

:: Fun with English proverbs ::

Are you ready?

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Fresh fields and pastures new

新工作、新環境

This proverb is from the poem Lycidas written 350 years ago, it refers to something new – a job or hobby – or traveling to a new place.

For example: Sometimes I'm so bored with my routine work and I want fresh fields and pastures new.

The game is not worth the candle

得不償失

This proverb refers to an activity or project that doesn't seem worth the time or effort spent on it.

For example: Sam plans to spend more time in learning how to play computer games, however, his sister warns him: 'You shouldn't spend so much time in playing computer games because the game is not worth the candle. You should study harder.'

Give the devil his due

公平對待

This saying means that we should praise someone for his achievements – no matter how much we dislike or resent him.

For example: When Daniel saw that Anna was being so courteous to someone she despises, he was so

curious and asked Anna for the reason, Anna replied: 'Oh, I'm just giving the devil his due, you see, he can really sing very well.'

The gods send nuts to those who have no teeth

想要的東西，偏偏不能得到；擁有的東西，卻不是想要的

It means that sometimes we have too little of what we want but sometimes we have too much of what we don't want or what we can't use.

For example: One afternoon, my sister visited me and bought me a lot of chocolates. She said the chocolates are really good. However, she forgot that I dislike chocolates. I told her honestly, 'Oh, the gods send nuts to those who have no teeth, do you remember that I dislike chocolates?'

Great minds think alike

英雄所見略同

This is a humorous saying to suggest that we're both very intelligent people.

For example: Wanda and Sharon work together in a project, Sharon has lots of wonderful ideas for Wanda and Wanda said happily: 'Oh, I agree, great minds think alike!'