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WATER SAYINGS

Proverbs are simple, traditional sayings that express truth based on common sense or experience. They are often metaphorical.

Some proverbs exist in more languages.

We found some water sayings that have corresponding sayings in languages that we learn at school (English and German) and we explained the meaning of some sayings.

1) Žedan konj ne bira vodu.

Literal translation: A thirsty horse does not choose where to drink.

Meaning: A person in need is not fussy.

2) Preveo bi žedna preko vode.

Literal translation: He would lead a thirsty man across water.

Meaning: He is very skilled at deceiving people.

3) Otkriti toplu vodu.

Literal translation: To discover warm water.

English equivalent: To reinvent the wheel.

Meaning: To come up with an idea or reach a conclusion which you mistakenly consider to be original.

4) Navraća vodu na svoj mlin.

Literal translation: He's directing the water onto his mill.

Meaning: He only thinks of his own well-being.

5) Krv nije voda.

Literal translation: Blood is not water.

English equivalent: Blood is thicker than water.

Meaning: Family matters more than most things in life.

6) Čuvati nekoga kao kap vode na dlanu.

Literal translation: To guard someone like a drop of water in the palm of one's hand.

Meaning: To be very protective of someone.

7) Čovjek bez slobode k'o riba bez vode.

Literal translation: A man without freedom is like a fish without water.

Meaning: Freedom is essential to a satisfying human existence.

8) Drži vodu dok majstori odu.

Literal translation: It holds water only until the handymen leave.

Meaning: Something only seems to be functioning well.

9) Tiha voda brege dere.

Literal translation: Still water erodes the hills.

English equivalent: Still waters run deep.

Meaning: Quiet individuals often have an interesting or complicated personality.

10) Prava je riječ, u pravo vrijeme, kao čaša vode u pustinji.

Literal translation: The right word at the right time is like a glass of water in the desert.

Meaning: Saying the right thing at the right time means a lot.

11) Čuvaj se tihe vode i psa koji šuti.

Literal translation: Beware of still water and a silent dog.

Meaning: Just because something looks harmless, doesn't mean it really is.

12) Lonac ide na vodu dok se ne razbije.

Literal translation: A pot goes to water until it breaks.

Meaning: One will not break a bad habit until one faces dire consequences.

13) Dok je čovjek zdrav i voda mu je slatka.

Literal translation: Even water tastes sweet when you're healthy.

Meaning: Good health makes it easy to enjoy life.

14) Teško žabu u vodu natjerati.

Literal translation: It is not hard to force a frog into water.

Meaning: Something is very easy to accomplish.

15) Istina je kao sveta voda: svatko ju hvali, ali nitko ne voli da mu je u oči prskaju.

Literal translation: Truth is like holy water: everyone praises it, but no one likes it sprinkled into one's eyes.

Meaning: People admire telling the truth, but don't like the truth to be told to their face.

16) Tko vino večera, vodu doručkuje.

Literal translation: He who has wine for supper will have water for breakfast.

Meaning: Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to serious health problems.

17) Stigla voda do grla.

Literal translation: The water has risen up to the neck.

Meaning: The current situation seems to be extremely bad.

18) Planovi su pali u vodu.

Literal translation: The plans have fallen into the water.

Meaning: Our plans have very little chance of success.

19) Raditi (znati) nešto k'o vodu piti.

Literal translation: To be able to do something (to know something) like drinking water.

Meaning: To be very skilled at something, or to have great knowledge of something.

20) Vatra i voda dobre su sluge, ali zli gospodari.

Literal translation: Fire and water make fine servants, but wicked masters.

Meaning: Forces of nature can be very useful, but if poorly controlled, they may be devastating.

CROATIAN: Vatra i voda dobre su sluge, ali zli gospodari.

ENGLISH: Fire and water are good servants, but bad masters.

GERMAN: Feurer und Wasser sind gute Diener, aber schlimme Herren.

CROATIAN: Krv nije voda.

ENGLISH: Blood is thicker than water.

GERMAN: Blut ist dicker als Wasser.

CROATIAN: Tiha voda brijeg roni.

ENGLISH: Still waters run deep.

GERMAN: Stille Wasser sind tief.

CROATIAN: Dok imaš vodu, melji.

ENGLISH: The mill that will grind must have water.

GERMAN: Man soll mahlen, solange man Wind oder Wasser hat.

CROATIAN: Svak gospodar, a tko će na vodu?

ENGLISH: There is no good accord, where every man would be a lord.

GERMAN: Wenn alle Herren sein wollen, wer wird die Körbe tragen?