

Metric Proverbs

This article is a reprint from *The Science Teacher*, September, 1974. Permission was granted by the editor, Mary E. Hawkins

Agnes Hunt
Birmingham Board of Education
Birmingham, Alabama

Since the metric system is upon us, we need to begin using the metric vocabulary. Following is a "fun" way to become familiar with metric terms and to estimate equivalents. Each saying has two blanks--one for the old familiar term and another for an appropriate metric term. The metric term need not be exact, as this is more for practice in using the metric words than for exact equivalents. However, the exact conversion may be worked out if desired.

1. There was a crooked man and he walked a crooked ____ (____).
2. Peter Piper picked a ____ (____) of pickled peppers.
3. Give them an ____ (____) and they'll take a ____ (____).
4. Oh, Thumbelina, what's the difference if you're very small? When your heart is full of love you're ____ (____) tall.
5. A miss is as good as a ____ (____).
6. An ____ (____) of prevention is worth an ____ (____) of cure.
7. I wouldn't touch a skunk with a 3 ____ (____) pole.
8. It's ____ (____) in the shade.
9. He's all wool and a ____ (____) wide.
10. The Texan pulled a rabbit out of a ____ (____) hat.

11. My favorite dessert is _____ (_____) cake.
12. Don't hide your light under a _____ (_____) basket.
13. He fell for it like a _____ (_____) of bricks.
14. This is a _____ (_____) stone (post) in my life.
15. I love you a _____ (_____) and a _____ (_____).
16. Penny wise and _____ (_____) foolish.
17. _____ (_____) of diamonds.
18. _____ (_____) under the sea.
19. Ten _____ (_____) of gas.
20. A _____ (_____) of flesh.
21. _____ (_____) worm.
22. Hundred _____ (_____) dash.
23. Two _____ (_____) truck.
24. A _____ (_____) a minute.

