Proverbs

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

ADVANCED | C1

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Match each concept in proverb analysis with its meaning.

1 paremiology	____	a concise wording that condenses a complex claim
2 aphoristic compression	____	b study and classification of proverbs
3 deontic force	____	c echoing or transforming other familiar texts
4 gnomic present	____	d presenting a value-laden view as obvious reality
5 intertextuality	____	e present tense used for timeless generalisation
6 ideological naturalisation	____	f contextual perspective that guides interpretation
7 counter-proverb	____	g degree to which an utterance directs or obliges
8 pragmatic framing	____	h saying coined to challenge an established proverb

2 Complete the analytical collocations.

cultural | **deontic** | **discursive** | **gnomic** | **ideological** | **pragmatic** | **proverbial** | **rhetorical**

1 _____ wisdom

2 _____ present tense

3 _____ force

4 _____ framing

5 _____ naturalisation

6 a _____ counter-saying

7 _____ authority

8 _____ circulation

3 Choose the concept that best explains the feature.

1 A short saying condenses an argument: *aphoristic compression / intertextuality*.

2 The present tense presents a claim as timeless: *gnomic present / pragmatic framing*.

3 The wording implies what one ought to do: *deontic force / paremiology*.

4 A slogan reverses a familiar maxim: *counter-proverb / gnomic present*.

5 A value judgement begins to seem like common sense: *ideological naturalisation / aphoristic compression*.

6 A speaker invokes a saying to close debate: *pragmatic framing / paremiology*.

7 A new phrase echoes a recognisable old saying: *intertextuality / deontic force*.

8 A scholar compares variants across languages: *paremiology / counter-proverb*.

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4 Complete the discourse analysis with terms from the box.

aphoristic compression | **counter-proverb** | **deontic force** | **gnomic present** | **ideological naturalisation** | **intertextuality** | **paremiology** | **pragmatic framing**

The slogan resembles a proverb through **1** _____: a complex position becomes one memorable line. Its **2** _____ presents the claim as timeless, while strong **3** _____ turns description into instruction. Because it echoes a familiar saying, **4** _____ supplies borrowed authority. In debate, its **5** _____ makes disagreement appear unreasonable. Repetition may produce **6** _____, disguising a contested value as common sense. A witty **7** _____ can expose that assumption. **8** _____ then helps trace both versions across communities and time.

5 Read the text and answer the questions concisely.

Portable authority

Proverbs travel easily because their rhythm, parallelism and compression make them memorable. That portability lends them authority detached from a named author or a stated chain of reasoning. A speaker can therefore invoke collective wisdom while avoiding responsibility for a claim. Yet circulation also makes proverbs available for parody, reversal and resistance. Counter-proverbs reveal that apparently timeless wisdom is revisable. Analysis should attend to who cites a saying, whose interests its lesson serves, which alternatives it excludes and whether it invites reflection or terminates debate.

1 Which three features make proverbs memorable? _____

2 What kind of authority can portability create? _____

3 What responsibility may a speaker avoid? _____

4 What three resistant uses become possible? _____

5 What do counter-proverbs reveal? _____

6 Name two questions analysis should ask. _____

6 Paraphrase using the expression in capitals.

1 The slogan condenses a complex claim. **COMPRESSION** _____

2 Repetition makes the ideology seem natural. **NATURALISES** _

3 The revised saying challenges the traditional one. **COUNTER** _

4 Its context presents disagreement as foolish. **FRAMING** __

OVER TO YOU

Write a **160-190 word** critical discourse analysis of a proverb used in politics, education, advertising or everyday advice. Then create a counter-proverb.

[ ] Analyse form, authority and context. [ ] Identify interests and exclusions. [ ] Explain what the counter-proverb changes.

Proverbs

ANSWER KEY

1 Concepts in proverb analysis

1 **b** 2 **a** 3 **g** 4 **e** 5 **c** 6 **d** 7 **h** 8 **f**

2 Analytical collocations

1 **proverbial** 2 **gnomic** 3 **deontic** 4 **pragmatic** 5 **ideological** 6 **rhetorical** 7 **cultural** 8 **discursive**

3 Analytical distinctions

1 **aphoristic compression** 2 **gnomic present** 3 **deontic force** 4 **counter-proverb**
5 **ideological naturalisation** 6 **pragmatic framing** 7 **intertextuality** 8 **paremiology**

4 Discourse analysis

1 **aphoristic compression** 2 **gnomic present** 3 **deontic force** 4 **intertextuality**
5 **pragmatic framing** 6 **ideological naturalisation** 7 **counter-proverb** 8 **paremiology**

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 Rhythm, parallelism and compression. 2 Authority detached from an author or reasoning. 3 Responsibility for a claim.
4 Parody, reversal and resistance. 5 Timeless wisdom is revisable. 6 Any two: who cites it, whose interests it serves, what it excludes, whether it closes debate.

6 Paraphrasing - possible answers

1 The slogan uses aphoristic **compression**. 2 Repetition **naturalises** the ideology. 3 The revision is a **counter-proverb**. 4 Its pragmatic **framing** presents disagreement as foolish.

Over to you: Answers will vary. Check discourse precision, power effects and the counter-proverb's intervention.