

## Matching Exercise: Proverbs with *better / than*

### Instructions:

1. Duplicate the proverb beginnings (with the word *better*) on colored paper, and the proverb endings (with the word *than*) on paper of a contrasting color. Cut along the lines to make individual cards.
2. Distribute the cards with proverb beginnings to half of the class, and the cards with corresponding proverb endings to the other half of the class. (Give each student one card; set leftover cards aside.) Clarify the meaning of unknown words.
3. Students mingle with classmates holding cards of a contrasting color until they find a match that makes a complete proverb.
4. When students find a match, they confirm the match with the teacher and then walk to the front of the room with their partner. (Or they can “freeze” in place with their partner.)
5. Students read the proverbs aloud to the class.

**Variation:** Scatter the cards on a table. Students gather around the table and work collaboratively to match sentence beginnings and endings.

**Note:** Each proverb is well known in the country listed below it. Of course, the proverb, or a version of it, might be well known in other countries as well.

### 1. PROVERB BEGINNINGS

Two heads are better	A small fish in the pan is better
Better late	It is better to begin in the evening

Better safe	It is better to ask for directions twice
Health is better	It is better to have a thousand enemies outside the tent
It is better to be alone	One teacher is better
It is better to be poor and respected	It is better to make a net
It is better to say no to an invitation	A lie that helps is better

A stranger nearby is better	It is better to protect yourself with your friends
It is better to live one day as a lion	

## 2. PROVERB ENDINGS

than one. United States	than a big fish in the ocean. Ireland
than never United States	than not to begin at all. England
than sorry United States	than to get lost once. Denmark

<p>than wealth.</p> <p>Ireland</p>	<p>than one enemy inside the tent.</p> <p>Afghanistan</p>
<p>than to be in bad company.</p> <p>Germany</p>	<p>than two books.</p> <p>Russia</p>
<p>than rich and hated.</p> <p>Germany</p>	<p>than to stand on the water's edge and pray for fish.</p> <p>China</p>
<p>than to say yes and not go.</p> <p>Madagascar</p>	<p>than a truth that hurts.</p> <p>Czech Republic</p>
<p>than a relative far away.</p> <p>Korea</p>	<p>than with a fence.</p> <p>Czech Republic</p>

than one hundred days as a sheep.	
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Italy