

SIMILAR PROVERBS

SIMILAR PROVERBS AND SAYINGS: ANIMAL EDITION



Don't say: It's like killing two flies with one stone.

Say: It's like killing two **birds** with one stone.

English and Czech proverbs and sayings may be quite similar but **not quite so**. Let's take a look at the conversation below and compare how the English and the Czechs see the world!

AT A TANDEM LESSON (E - Elizabeth from London, H - Hana from Prague)

E: Hi Hana, how are you?

H: Great, Elizabeth, thanks! What about you?

E: Very well, thank you! Listen, I went out with my Czech friends the other day and they talked about this **proverb** with "ptáče" you have in Czech...

H: Yes, we say "The morning bird jumps further."

E: Haha, that's strange, we say "The early bird catches the **worm**"!

H: I see! But the meaning is more or less the same, right?

E: Yes, more or less. Is there anything else about birds? In English we say "A bird in the hand is worth two in the **bush**".

H: Let me think...oh yes! We say "A **sparrow** in the hand is better than a pigeon on the roof".

E: That's funny! We also say "To kill two birds with one stone", what about you?

H: Well, we're not so cruel, I guess! We kill two flies with one hit.

E: Ok. And I know about another difference - if you are **clumsy** or careless, the English are like "a bull in a **china shop**" but you Czechs use elephant instead of bull.

H: Yes, that's true. And one more - if you buy something without seeing it in Czech you buy a hare in a **poke** but in English it's a pig.

E: Oh really? Languages are so interesting!

H: Yes, they are!



VOCABULARY BUILDING

proverb - přísloví

worm - červ

bush - křoví

sparrow - vrabec

cruel - krutý

clumsy - nemotorný

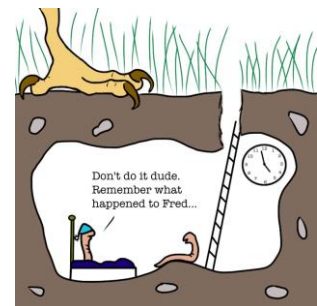
china shop - obchod s porcelánem

poke - pytel

QUIZ: TEST YOUR KNOWLEDG

Find mistakes in the following English proverbs:

1. Shopping online can be like buying a rabbit in a poke.
2. I hate getting up so early but the early bird eats the worm!
3. I didn't want to risk it - a bird in the hand is worth two on the roof!
4. I'm the king of multitasking - I've just killed two flies with one stone!



KEY: 1. rabbit - pig, 2. eats - catches, 3. on the roof - in the bush, 4. flies - birds