

B2.13 Books and Quotations - Handout

- 1 These questions introduce the topic of books, reading and quotations. Nowadays, many people are reading online (using Kindles or visiting websites) so there are a couple of questions asking you to discuss your preferences in this regard. Key vocabulary includes: *digital, paper-based form, censorship, the press, playwrights, poets, quotations* and *motto*.
- 2 These quotations should stimulate some discussion. Key vocabulary includes: *infinite, universe, deeply, strength, courage, blind, momentum* and *goals*. "*Progress or development that is becoming faster and stronger*" is one of the better definitions of *momentum* (which comes from the online www.macmillandictionary.com/). As usual, the learner can check vocabulary in their paper-based dictionaries or online, but your definitions should serve to consolidate these definitions and aid memorisation.
- 3 Discussing the meanings of these proverbs should lead to a lot of discussion. Also, how much truth they contain can also be discussed, as some seem to contradict each other. For example, "*Look before you leap*" seems to be giving different advice to "*He who hesitates is lost*". Key vocabulary includes: *grass, omelette, eggs, stitch, cloud, lining, invention, broth, hatched, leap, bridges, pennies, pounds* and *hesitate*.

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Many of these proverbs are international, or have equivalents in other languages. Perhaps for this reason, they are usually a popular subject amongst learners of English. However, it might be worth mentioning that it tends to be the elderly in our culture who are most fond of quoting them at important moments, as their appeal appears to be more perennial in some other European cultures.

- 4 The distinction between 'proverbs' and 'sayings' is not a clear one, but one possible definition states that the meaning of the former are often more metaphorical and that this may therefore make their meanings more opaque. Therefore, the meanings of these 'sayings' should be easier for the learner to grasp. Although, "*Every man is the architect of his own fortune*" may need to be explained as meaning, "*Your own decisions and your own actions determine what your life will be like*". Key vocabulary includes: *wealthy, wise* and *put off* (meaning *postpone*).
- 5 As usual, if you can briefly discuss with your partner which saying or proverb they are going to choose and how they might be able to incorporate it into a story to exemplify the message it contains, then this will greatly facilitate the ensuing writing task.