



This is a sample from the **English word list** at the back of Lexicarry.

The word list is keyed to the pictures and, in general, offers possible words English speakers would use. In the section on Proverbs and Sayings, one expression is given, what the author feels is the most common version. In this case:

153. Don't put the cart before the horse.

Fluent speakers use various forms of these expressions. In this case, some people may feel that "Never put the cart before the horse" is the correct form. In context, fluent speakers might say, "You're putting the cart before the horse."

When students work together they often know more words and expressions than an individual thinks he knows. When they begin sharing, lots of language "comes out." Naturally, the more English students have been exposed to, the more they will have to share, so students work with Lexicarry at their own proficiency level.

Teacher: Can you explain what is going on in the picture?

Student A: The man has a wagon and he is showing it to his horse.

Student C: Why?

Student A: He wants the horse to pull it. See the horse is wearing a collar to help him pull.

Student B: That's called a harness. So why is he showing the wagon to the horse?

Student C: Why doesn't he just put the wagon on the horse?

Student A: He's stupid. He's putting the wagon in front of the horse, not behind.

Teacher: Do any of you know this expression in English or your own language?

Student B: He's putting the wagon in front of the horse.

Student C: (to the teacher) What do you say? Do you say wagon?

Teacher: No, I say "cart. Put the cart before the horse."

Student A: That's the same idea.

Student C: Right! I've heard that. "It's no good putting the cart before the horse," but I didn't really understand what it means.

Student B: In my language we say "You have to plant before you harvest."

Student A: Does that mean the same?

Student B: Sort of. They both mean to do things in the correct order, first things first.

Teacher: Each of you, please write a little dialogue using this expression, and we'll see how many different ways you use it.

The word lists in English and other languages can be useful, but Lexicarry is most effective when students work together with someone who speaks the language.