

Benjamin Franklin Aphorisms

These APHORISMS were written by Benjamin Franklin for publication in Poor Richard's Almanack. Although written in the 1700s, many of these small statements of common wisdom are still popular in American culture.

- Choose FIVE of these aphorisms and explain their meaning.
- How do Franklin's aphorisms reflect a moving away from the Puritan ideals we studied at the beginning of the semester?
- Write down THREE common sayings from your own culture and explain the meaning of each.

1. Fools make feasts, and wise men eat them.
2. Be slow in choosing a friend, slower in changing.
3. Keep thy shop, and thy shop will keep thee.
4. Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.
5. Three may keep a secret if two of them are dead.
6. God helps them that help themselves.
7. The rotten apple spoils his companions.
8. An open foe may prove a curse; but a pretended friend is worse.
9. Have you somewhat to do tomorrow, do it today.
10. A true friend is the best possession.
11. A small leak will sink a great ship.
12. No gains without pains.
13. 'Tis easier to prevent bad habits than to break them.
14. Well done is better than well said.
15. Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time; for that's the stuff life is made of.
16. Write injuries in dust, benefits in marble.
17. A slip of the foot you may soon recover, but a slip of the tongue you may never get over.
18. If your head is wax, don't walk in the sun.
19. A good example is the best sermon.
20. He that goes far to marry, will either deceive or be deceived.
21. Genius without education is like silver in the mine.
22. For want of a nail the shoe is lost; for want of a shoe the horse is lost; for want of a horse the rider is lost.
23. Haste makes waste.
24. Love your neighbor; yet don't pull down your hedge.
25. He that lives upon hope will die fasting.