

Wise or Witty

Sort traditional advice from playful word tricks.

5.3 "Developing and sustaining foundational language skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking--vocabulary. The student uses newly acquired vocabulary expressively..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

WISE SAYING

An adage is a short, traditional saying that shares advice or a general truth.

A rolling stone gathers no moss.

WORDPLAY

A pun is a joke that plays with words that have more than one meaning or words that sound alike.

I wondered why the baseball was getting larger, then it hit me.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For each saying, circle ADAGE or PUN, then choose two numbered sayings and write how you knew each category.

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. A watched pot never boils. | ☐ ADAGE | ☐ PUN |
| 2. Don't count your chickens before they hatch. | ☐ ADAGE | ☐ PUN |
| 3. Why did the bicycle fall over? It was two-tired. | ☐ ADAGE | ☐ PUN |
| 4. Practice makes perfect. | ☐ ADAGE | ☐ PUN |
| 5. The calendar was popular because it had many dates. | ☐ ADAGE | ☐ PUN |
| 6. What do you call a sleeping bull? A bulldozer. | ☐ ADAGE | ☐ PUN |
| 7. Look before you leap. | ☐ ADAGE | ☐ PUN |
| 8. The math book looked sad because it had too many problems. | ☐ ADAGE | ☐ PUN |

2 PROVE IT Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN One of each

Write one new adage and one new pun.

ADAGE _____

PUN _____

CHALLENGE

Write a two-sentence mini-scene. Use an adage in one sentence and a pun in the other. Label each sentence.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	A watched pot never boils.	ADAGE	This traditional saying advises patience.
2	Don't count your chickens before they hatch.	ADAGE	This traditional saying warns against expecting something too soon.
3	Why did the bicycle fall over? It was two-tired.	PUN	Two-tired sounds like too tired.
4	Practice makes perfect.	ADAGE	This traditional saying gives advice about improving a skill.
5	The calendar was popular because it had many dates.	PUN	Dates can mean calendar days or social meetings.
6	What do you call a sleeping bull? A bulldozer.	PUN	Bulldozer combines bull with dozer, a person who sleeps.
7	Look before you leap.	ADAGE	This traditional saying advises thinking before acting.
8	The math book looked sad because it had too many problems.	PUN	Problems can mean math questions or troubles.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **ADAGE:** Every cloud has a silver lining.
- **PUN:** The broom got a promotion because it swept the competition.

Challenge: ADAGE: When the tent tore, Nia said, "A stitch in time saves nine." PUN: At the farm, Nia joked that the scarecrow won an award because he was outstanding in his field.

Part 1 answers are shown in the category field for each item. In Part 2, students should identify traditional advice or truth for an adage, and explain the double meaning or sound-based wordplay for a pun.