

ENGLISH PROVERBS ABOUT MONEY AND THEIR LINGUOCULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

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Annotation: *This article is devoted to the analysis of English proverbs about money. The article examines proverbs related to money, thrift, wealth, human labor, and the influence of money on people's lives. This analysis reveals people's life experience, views, and society's attitude toward money. The article also discusses folk wisdom about money, life values, and human qualities. Special attention is paid to the role of money in human life and how it is reflected in English proverbs.*

Key words: *Proverb, money, culture, society, folk wisdom, language.*

Most nations preserve their histories, worldviews, and value systems not only in written forms but also in oral traditions, such as folklore. For many centuries, it is folklore that has been passing down life experiences, moral guidelines, and societal perceptions of right and wrong.

Proverbs and sayings occupy a special place among the genres of folk wisdom, as they reflect people's views on the most important aspects of life in a concise and figurative form. "A proverb is a succinct expression that conveys wisdom, advice, or a commonly accepted truth. These expressions are often metaphorical, reflecting the cultural and historical contexts of the societies that produce them. While proverbs may seem timeless, they frequently originate from ancient traditions and texts, including religious scriptures and philosophical writings"³⁴. By looking at proverbs about money, one can notice how clearly they manifest a society's cultural attitudes toward labor, wealth, poverty, thriftiness, and material well-being. Therefore, the analysis of such proverbs allows for a deeper understanding and study of which values were formed and are still being formed within English-speaking culture, as well as their consolidation in the language. For example, "**Money does not grow on trees**"³⁵ – this proverb clearly shows that money does not appear on its own and is not easily earned. Money can not be picked like apples from a tree, behind it always lie labor, time, and effort. A person must work, study, strive, and

³⁴ <https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/literature-and-writing/proverb> (The source was accessed 20.05.2026 at this time).

³⁵ https://www.google.co.uz/books/edition/The_Facts_on_File_Dictionary_of_Proverbs/fgaUQc8NbTYC?hl=ru&gbpv=1&dq=money+does+not+grow+on+trees+proverb&pg=PA189&printsec=frontcover (The source was accessed 24.05.2026 at this time). – 189 p.

sometimes even sacrifice their time, rest, and sleep to earn money. The tree itself in the proverb symbolizes an infinite and renewable resource. By denying this – stating that money does not grow on trees like leaves – the proverb instills the idea that any resource is finite.

This phrase is typically used when someone wants to remind children about the importance of a careful attitude toward money during their upbringing. The proverb teaches one to value what has been earned and to understand that any spending has its price. In a broader sense, the proverb forms a responsible attitude toward life: one must put in a lot of effort to get what they want and not rely on chance or easy luck. Over time, some English proverbs began to be used in everyday speech as fixed expressions as well. Because of this, such phrases as “Easy come, easy go”, “Money talks”, and others may be classified in some sources as belonging to several types of expressions at the same time.

“Easy come, easy go”³⁶ – the proverb suggests that money earned too easily is usually spent very quickly as well. In the past, people earned money through hard work and difficult labor, so they truly valued what they had earned. It is believed that people take better care of things they invested their time and effort into. But when money comes too easily, a person may think, “I will spend more, and then I will get it again later”.

“A penny saved is a penny earned”³⁷ the main idea of this proverb is that saving money is almost the same as earning it. Sometimes people think that small coins are not important and do not matter, but over time even small savings can become very helpful. That is why there is another proverb **“Little strokes fell great oaks”**. Little by little, small savings can turn into something big. It also reminds people that they do not need to spend money on everything and on unnecessary things all the time. If a person knows how to save money and avoid wasting it on useless things, it is already considered a good habit. Sometimes keeping money is even more difficult than earning it.

“Money can’t buy happiness”³⁸ according to this proverb not everything in life can be bought with money. People in the past also understood that true happiness is not about money. Real feelings, love, health, and peace of mind are much more important than wealth. A person may have a lot of money and still be unhappy. Money can not solve everything and does not always bring happiness.

³⁶https://www.google.co.uz/books/edition/Early_American_Proverbs_and_Proverbial_P/EuvqPkAq2bkC?hl=ru&gbpv=1&dq=easy+come+easy+go+proverb&pg=PA80&printsec=frontcover (The source was accessed 24.05.2026 at this time). – 80 p.

³⁷https://www.google.co.uz/books/edition/Dictionary_of_Proverbs/7PMZJqSR4sAC?hl=ru&gbpv=1&dq=a+penny+saved+is+a+penny+earned+proverb&pg=PA451&printsec=frontcover (The source was accessed 25.05.2026 at this time). – 451 p.

³⁸https://www.google.co.uz/books/edition/The_Facts_on_File_Dictionary_of_Proverbs/fgaUQc8NbTYC?hl=ru&gbpv=1&dq=money+can%27t+buy+happiness+proverb&pg=PA189&printsec=frontcover (The source was accessed 25.05.2026 at this time). – 189 p.

“The love of money is the root of all evil”³⁹ the proverb highlights that sometimes an excessive love for money can change a person in a negative way, and because of greed, people may forget about honesty, kindness, respect for others, and sometimes even about their own relatives. When money becomes the most important thing in life, it can lead to bad actions and problems. A person begins to think only about profit and money all the time, and because of this, they may lose trust, good relationships with other people, and friends.

“Put your money where your mouth is”⁴⁰ although this proverb contains the word **“money,”** it’s main idea is not really about money itself. It shows that a person should not only speak and make promises with words, but also truly fulfill them. A person should be confident in their words and prove them through actions and behavior, because it is always easier to say something than to actually do it.

“You get what you pay for”⁴¹ this saying encourages people to understand that quality often depends on the price. There are many people who try to buy something cheaper and save money, thinking that it will be more beneficial for them. However, later they become disappointed because the thing they bought does not always meet their expectations. Cheap things often break or wear out quickly.

The proverb also reminds people that they should not look only at the price, because quality is sometimes much more important. It is better to pay more once and buy a high-quality and reliable item that will last for many years. In many cases, a strong desire to save money can lead to even bigger expenses in the future.

Hard work, and reliability usually have their own value, and that value is not always cheap. Things that were made with effort, time, and good work are usually appreciated much more. Therefore, the proverb teaches people to be wise when making purchases and not to think only about paying less money and saving more.

“Money talks”⁴² money has a great influence on people’s lives and on society, and this proverb clearly shows that. In many situations, people who have money receive more opportunities, attention, and power, and they are often treated first. For example, they may avoid standing in long lines, solve their problems quickly with money, or have influence over people who have less money. Sometimes people begin to listen to and respect

³⁹https://www.google.co.uz/books/edition/Early_American_Proverbs_and_Proverbial_P/EuvqPkAq2bkC?hl=ru&gbpv=1&dq=the+love+of+money+is+the+root+of+all+evil+proverbs&pg=PA270&printsec=frontcover (The source was accessed 25.05.2026 at this time). – 270 p.

⁴⁰https://www.google.co.uz/books/edition/The_Oxford_Dictionary_of_Proverbs/GtBxCgAAQBAJ?hl=ru&gbpv=1&dq=put+your+money+where+your+mouth+is+proverb&pg=PA259&printsec=frontcover (The source was accessed 25.05.2026 at this time). – 259 p.

⁴¹https://www.google.co.uz/books/edition/Oxford_Dictionary_of_Proverbs/LMGPCgAAQBAJ?hl=ru&gbpv=0 (The source was accessed 25.05.2026 at this time). – 244 p.

⁴²https://www.google.co.uz/books/edition/The_Facts_on_File_Dictionary_of_Proverbs/fgaUQc8NbTYC?hl=ru&gbpv=1&dq=money+talks+proverb+meaning&pg=PA190&printsec=frontcover (The source was accessed 25.05.2026 at this time). – 244 p.

someone not because of their personality or knowledge, but because of their money, high position, and social status. This proverb shows that money can solve many problems and open doors that may remain closed for others. Injustice and inequality often appear because of money, since the opinion of a rich person is sometimes considered more important than the opinion of an ordinary person, even when it is unfair or incorrect.

In conclusion, it can be said that the eight English proverbs about money discussed in this article reveal their deep meaning. Through these proverbs, it is possible to see people's attitudes toward money, work, greed, saving, and life values. Some of them teach people to save money and work honestly, while others show that money does not always bring happiness and can change people in a negative way. It can also be noticed that English proverbs convey the life experience and folk wisdom of society, which help people better understand attitudes toward money and its role in human life.

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