

FOREIGN IDEAS

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With thousands of foreign terms in use in our language, it might be asked, very slightly misquoting Rudyard Kipling, "What does he know of English who only English knows?" We are almost as likely to encounter the Latin *respice finem* or the French of LaFontaine reminding us in all things to consider the final outcome as the English consider the bottom line. So here in a rather difficult, multilingual quiz are a number of English ideas with an indication of the language in which you are asked to find an equivalent expression which has, more or less, become familiar in the mouths of English speakers. Bonne chance, and I don't think you have *la mer à boire* (the sea to drink), an impossible task. Just take it *di grado a grado* (a step at a time).

1. to bring coals to Newcastle (Latin)
2. lucky at cards, unlucky in love (French)
3. to give an evasive reply (French)
4. people pay for the folly of their leaders (Latin)
5. speech is silver, silence is golden (German)
6. to seek the impossible (Spanish)
7. a word to the wise suffices (Latin)
8. fortune favors the foolish (Latin)
9. troubles get worse with old age (German)
10. fire can't be fought with fire (Italian)
11. laugh and the world laughs with you (Latin)
12. least desirable possibility (French)
13. every man has his master (Spanish)
14. nothing lasts forever (Latin)
15. necessity is the mother of invention (Latin)
16. let's return to the subject (French)
17. crime does not pay (Latin)
18. everybody's friend is a friend of no one (Italian)
19. no sooner picked up than dropped (German)
20. bark worse than the bite (Latin)
21. labored and overdone (Latin)
22. suffering is good for you (German)
23. two minds with but a single thought (German)
24. desire conquers fear (Spanish)
25. east or west, home is best (German)

Answers can be found in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.