

UNDERSTANDING PROVERBS / *Proverbs 1*

Most often, proverbs are written in the form of couplets. These are constructed in three ways:

Type	Description	Key Word(s)	Examples
Contrasting	Meaning and application come from the differences or contrast between the two statements of the proverb.	“but”	10:3; 14:11, 18
Comparing	Meaning and application come from the similarities or comparison between the two statements of the proverb.	“as/so” “better/ than” “like”	15:16-17; 22:7; 25:25
Complementing	Meaning and application come from the way the second statement complements the first.	“and”	11:16; 14:10, 17