



## Relationship advice and proverbs

*What advice would you give these people?*

1. A distant relation is coming to visit my city and expects me to meet up with them, but a friend's birthday party is on the same day.
2. My fiancé has been offered a place on an MBA in America for a year.
3. My boyfriend wants to move into my flat.
4. I had a fling with a colleague.
5. Everyone dislikes one of my friends.
6. My friends and family always give me different advice about my love life.
7. I quite like my boyfriend but I have a crush on someone at work.
8. My future in-laws seem to be involved in something illegal.
9. I'm not sure about marrying my fiancé, but I'm nearly forty and losing my looks.

### Useful language for giving advice

"If I were you,..."

"Someone once told me..."

"In that situation, I always say/ my mother always says..."

"As the saying goes,..."

-----  
*Which of the situations above could be answered with one of these proverbs? Not all of them match, and there might be several matches for some*

- A) Familiarity breeds contempt.
- B) There is no better mirror than an old friend.
- C) Beggars can't be choosers.
- D) Absence makes the heart grow fonder.
- E) Out of sight, out of mind.
- F) A man who seeks a perfect friend will remain friendless.
- G) A man is known by the company he keeps.
- H) Blood is thicker than water.
- I) The enemy of my enemy is my friend.
- J) A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
- K) The way to a man's heart is through his stomach.
- L) When the cat's away, the mice will play.
- M) The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

*What do the proverbs above mean? Which do you agree and disagree with?*

*Do you have any proverbs with similar meanings in your own language?*

*What are your favourite proverbs, in your own language and in English?*



### Suggested answers

1. A distant relation is coming to visit my city and expects me to meet up with them, but a friend's birthday party is on the same day. – Blood is thicker than water (H)
2. My fiancé has been offered a place on an MBA in America for a year. – Absence makes the heart grow fonder (D) and Out of sight, out of mind (E)
3. My boyfriend wants to move into my flat. – Familiarity breeds contempt (A)
4. I had a fling with a colleague. – Familiarity breeds contempt (A)
5. Everyone dislikes one of my friends. – A man who seeks a perfect friend will remain friendless (F) or A man is known by the company he keeps (G)
6. My friends and family always give me different advice about my love life. – There is no better mirror than an old friend (B)
7. I quite like my boyfriend but I have a crush on someone at work. – A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush (J)
8. My future in-laws seem to be involved in something illegal. – The apple doesn't fall far from the tree (M)
9. I'm not sure about marrying my fiancé, but I'm nearly forty and losing my looks. – A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush (J) or Beggars can't be choosers (C)