

# Self-Guided Logic Activities #1

## Reversed Proverbs and Tricky Trading

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## Unit 1

**True 'Nuff**

The wisdom of a people is found in the sayings they pass down through the ages. One kind of saying is the proverb. A *proverb* says something, but it is not always an exact guide for your behavior. Sometimes you can turn it around and get some good advice, too.

"There is no money in poetry, but then there is no poetry in money," according to British poet and critic Robert Graves. How true. The old song that starts "Tea for two and two for tea" does this same kind of reversal with its lyrics. With a little reflection, you can find countless other sayings that can be reversed. For example, an old saying tells us, "He who hesitates is lost." The wisdom of the saying is apparent to someone who has an opportunity to help, explain, refuse, or accept, but then hesitates to do so; that moment to act has been lost forever. On the other hand, the saying can be reversed: "He who's lost, hesitates." If you have ever been lost and confused about where you are when you are trying to find your way in a strange place, you can appreciate the truth of that statement also.

Here are some other reversed sayings:

"Look before you leap" reverses to "Leap before you look." When would the last statement be good advice?

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Does the reversal of "Clothes make the man" make sense? Why or why not?

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Could the reverse of "Don't make a mountain out of a molehill" be true? How?

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When reversed, "All that glitters isn't gold," is "All that's gold doesn't glitter." Do you agree? Why or why not?

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Reverse "Better late than never." \_\_\_\_\_

For whom would that be a reasonable statement? \_\_\_\_\_

Explain why. \_\_\_\_\_

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When you reverse "Heroes are born, not made," it becomes "Heroes are made, not born." Does it make sense either way? Explain.

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