

———. 2012. "Proverbs in an American Musical: A Cognitive-Discursive Study of *The Full Monty*." *Proverbium* 29: 67–93.

———. 2015 "Proverbs in Mass Media." In *Introduction to Paremiology. A Comprehensive Guide to Proverb Studies*, edited by Hrisztalina Hrisztova-Gotthardt and Melita Aleksa Varga, 276–293. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.

———. 2017. "Cognitive-Discursive Functions of Anglo-American Proverbs." *Proverbium* 34: 159–178.

———. 2019. *Traditional Wisdom? Anglo-American Proverbs in Oral Speech Practice*. Krasnodar: Kubanskii gosudarstvennyi tekhnologicheskii universitet.

Kraller, Anna-Lisa. 2016. *"Resistance to Tyrants Is Obedience to God": Theodore Parker's Proverbial Fight for the Ideal American Society*. Burlington: University of Vermont.

Lau, Kimberly J. 1996. "'It's About Time': The Ten Proverbs Most Frequently Used in Newspapers and Their Relation to American Values." *Proverbium* 13: 135–159. Also in *Cognition, Comprehension, and Communication: A Decade of North American Proverb Studies (1990–2000)*, edited by Wolfgang Mieder, 231–254. Baltmannsweiler: Schneider Verlag Hohengehren, 2003.

———. 2009. "Vox Populi: Parody and Political Proverbs." In *The Proverbial "Pied Piper": A Festschrift Volume of Essays in Honor of Wolfgang Mieder on the Occasion of His Sixty-Fifth Birthday*, edited by Kevin J. McKenna, 75–86. New York: Peter Lang.

Leary, James P. 1975. "'The Land Won't Burn': An Esoteric American Proverb and Its Significance." *Midwestern Journal of Language and Folklore* 1: 27–32. Also in *Folk Groups and Folklore Genres: A Reader*, edited by Elliott Oring, 302–307. Logan: Utah State University Press, 1989.

Litovkina, Anna T. 2007. "'He Who Laughs, Lasts': The Most Common Types of Alteration in Anglo-American Anti-Proverbs." In *Kritik und Phrase. Festschrift für Wolfgang Eismann*, edited by Peter Deutschmann, 761–780. Wien: Praesens.

———. 2009. "'The Pun Is Mightier Than the Sword': Types of Punning in Anglo-American Anti-Proverbs." In *The Proverbial "Pied Piper": A Festschrift Volume of Essays in Honor of Wolfgang Mieder on the Occasion of His Sixty-Fifth Birthday*, edited by Kevin J. McKenna, 141–154. New York: Peter Lang.

———. 2011a. "Sexuality in Anglo-American Anti-Proverbs." In *The Pragmatics of Humour across Discourse Domains*, edited by Marta Dynel, 191–213. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

———. 2011b "Some Aspects of a Woman's Nature as Revealed through Anglo-American Anti-Proverbs." In *Paremiología y herencia cultural*, edited by Antonio Pamies Bertrán, Juan de Dios Luque Durán, and Patricia Fernández Martín, 351–361. Granada: Educatori.

———. 2013. "Politicians in Anglo-American Anti-Proverbs." In *International Issues from Wars to Robots*, edited by Erika Grodzki, Sharaf Rehman, Clarinda Calma, and Karyn Colombo, 95–109. Ronkonkoma, NY: Linus.

———. 2015. "Anti-Proverbs." In *Introduction to Paremiology: A Comprehensive Guide to Proverb Studies*, edited by Hrisztalina Hrisztova-Gotthardt and Melita Aleksa Varga, 326–352. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.

———. 2019. *Women through Anti-Proverbs*. Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan.

Litovkina, Anna T., and Wolfgang Mieder. 2019. *Marriage Seen through Proverbs and Anti-Proverbs*. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

Loomis, C. Grant. 1949. "Traditional American Wordplay: The Epigram and Perverted Proverbs." *Western Folklore* 8: 348–357.

Lückert, Claudia. 2014. "Prosodic Aspects of Proverb Change in English: Panini's Principle." In *Phraseologie im Wörterbuch und Korpus / Phraseology in Dictionaries and Corpora*, edited by Vida Jesenšek and Peter Grzybek, 181–192. Maribor: Univerza v Mariboru.

———. 2018. "The Lexical Profile of Modern American Proverbs: Detecting Contextually Predictable Keywords in a Database of American English Proverbs." *Yearbook of Phraseology* 9: 31–50.

MacDowell, Marsha, and Wolfgang Mieder. 2010. "'When Life Hands You Scraps, Make a Quilt': Quiltmakers and the Tradition of Proverbial Inscriptions." *Proverbium* 27: 113–172.

Mahoney, Dennis F. 2009. "'The Bird and the Fish Can Fall in Love . . .': Proverbs and Anti-Proverbs as Variations on the Theme of Racial and Cultural Intermingling in *The Time of Our Singing*." In *The Proverbial "Pied Piper": A Festschrift Volume of Essays in Honor of Wolfgang Mieder on the Occasion of His Sixty-Fifth Birthday*, edited by Kevin J. McKenna, 245–256. New York: Peter Lang.

Manders, Dean Wolfe. 2006. *The Hegemony of Common Sense: Wisdom and Mystification in Everyday Life*. New York: Peter Lang.

Martí Solano, Ramón. 2012. "As the Saying (or Whatever) Goes': Sayings and Pseudo-Sayings in the American Press." In *Proceedings of the Fifth Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Proverbs, 6th to 13th November 2011, at Tavira, Portugal*, edited by Rui J. B. Soares and Outi Lauhakangas, 377–388. Tavira: Tipografia Tavirense.

McKenzie, Alyce M. 1996. "'Different Strokes for Different Folks': America's Quintessential Postmodern Proverb." *Theology Today* 53: 201–212. Also in *Cognition, Comprehension, and Communication: A Decade of North American Proverb Studies (1990–2000)*, edited by Wolfgang Mieder, 311–324. Baltmannsweiler: Schneider Verlag Hohengehren, 2003.

Meister, Charles W. 1952–1953. "Franklin as a Proverb Stylist." *American Literature* 24: 157–166.

Mieder, Wolfgang. 1974. "The Proverb and Anglo-American Literature." *Southern Folklore Quarterly* 38: 49–62.

———. 1978. "Proverbial Slogans are the Name of the Game." *Kentucky Folklore Record* 24: 49–53.

———. 1988. "Proverbs in American Popular Songs." *Proverbium* 5: 85–101.

———. 1989a. *American Proverbs: A Study of Texts and Contexts*. Bern: Peter Lang.

———. 1989b. "Proverbs of the Native Americans: A Prize Competition." *Western Folklore* 48: 256–260.

———. 1990. "'A Picture Is Worth a Thousand Words': From Advertising Slogan to American Proverb." *Southern Folklore* 47: 207–225. Also in W. Mieder, *Proverbs Are Never Out of Season: Popular Wisdom in the Modern Age*, 135–151. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.

———. 1991a. "'An Apple a Day Keeps the Doctor Away': Traditional and Modern Aspects of Medical Proverbs." *Proverbium* 8: 77–106. Also in W. Mieder, *Proverbs Are Never Out of Season: Popular Wisdom in the Modern Age*, 152–172. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.

———. 1991b. "'(Don't) Throw the Baby Out with the Bath Water': The Americanization of a German Proverb and Proverbial Expression." *West-*

ern Folklore 50: 361–400. Also in W. Mieder, *Proverbs Are Never Out of Season: Popular Wisdom in the Modern Age*, 193–224. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.

———. 1992a. "'Good Proverbs Make Good Vermonters': A Study of Regional Proverbs in the United States." *Proverbium* 9: 159–178. Also in W. Mieder, *Proverbs Are Never Out of Season: Popular Wisdom in the Modern Age*, 173–192. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.

———. 1992b. "Paremiological Minimum and Cultural Literacy." In *Creativity and Tradition in Folklore: New Directions*, edited by Simon J. Bronner, 185–203. Logan: Utah State University Press. Also in W. Mieder, *Proverbs Are Never Out of Season: Popular Wisdom in the Modern Age*, 41–47. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993; and again in *Wise Words: Essays on the Proverb*, edited by W. Mieder, 297–316. New York: Garland Publishing, 1994.

———. 1993a. "'Early to Bed and Early to Rise': From Proverb to Benjamin Franklin and Back." In W. Mieder, *Proverbs Are Never Out of Season: Popular Wisdom in the Modern Age*, 98–134. New York: Oxford University Press. Also in W. Mieder, *Strategies of Wisdom: Anglo-American and German Proverb Studies*, 69–108. Baltmannsweiler: Schneider Verlag Hohengehren, 2000.

———. 1993b. *Proverbs Are Never Out of Season: Popular Wisdom in the Modern Age*. New York: Oxford University Press. Reprint, New York: Peter Lang, 2012.

———. 1993c. "'The Apple Doesn't Fall Far from the Tree': A Historical and Contextual Proverb Study Based on Books, Archives, and Databases." *Midwestern Folklore* 19: 69–98. Also in W. Mieder, *Strategies of Wisdom: Anglo-American and German Proverb Studies*, 109–144. Baltmannsweiler: Schneider Verlag Hohengehren, 2000.

———. 1993d. "'The Grass Is Always Greener on the Other Side of the Fence': An American Proverb of Discontent." *Proverbium* 10: 151–184. Also in *Wise Words: Essays on the Proverb*, edited by W. Mieder, 515–542. New York: Garland Publishing, 1994.

———. 1993e. "'The Only Good Indian Is a Dead Indian': History and Meaning of a Proverbial Stereotype." *Journal of American Folklore* 106: 38–60. Also in W. Mieder, *The Politics of Proverbs: From Traditional Wisdom to Proverbial Stereotypes*, 138–159 and 221–227 (notes). Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1997.

———. 1996a. "'No Tickee, No Washee': Subtleties of a Proverbial Slur." *Western Folklore* 55: 1–40. Also in W. Mieder, *The Politics of Proverbs: From Traditional Wisdom to Proverbial Stereotypes*, 160–189 and 227–235 (notes). Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1997.

———. 1996b. "Proverbs." In *American Folklore: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Jan Harold Brunvand, 597–601. New York: Garland Publishing.
———. 1997. *The Politics of Proverbs: From Traditional Wisdom to Proverbial Stereotypes*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.
———. 2000a. "'A House Divided': From Biblical Proverb to Lincoln and Beyond." In *Understanding Wisdom: Sources, Science & Society*, edited by Warren S. Brown, 57–102. Philadelphia: Templeton Foundation Press. Also in W. Mieder, *Strategies of Wisdom: Anglo-American and German Proverb Studies*, 171–203. Baltmannsweiler: Schneider Verlag Hohengehren, 2000; and in W. Mieder, *Proverbs Are the Best Policy: Folk Wisdom and American Politics*, 90–117 and 264–271 (notes). Logan: Utah State University Press, 2005.
——— 2000b. "'Do unto Others as You Would Have Them Do unto You': Frederick Douglass's Proverbial Struggle for Civil Rights." In W. Mieder, *Strategies of Wisdom: Anglo-American and German Proverb Studies*, 205–236. Baltmannsweiler: Schneider Verlag Hohengehren. Also in *Journal of American Folklore* 114 (2001): 331–357; and in W. Mieder, *Proverbs Are the Best Policy: Folk Wisdom and American Politics*, 118–146 and 272–278 (notes). Logan: Utah State University Press, 2005.
———. 2000c. "'It's Not a President's Business to Catch Flies': Proverbial Rhetoric in Inaugural Addresses of American Presidents." *Southern Folklore* 57: 188–232. Also in *Cognition, Comprehension, and Communication: A Decade of North American Proverb Studies (1990–2000)*, edited by W. Mieder, 325–366. Baltmannsweiler: Schneider Verlag Hohengehren, 2003; and in W. Mieder, *Proverbs Are the Best Policy: Folk Wisdom and American Politics*, 147–186 and 278–283 (notes). Logan: Utah State University Press, 2005.
———. 2000d. *Strategies of Wisdom: Anglo-American and German Proverb Studies*. Baltmannsweiler: Schneider Verlag Hohengehren.
———. 2000e. "The History and Future of Common Proverbs in Europe." In *Folklore 2000. Voces amicorum Guilhelmo Voigt sexagenario*, edited by Ilona Nagy and Kincsö Verebélyi, 300–314. Budapest: Universitas Scientarium de Rolando Eötvös nominata.
———. 2000f. *The Proverbial Abraham Lincoln: An Index to Proverbs in the Works of Abraham Lincoln*. New York: Peter Lang.
———. 2001. *"No Struggle, No Progress": Frederick Douglass and His Proverbial Rhetoric for Civil Rights*. New York: Peter Lang.
———, ed. 2003a. *Cognition, Comprehension, and Communication: A Decade of North American Proverb Studies (1990–2000)*. Baltmannsweiler: Schneider Verlag Hohengehren.
———. 2003b "'Good Fences Make Good Neighbors': History and Significance of an Ambiguous Proverb." *Folklore* (London) 114: 155–179. A

longer version in W. Mieder, *Proverbs Are the Best Policy: Folk Wisdom and American Politics*, 210–243 and 287–296 (notes). Logan: Utah State University Press, 2005.

———. 2003c. "'Government of the People, by the People, for the People': The Making and Meaning of an American Proverb of Democracy." *Proverbium* 20: 259–308. Also in W. Mieder, *Proverbs Are the Best Policy: Folk Wisdom and American Politics*, 15–55 and 248–258 (notes). Logan: Utah State University Press, 2005.

———. 2004a. "'Ein Apfel pro Tag hält den Arzt fern': Zu einigen amerikanischen Lehnsprichwörtern im Deutschen." *Revista de Filología Alemana* 12: 135–149. Also in W. Mieder, *"Spruchschlösser (ab)bauen": Sprichwörter, Antisprichwörter und Lehnsprichwörter in Literatur und Medien*, 307–321. Wien: Praesens Verlag, 2010.

———. 2004b. *Proverbs: A Handbook*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press. Reprint, New York: Peter Lang, 2012.

———. 2005a. "'A Proverb Is Worth a Thousand Words': Folk Wisdom in the Modern Mass Media." *Proverbium* 22: 167–233.

———. 2005b. "American Proverbs as an International, National, and Global Phenomenon." *Tautosakos Darbai / Folklore Studies* (Vilnius) 30: 57–72. Similar also in W. Mieder, *Proverbs Are the Best Policy: Folk Wisdom and American Politics*, 1–14 and 244–248 (notes). Logan: Utah State University Press, 2005; and belatedly also in *Western Folklore* 69 (2010): 35–54.

———. 2005c. "'God Helps Them Who Help Themselves': Proverbial Resolve in the Letters of Abigail Adams." In *Proverbs Are the Best Policy: Folk Wisdom and American Politics*, 56–89 and 258–263 (notes). Logan: Utah State University Press.

———. 2005d. *Proverbs Are the Best Policy: Folk Wisdom and American Politics*. Logan: Utah State University Press.

———. 2006a. "'Different Strokes for Different Folks.'" In *Encyclopedia of African American Folklore*, edited by Anand Prahlad, vol. 1, 324–327. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.

———. 2006b. "Proverbs and Sayings." In *Encyclopedia of American Folklife*, edited by Simon J. Bronner, vol. 3, 996–999. Armonk, NY: M. E. Sharpe.

———. 2007a. "Anti-Proverbs and Mass Communication: The Interplay of Traditional and Innovative Folklore." *Acta Ethnographica Hungarica* 52: 17–45.

———. 2007b. "'Don't Swap Horses in the Middle of the Stream': An Intercultural and Historical Study of Abraham Lincoln's Apocryphal Proverb." *Folklore Historian* 24: 3–40. Also in W. Mieder, *"Proverbs Speak Louder Than Words": Folk Wisdom in Art, Culture, Folklore, History, Literature, and Mass Media*, 205–250. New York: Peter Lang, 2008.

———. 2007c. "Proverbs in the Works of Ralph Waldo Emerson." In *Phraseologie. Ein internationales Handbuch zeitgenössischer Forschung*, edited by Harald Burger, Dmitrij Dobrovol'skij, Peter Kühn, and Neal R. Norrick, vol. 1, 337–348. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter. Also in W. Mieder, *Behold the Proverbs of a People: Proverbial Wisdom in Culture, Literature, and Politics*, 261–283. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2014.

———. 2007d. "Yankee Wisdom: American Proverbs and the Worldview of New England." In *Phraseology and Culture in English*, edited by Paul Skandera, 205–234. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.

———. 2008a. "'Let Us Have Faith That Right Makes Might': Proverbial Rhetoric in Decisive Moments of American Politics." *Proverbium* 25: 319–352.

———. 2008b. "'New Proverbs Run Deep': Prolegomena to a Dictionary of Modern Anglo-American Proverbs." In *Proceedings of the First Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Proverbs, 5th to 12th November 2007, at Tavira, Portugal*, edited by Rui J. B. Soares and Outi Lauhakangas, 69–87. Tavira: Tipografia Tavirense. Also in *Proverbium* 26 (2009): 237–274.

———. 2008c. *"Proverbs Speak Louder Than Words": Folk Wisdom in Art, Culture, Folklore, History, Literature, and Mass Media*. New York: Peter Lang.

———. 2009a. *International Bibliography of Paremiology and Phraseology*. 2 vols. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.

———. 2009b. "'We Must Pick Ourselves Up, Dust Ourselves Off': President Barack Obama's Proverbial Inaugural Address." *Paremia* 18: 31–42. A much expanded version in W. Mieder, *Behold the Proverbs of a People: Proverbial Wisdom in Culture, Literature, and Politics*, 172–197. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2014.

———. 2009c. *"Yes We Can": Barack Obama's Proverbial Rhetoric*. New York: Peter Lang.

———. 2010a. *"Making a Way out of No Way": Martin Luther King's Sermonic Proverbial Rhetoric*. New York: Peter Lang.

———. 2010b. "'Many Roads Lead to Globalization': The Translation and Distribution of Anglo-American Proverbs in Europe." In *Phraseologie global – areal – regional. Akten der Konferenz Europhras 2008 vom 13. – 16.8.2008 in Helsinki*, edited by Jarmo Korhonen, Wolfgang Mieder, Elisabeth Piirainen, and Rosa Piñel, 43–59. Tübingen: Gunter Narr. Also in W. Mieder, *Behold the Proverbs of a People: Proverbial Wisdom in Culture, Literature, and Politics*, 55–79. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2014.

———. 2010c. *"Spruchschlösser (ab)bauen." Sprichwörter, Antisprichwörter und Lehnsprichwörter in Literatur und Medien*. Wien: Praesens Verlag.

———. 2010d. "'The World Is a Place': Barack Obama's Proverbial View of an Interconnected Globe." In *Sopostavitel'naia filologiia i polilingvizm*, ed-

ited by A. A. Aminova and N. N. Fattakhova, 192–196. Kazan': G. Ibragimova An RT.

———. 2011a. *International Bibliography of Paremiography: Collections of Proverbs, Proverbial Expressions and Comparisons, Quotations, Graffiti, Slang, and Wellerisms*. Burlington: University of Vermont.

———. 2011b. "'It Takes a Village to Change the World': Proverbial Politics and the Ethics of Place." *Journal of American Folklore* 124: 4–28. Also in W. Mieder, *Behold the Proverbs of a People: Proverbial Wisdom in Culture, Literature, and Politics*, 198–229. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2014.

———. 2011c. "'Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness': Martin Luther King's Proverbial Struggle for Equality." *Proverbium* 28: 147–192. Also in W. Mieder, *Behold the Proverbs of a People: Proverbial Wisdom in Culture, Literature, and Politics*, 133–171. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2014.

———. 2012a. "'Beating Swords into Plowshares': Proverbial Wisdom on War and Peace." In *Proceedings of the Fifth Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Proverbs, 6th to 13th November 2011, at Tavira, Portugal*, edited by Rui J. B. Soares and Outi Lauhakangas, 92–120. Tavira: Tipografia Tavirense. Also in W. Mieder, *Behold the Proverbs of a People: Proverbial Wisdom in Culture, Literature, and Politics*, 230–258. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2014.

———. 2012b. "'Making a Way out of No Way': Martin Luther King's Proverbial Dream for Human Rights." In *Aspekte der historischen Phraseologie und Phraseographie*, edited by Natalia Filatkina, Ane Kleine-Engel, Marcel Dräger, and Harald Burger, 147–166. Heidelberg: Carl Winter.

———. 2012c. "'Think Outside the Box': Origin, Nature, and Meaning of Modern Anglo-American Proverbs." *Proverbium* 29: 137–196. Also in W. Mieder, *Behold the Proverbs of a People: Proverbial Wisdom in Culture, Literature, and Politics*, 80–130. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2014.

———. 2013. "'Laissez faire à Georges' and 'Let George Do It': A Case of Paremiological Polygenesis." *Paremia* 22: 17–29.

———. 2014a. *"All Men and Women Are Created Equal": Elizabeth Cady Stanton's and Susan B. Anthony's Proverbial Rhetoric Promoting Women's Rights*. New York: Peter Lang.

———. 2014b. *Behold the Proverbs of a People: Proverbial Wisdom in Culture, Literature, and Politics*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi.

———. 2014c. "Futuristic Paremiography and Paremiology: A Plea for the Collection and Study of Modern Proverbs." *Folklore Fellows' Network*, no. 44: 13–17 and 20–24.

———. 2014d. "'Keep Your Eyes on the Prize': Congressman John Lewis's Proverbial Odyssey for Civil Rights." *Proverbium* 31: 331–393.

———. 2014e. "'Let George Do It': The Disturbing Origin and Cultural History of an American Proverb." In *Behold the Proverbs of a People: Proverbial Wisdom in Culture, Literature, and Politics*, 436–480. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi.

———. 2014f. "'M(R)ight Makes R(M)ight': The Sociopolitical History of a Contradictory Proverb Pair." In *Proceedings of the Seventh Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Proverbs, 3rd to 10th November 2013, at Tavira, Portugal*, edited by Rui J. B. Soares and Outi Lauhakangas, 107–131. Tavira: Tipografia Tavirense.

———. 2014g. "'You Have to Kiss a Lot of Frogs (Toads) Before You Meet Your Handsome Prince': From Fairy-Tale Motif to Modern Proverb." *Marvels & Tales: Journal of Fairy-Tale Studies* 28: 104–126.

———. 2015a. "'All Men Are Created Equal': From Democratic Claim to Proverbial Game." *Scientific Newsletter*. Series: *Modern Linguistic and Methodical-and-Didactic Researches* (Voronezh State University of Architecture and Civil Engineering, Voronezh, Russia), no. 1: 10–37.

———. 2015b. "Origin of Proverbs." In *Introduction to Paremiology: A Comprehensive Guide to Proverb Studies*, edited by Hrisztalina Hrisztova-Gotthardt and Melita Aleksa Varga, 28–48. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.

———. 2015c. "'These Are the Times That Try Women's Souls': The Proverbial Rhetoric for Women's Rights by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony." *Proverbium* 32: 261–330.

———. 2018a. "'The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Poorer': Bernie Sanders's Proverbial Rhetoric for an American Sociopolitical Revolution." In *Proceedings of the Eleventh Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Proverbs, 5th to 12th November 2017, at Tavira, Portugal*, edited by Rui J. B. Soares and Outi Lauhakangas, 38–69. Tavira: Tipografia Tavirense.

———. 2018b. "'The Word [and Phrase] Detective': A Proverbial Tribute to *OED* Editor John A. Simpson." *Proverbium* 35: 223–262.

———. 2019a. "'Age Is Just a Number': American Proverbial Wisdom about Age and Aging." In *Emotsional'naia sfera cheloveka v iazyke i kommunikatsii: Sinkhroniia i diakhroniia*, edited by M. L. Kovshova, H. K. Riabtseva, and P. S. Dronov, 7–23. Moskva: Institut Iazykoznaniia RAN.

———. 2019b. "American Proverbs and Related Sayings." In *The Oxford Handbook of American Folklore and Folklife Studies*, edited by Simon Bronner, 146–168. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

———. 2019c. "Precursors to Martin Luther King's 1963 'I Have a Dream' Speech at the Lincoln Memorial." In *Critical Insights: Martin Luther King Jr.*, edited by Robert C. Evans, 116–131. Ipswich, MA: Salem Press.

———. 2019d. "'Proverbs Are Worth a Thousand Words': The Global Spread of American Proverbs." In *Contexts of Folklore: Festschrift for Dan Ben-*

Amos on His Eighty-Fifth Birthday, edited by Simon J. Bronner and Wolfgang Mieder, 217–229. New York: Peter Lang.

———. 2019e. *"Right Makes Might": Proverbs and the American Worldview*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

———. 2019f. "The Use of Proverbs in Martin Luther King's 1963 'I Have a Dream' Speech at the Lincoln Memorial." In *Critical Insights: Martin Luther King Jr.*, edited by Robert C. Evans, 132–148. Ipswich, MA: Salem Press.

———. 2020a. *Proverbial Rhetoric for Civil and Human Rights by Four African American Heroes: Frederick Douglass, Martin Luther King, Jr., John Lewis, Barack Obama*. Burlington: University of Vermont.

———. 2020b. *The Worldview of Modern American Proverbs*. New York: Peter Lang, 2020.

Mieder, Wolfgang, and George B. Bryan. 1983. "'Zum Tango gehören zwei.'" *Der Sprachdienst* 27: 100–102 and 181. Also in W. Mieder, *Sprichwort, Redensart, Zitat. Tradierte Formelsprache in der Moderne*, 151–154. Bern: Peter Lang, 1985.

———. 1997. *The Proverbial Harry S. Truman: An Index to Proverbs in the Works of Harry S. Truman*. New York: Peter Lang.

Mieder, Wolfgang, and Janet Sobieski, eds. 2006. *"Gold Nuggets or Fool's Gold?" Magazine and Newspaper Articles on the (Ir)relevance of Proverbs and Proverbial Phrases*. Burlington: University of Vermont.

Monteiro, George. 1972. "'Good Fences Make Good Neighbors': A Proverb and a Poem." *Revista de Etnografia* 16: 83–88.

———. 2006. "'Good Fences Make Good Neighbors' in the Nineteenth Century." *Proverbium* 23: 419–422.

Newcomb, Robert. 1957. *The Sources of Benjamin Franklin's Sayings of Poor Richard*. Diss., University of Maryland.

Nierenberg, Jess. 1983. "Proverbs in Graffiti: Taunting Traditional Wisdom." *Maledicta* 7: 41–58. Also in *Wise Words: Essays on the Proverb*, edited by Wolfgang Mieder, 543–561. New York: Garland Publishing, 1994.

Norrick, Neal R. 1985. *How Proverbs Mean: Semantic Studies in English Proverbs*. Amsterdam: Mouton.

Nussbaum, Stan. 2005. *American Cultural [and Proverbial] Baggage: How to Recognize and Deal with It*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books.

Olinick, Stanley L. 1987. "On Proverbs: Creativity, Communication, and Community." *Contemporary Psychoanalysis* 23: 463–468.

Petrova, Roumyana. 2013. "Humour in the Most Recent Anglo-American Proverbs." In *Frazeologiia v mnogoiazychnom obshchestve*, edited by Elena Arsentyeva, vol. 1, 173–179. Kazan': Kazanskii Federal'nyi Universitet.

———. 2016. "Happiness in Modern Anglo-American Proverbs: A Linguocultural Study." *Proverbium* 33: 381–410.

———. 2019. "Truth in Anglo-American Proverbs." *Proverbium* 36: 277–340.

Prahlad, Sw. Anand (Dennis Folly). 1994. "'No Guts, No Glory': Proverbs, Values and Image among Anglo-American University Students." *Southern Folklore* 51: 285–298. Also in *Cognition, Comprehension, and Communication: A Decade of North American Proverb Studies (1990–2000)*, edited by Wolfgang Mieder, 443–458. Baltmannsweiler: Schneider Verlag Hohengehren, 2003.

———. 1996. *African-American Proverbs in Context*. Jackson: University of Mississippi Press.

———. 2004. "The Proverb and Fetishism in American Advertisements." In *"What Goes Around Comes Around": The Circulation of Proverbs in Contemporary Life; Essays in Honor of Wolfgang Mieder*, edited by Kimberly J. Lau, Peter Tokofsky, and Stephen D. Winick, 127–151. Logan: Utah State University Press.

———. 2006. "Proverbs." In *Encyclopedia of African American Folklore*, edited by A. Prahlad, vol. 2, 1022–1027. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.

Rees, Nigel. 2005. "Shit Happens." *The "Quote . . . Unquote" Newsletter* 14, no. 2: 6.

Rittersbacher, Christa. 2002. *Frau und Mann im Sprichwort. Einblicke in die sprichwörtliche Weltanschauung Großbritanniens und Amerikas*. Heidelberg: Das Wunderhorn.

Rogers, Tim B. 1989. "The Use of Slogans, Colloquialisms, and Proverbs in the Treatment of Substance Addiction: A Psychological Application of Proverbs." *Proverbium* 6: 103–112.

Rössner, Stephan. 2014. "'It Ain't Over Till the Fat Lady Sings.'" *World Obesity* 15: 851–852.

Shelton, Barry. 2014. "'Root, Hog, or Die': A Republican Proverb." *Proverbium* 31: 395–408.

Simpson, John A. 2016. *The Word [and Phrase] Detective: Searching for the Meaning of It All at the Oxford English Dictionary; A Memoir*. New York: Basic Books.

Skandera, Paul, ed. 2007. *Phraseology and Culture in English*. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.

Steele, Thomas J. 1987. "Orality and Literacy in Matter and Form: Ben Franklin's *Way to Wealth*." *Oral Tradition* 2: 273–285.

Stevenson, Burton. 1935. "The Mouse-Trap ['Build a Better Mousetrap and the World Will Beat a Path to Your Door']." In B. Stevenson, *Famous Single Poems and the Controversies Which Have Raged around Them*, 343–381. New York: Dodd, Mead & Company.

Steyer, Kathrin. 2019. "'There's no X, only Y': A Corpus-Based Study of German and English Proverb Patterns." In *Living by the Golden Rule: Mentor, Scholar, World Citizen; A Festschrift for Wolfgang Mieder's 75th Birthday*,

edited by Andreas Nolte and Dennis F. Mahoney, 125–140. Berlin: Peter Lang.

Taft, Michael. 1994. "Proverbs in the Blues: How Frequent Is Frequent?" *Proverbium* 11: 227–258.

Taylor, Archer. 1931. *The Proverb*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. Reprinted as *The Proverb and an Index to The Proverb*. Hatboro, PA: Folklore Associates, 1962; Copenhagen: Rosenkilde and Bagger, 1962; Reprinted again, edited by Wolfgang Mieder. Bern: Peter Lang, 1985.

———. 1958. "'The Customer Is Always Right.'" *Western Folklore* 17: 54–55.

———. 1975. *Selected Writings on Proverbs*, edited by Wolfgang Mieder. FFC 216. Helsinki: Suomalainen Tiedeakatemia.

Templeton, John Marks. 1997. *Worldwide Laws of Life*. Philadelphia, PA: Templeton Foundation Press.

Tóthné Litovkina, Anna. 1994. "The Most Powerful Markers of Proverbiality: Perception of Proverbs and Familiarity with Them among 40 Americans." *Semiotische Berichte*, nos. 1–4: 327–353.

———. 1996. "A Few Aspects of a Semiotic Approach to Proverbs, with Special Reference to Two Important American Publications [W. Mieder, *American Proverbs: A Study of Texts and Contexts* (1989) and W. Mieder et al., *A Dictionary of American Proverbs* (1992)]." *Semiotica* 108: 307–380.

———. 1998. "An Analysis of Popular American Proverbs and Their Use in Language Teaching." In *Die heutige Bedeutung oraler Tradition: Ihre Archivierung, Publikation und Index-Erschließung*, edited by Walther Heissig and Rüdiger Schott, 131–158. Opladen: Westdeutscher Verlag.

———. 2000. *A Proverb a Day Keeps Boredom Away*. Szekszárd: IPF-Könyvek.

Trench, Richard Chenevix. 1853. *On the Lessons in Proverbs*. New York: Redfield, 1853. Also as *Proverbs and Their Lessons*. London: George Routledge, 1905. Reprint edited by Wolfgang Mieder. Burlington: University of Vermont, 2003.

Villers, Damien, and Wolfgang Mieder. 2017. "'Time Is Money': Benjamin Franklin and the Vexing Problem of Proverb Origins." *Proverbium* 34: 392–404.

Voolaid, Piret. 2014. "Collecting and Representing Newer Paremiological Forms: The Academic Online Database of Paremic Graffiti." In *Scala naturae: Festschrift in Honour of Arvo Krikmann for His 75th Birthday*, edited by Anneli Baran, Liisi Laineste, and Piret Voolaid, 225–240. Tartu: Estonian Literary Museum Scholarly Press.

White, Geoffrey M. 1987. "Proverbs and Cultural Models: An American Psychology of Problem Solving." In *Cultural Models in Language and Thought*, edited by Dorothy Holland and Naomi Quinn, 151–172. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Whiting, Bartlett Jere. 1994. *"When Evensong and Morrowsong Accord": Three Essays on the Proverb*, edited by Joseph Harris and Wolfgang Mieder. Cambridge, MA: Department of English and American Literature and Language, Harvard University.

Williams, Derek A. 2003. "'Everything That Shine Ain't Gold': A Preliminary Ethnography of a Proverb in an African American Family." *Proverbium* 20: 391–406.

Winick, Stephen D. 1998. *The Proverb Process: Intertextuality and Proverbial Innovation in Popular Culture*. Diss., University of Pennsylvania.

———. 2001. "'Garbage In, Garbage Out,' and Other Dangers: Using Computer Databases to Study Proverbs." *Proverbium* 18: 353–364.

———. 2004. "'You Can't Kill Shit': Occupational Proverb and Metaphorical System among Young Medical Professionals." In *"What Goes Around Comes Around": The Circulation of Proverbs in Contemporary Life: Essays in Honor of Wolfgang Mieder*, edited by Kimberly J. Lau, Peter Tokofsky, and Stephen D. Winick, 86–106. Logan: Utah State University Press.

———. 2011. "Fall into the (Intertextual) Gap: Proverbs, Advertisements and Intertextual Strategies." *Proverbium* 28: 339–380.

———. 2013. "Proverb Is as Proverb Does: Forrest Gump, the Catchphrase, and the Proverb." *Proverbium* 30: 377–428.

———. 2014. "Insights from the Middle of Nowhere: Proverbial Language and Intertextuality in Gary Larson's *The Far Side*." *Proverbium* 31: 409–460.

Yang, Yongxiang. 2015. "The Explanatory Power of Conceptual Integration Theory for English Proverbs." *Studies in Literature and Language* 11: 52–56.

Collections

Not a single proverb collection of this list differentiates among English and American proverbs. This is also the case for those collections that carry the word "American" in their title. This new collection is thus the first attempt to present only those proverbs that have originated in the United States. All of this is based on several decades of scholarly research in paremiography (proverb collections) and paremiology (study of proverbs).

Adams, Owen S. 1947–1948. "Traditional Proverbs and Sayings from California." *Western Folklore* 6: 59–64 and 7: 136–144.

Adams, Ramon F. 1968. *Western Words: A Dictionary of the American West*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. Reprinted as *The Cowboy Dictionary: The Chin Jaw Words and Whing-Ding Ways of the American West*. New York: Perigee Books, 1993.

Allen, Harold B. 1946. "Hunting for Minnesota Proverbs." *Minnesota History* 27: 33–36.

Alstad, Ken. 1986. *Savvy Sayins: Lean & Meaty One-Liners*. Tucson, AZ: Ken Alstad Co.

———. 2004. *Savvy Sayins: True Wisdom from the Real West*. Fort Worth, TX: Whippersnap Press.

Apperson, G. L. 1929. *English Proverbs and Proverbial Phrases: A Historical Dictionary*. London: J. M. Dent. Reprint, Detroit, MI: Gale Research Company, 1969.

———. 2006. *The Wordsworth Dictionary of Proverbs*. Edited by Stephen J. Curtis and Martin H. Manser. Ware, Hertfordshire: Wordsworth Editions, 2006 (expanded edition).

Archer, Fred. 1991. *Country Sayings*. Wolfeboro Falls, NY: A. Sutton.

Atkinson, Mary Jourdan. 1926. "Familiar Sayings of Old Time Texans." In *Rainbow in the Morning*, edited by J. Frank Dobie, 79–82. Austin: Texas Folklore Society. Reprint, Dallas: Southern Methodist University Press, 1975 (not identical with the following publication).

———. 1954. "Familiar Sayings of Old-Time Texans." *Texas Folk and Folklore*, edited by Mody C. Boatright, Wilson M. Hudson, and Allen Maxwell, 213–218. Dallas: Southern Methodist University Press.

Baldwin, L. Karen. 1965. "A Sampling of Housewives' Proverbs and Proverbial Phrases from Levittown, Pennsylvania." *Keystone Folklore Quarterly* 10: 127–148.

Barbour, Frances M. 1965. *Proverbs and Proverbial Phrases of Illinois*. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press.

———. 1974. *A Concordance to the Sayings in Franklin's "Poor Richard."* Detroit, MI: Gale Research Company.

Barnes-Harden, Alene L. 1980. "Proverbs, Folk Expressions and Superstitions." In A. L. Barnes-Harden, *African American Verbal Arts: Their Nature and Communicative Interpretation (A Thematic Analysis)*, 57–80. Diss., University of New York at Buffalo.

Barrick, Mac E. 1963. "Proverbs and Sayings from Cumberland County [Pennsylvania]." *Keystone Folklore Quarterly* 8: 139–203.

———. 1968. "Early Proverbs from Carlisle, Pennsylvania (1788–1821)." *Keystone Folklore Quarterly* 13: 193–217.

———. 1987. "Proverbs." In M. E. Barrick, *German-American Folklore*, 36–46. Little Rock, AR: August House.

Bartlett, John. 2012. *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations: A Collection of Passages, Phrases, and Proverbs Traced to Their Sources in Ancient and Modern Literature*. Edited by Geoffrey O'Brien. 18th ed. Boston: Little, Brown and Company (1st ed. 1855).

Bartlett, John Russell. 1849. *The Dictionary of Americanisms*. New York: Bartlett & Welford. Reprint, New York: Crescent Books, 1989.

Bender, Texas Bix. 1992–1997. *Don't Squat with Yer Spurs on! A Cowboy's Guide to Life*. 2 vols. Salt Lake City: Peregrine Smith Books.

Berrey, Lester V., and Melvin van den Bark. 1942. *The American Thesaurus of Slang: A Complete Reference Book of Colloquial Speech*. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell.

Bloch, Arthur. 1979. *Murphy's Law and Other Reasons Why Things Go Wrong*. Los Angeles: Price, Stern, Sloan Publishers.

———. 1982a. *Murphy's Law Book Two: More Reasons Why Things Go Wrong*. Los Angeles: Price, Stern, Sloan Publishers.

———. 1982b *Murphy's Law Book Three: Wrong Reasons Why Things Go More* [*sic*]. Los Angeles: Price, Stern, Sloan Publishers.

Boatner, Maxine Tull, and John E. Gates. 1966. *A Dictionary of American Idioms for the Deaf*. West Hartford, CT: American School for the Deaf. Also as *A Dictionary of American Idioms*. Woodbury, NY: Barron's Educational Series, 1975.

Bohle, Bruce, ed. 1967. *The Home Book of American Quotations*. New York: Dodd, Mead & Company. Reprint, New York: Gramercy Publishing Company, 1986.

Boritt, Gabor S., ed. 1996. *Of the People, by the People, for the People, and Other Quotations by Abraham Lincoln*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Boswell, George. 1967. "Folk Wisdom in Northeastern Kentucky." *Tennessee Folklore Society Bulletin* 33: 10–17.

Bradley, F. W. 1937. "South Carolina Proverbs." *Southern Folklore Quarterly* 1: 57–101.

Brewer, Ebenezer Cobham. 1870. *Dictionary of Phrase and Fable*. London: Cassell. Philadelphia: Claxton, Remsen, and Haffelfinger, 1870. Expanded edition by Ivor H. Evans. New York: Harper & Row, 1970 (14th ed. 1989).

———. 1992. *Brewer's Dictionary of 20th-Century Phrase and Fable*, edited by David Pickering, Alan Isaacs, and Elizabeth Martin. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co.

———. 2000. *Brewer's Dictionary of Modern Phrase & Fable*, edited by Adrian Room. London: Cassell.

Brewer, J. Mason. 1933. "Old-Time Negro Proverbs." In *Spur-of-the-Cock*, edited by J. Frank Dobie, 101–105. Austin: Texas Folklore Society, 1933. Reprint, Dallas: Southern Methodist University Press, 1965. Also in *Texas Folk and Folklore*, edited by Mody C. Boatright, Wilson M. Hudson, and Allen Maxwell, 219–223. Dallas: Southern Methodist University Press, 1954; and in *Mother Wit from the Laughing Barrel: Readings in the Interpretation of Afro-American Folklore*, edited by Alan Dundes, 246–250. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1973.

———. 1968 "Proverbs." In J. M. Brewer, *Negro Folklore*, 311–325. Chicago: Quadrangle Books.

Brewster, Paul G. 1939–1941. "Folk 'Sayings' from Indiana." *American Speech* 14: 261–268 and 16: 21–25.

Brunvand, Jan Harold. 1961. *A Dictionary of Proverbs and Proverbial Phrases from Books Published by Indiana Authors before 1890*. Bloomington: University of Indiana Press.

Bryan, George B., and Wolfgang Mieder. 1995. *The Proverbial Eugene O'Neill: An Index to Proverbs in the Works of Eugene Gladstone O'Neill*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.

———. 2003. "The Proverbial Carl Sandburg (1878–1967): An Index of Folk Speech in his American Poetry." *Proverbium* 20: 15–49.

———. 2005. *A Dictionary o f Anglo-American Proverbs and Proverbial Phrases Found in Literary Sources of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries*. New York: Peter Lang.

Budeus, Iris, and Helen Menzies-Eßkuchen. 2006. *Der frühe Vogel fängt den Wurm / The early bird catches the worm. Sprichwörter und Lebensweisheiten aus Großbritannien*. Unna: Friedrichsborn-Verlag.

Burrell, Brian. 1997. *The Words We Live By: The Creeds, Mottoes, and Pledges That Have Shaped America*. New York: The Free Press.

Carruth, Gorton, and Eugene Ehrlich. 1988. *The Harper Book of American Quotations*. New York: Harper & Row.

Cassidy, Frederic G., and Joan Houston Hall. 1985–2013. *Dictionary of American Regional English*. 5 vols. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Chapman, Robert L. 1989. *Thesaurus of American Slang*. New York: Harper & Row.

Ciardi, John. 1980. *A Browser's Dictionary and Native's Guide to the Unknown American Language*. New York: Harper & Row.

Coffin, Tristram P., and Hennig Cohen. 1966. "Proverbs." In *Folklore in America*, edited by T. P. Coffin and H. Cohen, 141–151. Garden City, NY: Doubleday.

Cole, Arthur H. 1961. *The Charming Idioms of New England: An Essay upon Their Significance, Together with a Compilation of Those Current in the Region around 1900*. Freeport, ME: The Bond Wheelwright Company.

Collis, Harry. 1992. *101 American English Proverbs: Understanding Language and Culture through Commonly Used Sayings*. Lincolnwood, IL: Passport Books.

Conlin, Joseph R. 1984. *The Morrow Book of Quotations in American History*. New York: William Morrow.

Costello, Robert B., ed. 1981. *American Expressions: A Thesaurus of Effective and Colorful Speech*. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company.

Covell, Charles H. 1898. *Diamonds and Nuggets, Polished and in the Rough, Gathered from American Minds*. Worcester, MA: Gilbert G. Davis.

Cox, Ernest. 1947. "Rustic Imagery in Mississippi Proverbs." *Southern Folklore Quarterly* 11: 263–267.

Dale, Rodney, ed. 2007. *The Wordsworth Dictionary of Sayings – Usual and Unusual*. Ware, Hertfordshire: Wordsworth Reference.

Dalzell, Tom, ed. 2009. *The Routledge Dictionary of Modern American Slang and Unconventional English*. New York: Routledge.

Daniel, Jack L. 1979. *The Wisdom of Sixth Mount Zion [Baptist Church] from the Members of Sixth Mount Zion and Those Who Begot Them [African American Proverb Collection]*. Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh, College of Arts and Sciences.

Dickson, Paul. 2006. *Slang: The Topical Dictionary of Americanisms*. New York: Walker.

Dinwiddie-Boyd, Elza, ed. 1996. *In Our Own Words: A Treasury of Quotations from the African-American Community*. New York: Avon Books.

Donadio, Stephen, Joan Smith, Susan Mesner, and Rebecca Davison, eds. 1992. *The New York Public Library Book of Twentieth-Century American Quotations*. New York: Warner Books.

Douglas, Charles Noel. 1917. *Forty Thousand Quotations: Prose and Poetical*. New York: George Sully.

Doyle, Charles Clay, Wolfgang Mieder, and Fred R. Shapiro, eds. 2012. *The Dictionary of Modern Proverbs*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Dundes, Alan, and Carl R. Pagter, eds. 1975. *Urban Folklore from the Paperwork Empire*. Austin, TX: American Folklore Society.

———. 1987. *When You're Up to Your Ass in Alligators . . . : More Urban Folklore from the Paperwork Empire*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press.

———. 1991. *Never Try to Teach a Pig to Sing: Still More Urban Folklore from the Paperwork Empire*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press.

———. 1996. *Sometimes the Dragon Wins: Yet More Urban Folklore from the Paperwork Empire*. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press.

———. 2000. *Why Don't Sheep Shrink When It Rains? A Further Collection of Photocopier Folklore*. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press.

Elizabeth, Mary. 2009. *American Slang Dictionary and Thesaurus*. New York: Barron's Educational Series.

Emrich, Duncan. 1972. "Proverbs and Proverbial Speech." In *Folklore on the American Land*, 60–89. Boston: Little, Brown and Company.

Farkas, Anna. 2002. *The Oxford Dictionary of Catchphrases*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Farwell, Harold F., and J. Karl Nicholas, eds. 1993. *Smoky Mountain Voices: A Lexicon of Southern Appalachian Speech Based on the Research of Horace Kephart*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky.

Federer, William J. 2000. *America's God and Country: Encyclopedia of Quotations*. St. Louis, MO: Amerisearch.

Flavell, Linda, and Roger Flavell. 1993. *Dictionary of Proverbs and Their Origins*. London: Kyle Cathie. Reprint, New York: Barnes & Noble, 1997.

Flexner, Stuart Berg. 1976. *I Hear America Talking: An Illustrated Treasury of American Words and Phrases*. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Company.

———. 1982. *Listening to America: An Illustrated History of Words and Phrases from our Lively and Splendid Past*. New York: Simon and Schuster.

Flexner, Stuart Berg, and Doris Flexner. 1993. *Wise Words and Wives' Tales: The Origins, Meanings and Time-Honored Wisdom of Proverbs and Folk Sayings, Olde* [*sic*] *and New*. New York: Avon Books.

Flexner, Stuart Berg, and Anne H. Soukhanov. 1997. *Speaking Freely: A Guided Tour of American English from Plymouth Rock to Silicon Valley*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Fogel, Edwin Miller. 1929a. *Proverbs of the Pennsylvania Germans*. Lancaster, PA: Pennsylvania-German Society. Reprint edited by C. Richard Beam. Millersville, PA: Center for Pennsylvania German Studies, Millersville University, 1995.

———. 1929b. *Proverbs of the Pennsylvania Germans*. Lancaster, PA: Pennsylvania-German Society. Reprint edited by Wolfgang Mieder. Bern: Peter Lang, 1995.

Ford, Paul Leicester, ed. 1890. T*he Prefaces, Proverbs, and Poems of Benjamin Franklin: Originally Printed in "Poor Richard's Almanac[k]s" 1733–1758*. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

Franklin, Benjamin. 1964. *Poor Richard: The Almanacks for the Years 1733–1758. By Richard Saunders*. Introduction by Van Wyck Brooks. Illustrations by Norman Rockwell. New York: Limited Editions Club. Reprint, New York: Bonanza Books, 1979.

Freeman, Criswell. 1995. *Wisdom Made in America: Common Sense and Uncommon Genius from 101 Great Americans*. Nashville, TN: Walnut Grove Press.

Frome, Keith Weller, ed. 1996. *"Hitch Your Wagon to a Star" and Other Quotations by Ralph Waldo Emerson*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Frost, Elizabeth. 1988. *The Bully Pulpit: Quotations from America's Presidents*. New York: Facts on File.

Giloi, Dietlinde. 1991. *American Talk. Die typischen Redensarten. Ein fröhliches Lehrbuch*. Frankfurt am Main: Eichborn.

Goldin, Hyman E. 1950. *Dictionary of American Underworld Lingo*. New York: Twayne.

Green, Jonathon. 1998. *The Cassell Dictionary of Slang*. London: Cassell.

———. 2010. *Green's Dictionary of Slang*. 3 vols. London: Chambers.

Groom, Winston. 1994. *Gumpisms: The Wit and Wisdom of Forrest Gump*. New York: Pocket Books.

Hall, Terry, and Gregg Stebben. 1995. *Cowboy Wisdom*. New York: Warner Books.

Hardie, Margaret. 1929. "Proverbs and Proverbial Expressions Current in the United States East of the Missouri and North of the Ohio Rivers." *American Speech* 4: 461–472.

Harnsberger, Caroline Thomas. 1964. *Treasury of Presidential Quotations*. Chicago: Follett Publishing Co.

Haywood, Charles F. 1963. *Yankee Dictionary: A Compendium of Useful and Entertaining Expressions Indigenous to New England*. Lynn, MA: Jackson & Phillips.

Hendrickson, Robert. 1987. *The Facts on File Encyclopedia of Word and Phrase Origins*. New York: Facts on File Publications. Expanded reprint, New York: Facts on File Publications, 1997. Paperback edition, New York: Checkmark Books, 2000.

———. 1992. *Whistlin' Dixie: A Dictionary of Southern Expressions*. New York: Facts on File.

———. 1994. *Happy Trails: A Dictionary of Western Expressions*. New York: Facts on File.

———. 1996. *Yankee Talk: A Dictionary of New England Expressions*. New York: Facts on File.

———. 1997. *Mountain Range: A Dictionary of Expressions from Appalachia to the Ozarks*. New York: Facts on File.

———. 1998. *New Yawk Tawk: A Dictionary of New York City Expressions*. New York: Facts on File.

———. 2000. *American Regionalisms: Local Expressions from Coast to Coast*. New York: Facts on File.

Hirsch, E. D., Joseph Kett, and James Trefil. 1988. *The Dictionary of Cultural Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co. (proverbs, pp. 46–57; idioms, pp. 58–80).

Holder, R. W. 1987. *A Dictionary of American and British Euphemisms*. Bath: Bath University Press. Reprint as *The Faber Dictionary of Euphemisms*. London: Faber and Faber, 1989.

Hughes, Muriel J. 1960. "Vermont Proverbs and Proverbial Sayings." *Vermont History* 28: 113–142 and 200–230.

Hurd, Charles. 1964. *A Treasury of Great American Quotations*. New York: Hawthorn Books.

Kelly-Gangi, Carol, ed. 2009. *Essential African American Wisdom*. New York: Fall River Press.

Kieffer, Jarold. 1989. *What Are Those Crazy Americans Saying? An Easy Way to Understand Thousands of American Expressions*. Fairfax, VA: Kieffer Publications.

Kin, David (pseud. David George Plotkin). 1955a. *Dictionary of American Maxims*. New York: Philosophical Library.

———. 1955b. *Dictionary of American Proverbs*. New York: Philosophical Library.

Knowles, Elizabeth, ed. 1997. *The Oxford Dictionary of Phrase, Saying, and Quotation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

———. 1999. *The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*. 5th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press (1st ed. 1941).

———. 2009. *Little Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Koch, William E. 1961. "Proverbs and Riddles." In *Kansas Folklore*, edited by Samuel J. Sackett and W. E. Koch, 87–88 and 90–103. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.

Leonhardt, Wolfram, and Susan Rambow. 1989. *Amerikanisch im Alltag. Alphabetisch geordnetes Nachschlagewerk von amerikanischen Sentenzen, Sprichwörtern, Phrasen, Floskeln, Redewendungen, Zitaten und Formeln*. Wiesbaden: VMA-Verlag.

Lighter, Jonathan E., ed. 1994–1997. *Random House Historical Dictionary of American Slang*. 2 vols. New York: Random House.

Loomis, C. Grant. 1964. "Proverbs in Business." *Western Folklore* 23: 91–94.

Macon, John Alfred. 1883. "Aphorisms from the Quarters." In J. A. Macon, *Uncle Gabe Tucker; or Reflections, Song, and Sentiment in the Quarters*, 131–147. Philadelphia: Lippincott.

Maitland, James. 1891. *The American Slang Dictionary: Embodying All American and English Slang Phrases in Current Use, with Their Derivation and Philology*. Chicago: R. J. Kittredge.

Major, Clarence. 1994. *Juba to Jive: A Dictionary of African-American Slang*. New York: Penguin Books.

Makkai, Adam. 1984. *Handbook of Commonly Used American Idioms*. Woodbury, NY: Barron's Educational Series.

———. 1987. *A Dictionary of American Idioms*. New York: Barron's Educational Series.

Manser, Martin H., and Rosalind Fergusson. 2002. *The Facts on File Dictionary of Proverbs: Meanings and Origins of More Than 1,500 Popular Sayings*. New York: Checkmark Books.

Mathews, Mitford M. 1951. *A Dictionary of Americanisms on Historical Principles*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

———. 1966. *Americanisms: A Dictionary of Selected Americanisms on Historical Principles*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Melton, Buckner F., ed. 2004. *The Quotable Founding Fathers: A Treasury of 2,500 Wise and Witty Quotations from the Men and Women Who Created*

America. Washington, DC: Potomac Books. Reprint, New York: Fall River Press, 2008.

Mieder, Wolfgang. 1986. *Talk Less and Say More: Vermont Proverbs*. Shelburne, VT: New England Press.

———. 1988. *English Proverbs*. Stuttgart: Philipp Reclam.

———. 1989. *American Proverbs: A Study of Texts and Contexts*. Bern: Peter Lang.

———. 1989. *Yankee Wisdom: New England Proverbs*. Shelburne, VT: New England Press.

———. 2000. *The Proverbial Abraham Lincoln: An Index to Proverbs in the Works of Abraham Lincoln*. New York: Peter Lang.

———. 2001. *"No Struggle, No Progress": Frederick Douglass and His Proverbial Rhetoric for Civil Rights*. New York: Peter Lang.

———. 2009. *"Yes We Can": Barack Obama's Proverbial Rhetoric*. New York: Peter Lang.

———. 2010. *"Making a Way out of No Way": Martin Luther King's Sermonic Proverbial Rhetoric*. New York: Peter Lang.

———. 2014. *"All Men and Women Are Created Equal": Elizabeth Cady Stanton's and Susan B. Anthony's Proverbial Rhetoric Promoting Women's Rights*. New York: Peter Lang.

———. 2015. "*Different Strokes for Different Folks": 1250 authentisch amerikanische Sprichwörter*. Bochum: Norbert Brockmeyer.

Mieder, Wolfgang, and George B. Bryan. 1997. *The Proverbial Harry S. Truman: An Index to Proverbs in the Works of Harry S. Truman*. New York: Peter Lang.

Mieder, Wolfgang, Stewart A. Kingsbury, and Kelsie B. Harder, eds. 1992. *A Dictionary of American Proverbs*. New York: Oxford University Press. Paperback edition, New York: Oxford University Press, 1996.

Miller, Donald L. 1989. *From George . . . to George: 200 Years of Presidential Quotations*. Washington, DC: Braddock Communications.

Mitchell, Roger. 1984. "Farm Talk from Marathon County." *Midwestern Journal of Language and Folklore* 10: 146–167. Also in *Wisconsin Folklore*, edited by James P. Leary, 89–105. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1998.

Montana, Gladiola. 1993. *Never Ask a Man the Size of His Spread: A Cowgirl's Guide to Life*. Salt Lake City: Peregrine Smith Books.

Odell, Ruth. 1948. "Nebraska Smart Sayings." *Southern Folklore Quarterly* 12: 185–195.

Partridge, Eric. 1937. *A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English*. New York: Macmillan (7th ed. 1970).

———. 1977. *A Dictionary of Catch Phrases, British and American, from the Sixteenth Century to the Present Day*. New York: Stein and Day. Expanded reprint edited by Paul Beale. Lanham, MD: Scarborough House, 1992.

Pearce, Helen. 1946. "Folk Sayings in a Pioneer Family of Western Oregon." *California Folklore Quarterly* 5: 229–242.

Person, Henry. 1958. "Proverbs and Proverbial Lore from the State of Washington." *Western Folklore* 17: 176–185.

Pickering, David. 1997. *Dictionary of Proverbs*. London: Cassell.

Piirainen, Elisabeth. 2012–2016. *Widespread Idioms in Europe and Beyond*. 2 vols. New York: Peter Lang.

Platt, Suzy. 1992. *Respectfully Quoted: A Dictionary of Quotations from the Library of Congress*. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly. Reprinted as *Respectfully Quoted: A Dictionary of Quotations*. New York: Barnes & Noble, 1993.

Price, Barbara Wells, ed. 1974. *Early American Wisdom: Good Thoughts from Yesterday to Think about Today*. Kansas City, MO: Hallmark.

Randolph, Vance, and George P. Wilson. 1953. *Down in the Holler: A Gallery of Ozark Folk Speech*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press.

Rawson, Hugh, and Margaret Miner. 2006. *The Oxford Dictionary of American Quotations*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Read, Allen Walker. 1935. *Classic American Graffiti*. Paris: Privately printed. Reprint, Waukesha, WI: Maledicta Press, 1977.

Rees, Nigel. 1984. *Sayings of the Century: The Stories behind the Twentieth Century's Quotable Sayings*. London: George Allen and Unwin.

———. 1995. *Phrases and Sayings*. London: Bloomsbury.

———. 2006. *A Word in Your Shell-Like: 6,000 Curious & Everyday Phrases Explained*. London: HarperCollins.

Reisner, Robert. 1971. *Graffiti: Two Thousand Years of Wall Writing*. New York: Cowles Book Company.

Reitman, Judith, ed. 2000. *American Proverbs*. New York: Hippocrene Books.

Rhys, Ernest, ed. 1939. *The Dictionary of Best Known Quotations & Proverbs*. New York: Garden City Publishing.

Ridout, Ronald, and Clifford Witting. 1967. *English Proverbs Explained*. London: Pan Books.

Roger, E. G. 1949. "Popular Sayings of Marshall County [Tennessee]." *Tennessee Folklore Society Bulletin* 15: 70–75.

Roth, Herb, ed. 1936. *Poor Richard's Almanack: Being the Choicest Morsels of "Wisdom," Written During the Years of the Almanack's Publication, By That Well-known "Savant," Dr. Benjamin Franklin of Philadelphia*. Mount Vernon, NY: Peter Pauper Press (2nd ed. 1980).

Russell, Thomas Herbert, ed. 1926. *The Sayings of Poor Richard: Wit, Wisdom and Humor of Benjamin Franklin in the Proverbs and Maxims of Poor Richard's Almanacks for 1733 to 1758*. Chicago: Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Reprint, Chicago: E. T. Kelly, 1926.

Sandburg, Carl. 1988. "Nut Proverbs and Folk Ways and Says." In *Fables, Foibles, and Foobles by Carl Sandburg*, edited by George Hendrick, 109–120. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.

Schutz, Stephen, ed. 1975. *Poor Richard's Quotations: Being a Collection of Quotations from Poor Richard Almanacks, Published by Benjamin Franklin in the Years of Our Lord, 1733 through 1758*. Boulder, CO: Blue Mountain Arts.

Shankle, George Earlie. 1941. *American Mottoes and Slogans*. New York: H. W. Wilson Company.

Shapiro, Fred R. 2006. *The Yale Book of Quotations*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Shelton, Ferne, ed. 1969. *Pioneer Superstitions: Old-Time Signs and Sayings*. Collected by Helen K. Moore. High Point, NC: Hutcraft.

———. 1971. *Pioneer Proverbs: Wit and Wisdom from Early America*. Collected by Mary Turner. High Point, NC: Hutcraft.

Simpson, John A. 1982. *The Concise Dictionary of Proverbs*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Smith, Diann Sutherlin. 1988. *Down-Home Talk: An Outrageous Dictionary of Colorful Expressions*. New York: Collier.

Smith, Elmer L., ed. 1968. *American Proverbs, Maxims & Folk Sayings*. Lebanon, PA: Applied Arts Publishers.

Smith, Morgan, and A. W. Eddins. 1937. "Wise Saws from Texas." In *Straight Texas*, edited by J. Frank Dobie and Mody C. Boatright, 239–244. Dallas: Southern Methodist University Press. Reprint, Hatboro, PA: Folklore Associates, 1966.

Smitherman, Geneva. 1994. *Black Talk: Words and Phrases from the Hood to the Amen Corner*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Snapp. Emma Louise. 1933. "Proverbial Lore in Nebraska." *University of Nebraska Studies in Language, Literature, and Criticism* 13: 51–112.

Spalding, Henry D. 1972. "Proverbs, Folk Talk and Superstitions." In *Encyclopedia of Black Folklore and Humor*, edited by H. D. Spalding, 530–541. Middle Village, NY: Jonathan David.

Speake, Jennifer, ed. 2008. *The Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs*. 5th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press. First published in 1982 by John A. Simpson with the title *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs* (6th ed. 2015).

Spears, Richard A. 1989. *NTC's Dictionary of American Slang and Colloquial Expressions*. Lincolnwood, IL: National Textbook Company (3rd ed. 2000).

———. 1990a. *Essential American Idioms*. Lincolnwood, IL: National Textbook Company (2nd ed. 1996).

———. 1990b. *Forbidden American English. A Serious Compilation of Taboo American English*. Lincolnwood, IL: National Textbook Company. Reprint, Lincolnwood, IL: Passport Books, 1995.

———. 1995. *NTC's Dictionary of American English Phrases*. Lincolnwood, IL: National Textbook Company.
———. 1998. *Hip and Hot! A Dictionary of 10,000 American Slang Expressions*. New York: Gramercy Books.
———. 2000. *NTC's American Idioms Dictionary*. 3rd ed. Lincolnwood, IL: NTC Publishing Group.
Spears, Richard A., Betty Birner, and Steven Kleinedler. 1994. *NTC's Dictionary of Everyday American English Expressions: Presented according to Topic and Situation*. Lincolnwood, IL: NTC Publishing Group.
Spears, Richard A., and Linda Schinke-Llano. 1987. *NTC's American Idioms Dictionary*. Lincolnwood, IL: National Textbook Company.
Sperber, Hans, and Travis Trittschuh. 1962. *American Political Terms: An Historical Dictionary*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press.
Stevenson, Burton Egbert. 1948. *The Home Book of Proverbs, Maxims and Familiar Phrases*. New York: Macmillan. Reprinted as *The Macmillan Book of Proverbs, Maxims, and Familiar Phrases*. New York: Macmillan, 1968.
Still, James. 1991. *The Wolfpen Notebooks: A Record of Appalachian Life*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky (proverbial matters, pp. 43–143).
Strutz, Henry. 1995. *2001 German and English Idioms / 2001 Deutsche und englische Redewendungen*. Happauge, NY: Barron's Educational Series.
Sunners, William, ed. 1949. *American Slogans*. New York: Paebar.
Taylor, Archer, and C. Grant Loomis. 1951. "California Proverbs and Sententious Sayings." *Western Folklore* 10: 248–249.
Taylor, Archer, and Bartlett Jere Whiting. 1958. *A Dictionary of American Proverbs and Proverbial Phrases, 1820–1880*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
Thompson, Harold W. 1940. "Proverbs." In *Body, Boots & Britches. Folktales, Ballads and Speech from Country New York*, 481–504. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott. Reprint, New York: Dover, 1962; reprinted again, New York: Syracuse University Press, 1979.
———. 1949. "Proverbs and Sayings." *New York Folklore Quarterly* 5: 230–235 and 296–300.
Thurston, Helen M. 1906. "Sayings and Proverbs from Massachusetts." *Journal of American Folklore* 19: 122.
Titelman, Gregory Y. 1996. *Random House Dictionary of Popular Proverbs and Sayings: Over 1,500 Proverbs and Sayings with 10,000 Illustrative Citations*. New York: Random House. Reprinted as *Popular Proverbs and Sayings: An A-Z Dictionary of over 1,500 Proverbs and Sayings, with 10,000 Illustrative Examples*. New York: Gramercy Books, 1997.
Titus, Charles H. 1945. "Political Maxims." *California Folklore Quarterly* 4: 377–389.
Tuleja, Tad. 1994. *Book of Popular Americana*. New York: Macmillan.

Urdang, Laurence, Walter W. Hunsinger, and Nancy LaRoche. 1985. *Picturesque Expressions: A Thematic Dictionary*. Detroit: Gale Research Company.

Uthe-Spencker, Angela. 1977. *English Proverbs. Englische Sprichwörter*. Munich: Deutscher Taschenbuch Verlag.

Van Meter, Jan R. 2008. *Tippecanoe and Tyler Too: Famous Slogans and Catchphrases in American History*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Wagner, Joh. Jacob. 1854. *Moralische Probirsteine aus Nord-America oder 800 englische Sentenzen, Denkübungen und Sittensprüche zur Unterhaltung und Belehrung*. Lindenfels: Joh. Jacob Wagner.

Waldhorn, Arthur. 1956. *Concise Dictionary of the American Language*. New York: Philosophical Library.

Wall, C. Edward, and Edward Przebienda. 1969–1970. *Words and Phrases Index: A Guide to Antedatings, New Words, New Compounds, New Meanings, and Other Published Scholarship Supplementing the Oxford English Dictionary, Dictionary of Americanisms, Dictionary of American English and Other Major Dictionaries of the English Language*. 4 vols. Ann Arbor: Pieran Press.

Welsch, Roger L. 1966. "Sayings, Proverbs, and Beliefs." In *A Treasury of Nebraska Pioneer Folklore*, edited by Roger L. Welsch, 266–280. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.

Wentworth, Harold, and Stuart Berg Flexner. 1960. *Dictionary of American Slang*. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell. Expanded reprint, New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1975.

———. 1968. *The Pocket Dictionary of American Slang*. New York: Pocket Books.

Whiting, Bartlett Jere. 1952. "Proverbs and Proverbial Sayings [from North Carolina]." In *The Frank C. Brown Collection of North Carolina Folklore*, edited by Newman Ivey White, vol. 1, 329–501. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

———. 1972. "Proverbs in Cotton Mather's *Magnalia Christi Americana*." *Neuphilologische Mitteilungen* 73: 477–484.

———. 1977. *Early American Proverbs and Proverbial Phrases*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

———. 1989. *Modern Proverbs and Proverbial Sayings*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Wilgus, D. K. 1960. "Proverbial Material from the Western Kentucky Folklore Archive." *Kentucky Folklore Record* 6: 47–49.

Wilkinson, P. R. 1993. *Thesaurus of Traditional English Metaphors*. London: George Routledge.

Williams, Derek A. 1997. *The Proverbial Zora Neale Hurston: A Study of Texts and Contexts*. Diss., Emory University (proverbs, pp. 260–299).

Wilson, F. P. 1970. *The Oxford Dictionary of English Proverbs*. 3rd ed. Oxford: Clarendon Press (1st ed. 1935 by William George Smith).

Woods, Henry F. 1945. *American Sayings: Famous Phrases, Slogans, and Aphorisms*. New York: Duell, Sloan and Pearce. Expanded reprint, New York: Perma Giants, 1950.

Wu, S. M., ed. 1995. *The Wit and Wisdom of Benjamin Franklin*. New York: Barnes & Noble.

Yates, Irene. 1947. "A Collection of Proverbs and Proverbial Sayings from South Carolina Literature." *Southern Folklore Quarterly* 11: 187–199.

Zona, Guy A. 1994. *"The Soul Would Have No Rainbow, if the Eyes Had No Tears" – and Other Native American Proverbs*. New York: Touchstone Books.