# 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.

**ANSWER KEY** # Wise or Witty

**GRADE 5 · TEKS 5.3**

## 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.