

# Fun with English proverbs

Let us continue with 'U' and 'V'.

Fisherman

## 1 Unity is strength. 團結就是力量。

Unity means uniting together and living better than a single member alone. It is observed that a single animal may be weak, but when they group together, they can have a better chance to survive. For example, each one of them can take turn to guard the group against natural enemies, while other members feed themselves. In this way, everyone has a chance to eat and eats safely.

**Example :** For a single ant cannot remove a dead rat, but an army of ants can perfectly do so. Such deed truly tells us that unity is strength.

## 2 Uncut gemstone does not sparkle. 玉不琢，不成器。

Gemstone can refer to a diamond, ruby, sapphire or other precious stone. Before cutting, a gemstone does not reflect much light. After cutting and faceting, it sparkles more. We may then use this to refer to a person who has many talents, but need good education to develop them.

**Example :** Uncut gemstone does not sparkle, as man of talents without education cannot achieve.

## 3 Vanity blossoms but bears no fruit. 虛榮開花不結果。

Vanity can be something linked to fame, praise, etc. When one puts his effort on getting applause by showing he is better or richer than others, we may say that he is vain, for he fails to work on the more productive side of life. What he remembers are just praises, then little is learned. So, that is why vanity brings no fruit.

**Example :** A young tennis player is working very hard to win the competition. He only cares to show he is better than the others. Even if he wins, he remembers nothing of the game. No joy is felt. We might say that his vanity blossoms but bears no fruit.

## 4 Virtue is its own reward. 唯德自馨。

To act virtuously brings the sheer satisfaction that no material reward can replace it.

**Example :** Our conscience tells us what is right and what is wrong. When we do things virtuously, we feel very satisfied and are proud of ourselves, such happiness cannot be traded for money or material things, virtue is its own reward.