

Better a live coward than a dead hero. Can someone pelase tell me the meaning of this proverb? If you do heroic (or dare-devil) deeds, you might end up killed. If you keep away from heroic days (and hence open yourself to being labelled coward), you won't end up killed. If you keep away from heroic days (and hence open yourself to being labelled coward), you won't end up killed. proverb, since that description usually implies a long historical tradition of popular use. From my point of view, why should I perform a heroic deed, if it results in my own death? It is in my personal interests to act like a coward, since in that case I will continue to live. Better a live coward than a dead hero. This phrase is usually used to describe a person's choices when faced with a threatening situation. The situation is rarely life-threatening, so this phrase is usually used figuratively. In such situations, it means that not taking an aggressive stance may be seen as cowardly, but is probably the best way to handle the situation. I am at a bar or club, and some drunk begins to push me around. I can choose to move away from him or push him back. I am not likely in danger of losing my life either way, but I choose to back away. My friend asks, "Why didn't you push back?" and I reply, "Better a live coward than a dead hero." I think I will disagree with DocPenfro, as I think this has a fairly long history of use, and thus is either a proverb or an adage. It appears on several lists of proverbs. Google shows about 300 actual hits (44,000 raw) for the exact phrase in quotation marks, although about half of them are requests for translation. Searching is difficult, as the lead-in may be slightly different: "I'd rather be..." or "Better to be..." and the like. It also appears in a slightly different form using "live dog/dead lion" (which derives from the Book of Ecclesiastes in the Bible). That is the exact opposite to another adage (motto, actually): "Live free, or die!" meaning that one should never submit to oppression. I confess, my personal philosophy is closer to this adage. I think I will disagree with DocPenfro Spoiling for a fight, Pete? DocPenfro always pushes back provided he's got several thousand miles between himself and any serious risk to life and limb. The Google ngram viewer is suggesting that its use in more or less the quoted form originated around 1900 and peaked about the time of WW2. Its popularity seems to have diminished since the 1970s. I shall leave it to braver men than myself to decide whether that entitles it to the status of a bona fide proverb. p.s. I always preferred "better to live on your feet than to die on one's feet than live on one's feet than live on one's feet than live on one's knee," Nately retorted with triumphant and lofty conviction. "I guess you've heard that saying before." "Yes, I certainly have," mused the treacherous old man, smiling again. "But I'm afraid you have it backward. It is better to live on one's feet than die on one's feet than die on one's knees. That is the way the saying goes." "Are you sure?" Nately asked with sober confusion. "It seems to make more sense my way. Ask your friends." Heller, Joseph; (2010-10-26). Catch-22 (p. 233). Simon & Schuster, Inc.. Kindle Edition. DocP, it seems that Catch-22 has it both ways, with no clear decision either way. But it certainly is the same proverb (or saying) in different clothing. Last edited: Apr 30, 2012 Hello, Which form would sound better to a native's ear between: the system has been tailored for (this application) and the system has been tailored to (this application)? A google fight gives millions of results for both. Thanks! I prefer 'tailored to'. The Oxford English Dictionary gives several sample sentences to illustrate this use of the verb 'to tailor'. The closest to your sentence is this: 'Of course, the story of 'Hiroshima Pilot as Mental Patient' was at once tailored to fit the headlines.' They also give this: 'To secure maximum performance the apparatus should be 'tailored to' sounds a little more natural. Thank you for your precious insight, Adimine. I was leaning more towards tailored to as well but will now refine my initial context, just in case: the system has been tailored to/for? the needs of (the application). Would you still say that both forms are acceptable here? It's not a question of choosing between TO and FOR; each has a separate meaning. My suit was tailored to my measurements. My suit was tailored for the gala evening. It's not a question of choosing between TO and FOR; each has a separate meaning. My suit was tailored to my measurements. My suit was tailored for the gala evening. I'm not so sure I'd agree with your level of certainty here! In any case, what do you advise for the actual question posed? I'm not so sure I'd agree with your level of certainty here! In any case, what do you advise for the actual question posed? I'm not so sure I'd agree with your level of certainty here! In any case, what do you advise for the actual question posed? I'm not so sure I'd agree with your level of certainty here! In any case, what do you advise for the actual question posed? I'm not so sure I'd agree with your level of certainty here! In any case, what do you advise for the actual question posed? I'm not so sure I'd agree with your level of certainty here! In any case, what do you advise for the actual question posed? I'm not so sure I'd agree with your level of certainty here! In any case, what do you advise for the actual question posed? I'm not so sure I'd agree with your level of certainty here! In any case, what do you advise for the actual question posed? I'm not so sure I'd agree with your level of certainty here! In any case, what do you advise for the actual question posed? I'm not so sure I'd agree with your level of certainty here! In any case, what do you advise for the actual question posed? I'm not so sure I'd agree with your level of certainty here! In any case, what do you advise for the actual question posed? I'm not so sure I'd agree with your level of certainty here! In any case, what do you advise for the actual question posed? I'm not so sure I'd agree with your level of certainty here! In any case, what do you advise for the actual question posed? I'm not so sure I'd agree with your level of certainty here! In any case, what do you advise for the actual question posed? I'm not so sure I'd agree with your level of certainty here! In any case, what do you advise for the actual question posed? I'm not so sure I'd agree with y what do you advise for the actual question posed? We have not got enough context to tell. eg this application has been tailored for the system. Sorry, I had to inverse application and system, as usually the importance of a system outweighs a single application. Sorry, I had to inverse application and system, as usually the importance of a system outweighs a single application. In this case, if the system is the object of 'tailored', would that not suggest that the system is subordinate to the application? -Thanks for grammar correction Spira- Last edited: May 14, 2010 In this case, if the system is the object of 'tailored', would that not suggest that the system is subordinate to the application? -Thanks for grammar correction Spira- Last edited: May 14, 2010 In this case, if the system is the object of 'tailored', would that not suggest that the system is subordinate to the application? that not suggest that the system is subordinate to the application? Well it's not exactly the object, it's actually the subject of the passive verb HAS BEEN TAILORED. But if you mean that the system being tailored makes it subordinate to the application, then yes, and I couldn't quite come to terms with that in my examples. Sorry. I would vote for 'for' for Spira. Without any contexts provided, 'to' sounds too presupmtous. (Because the tense used was present perfect, which allows me not to think of what has been said before) Hello, I'd like to know the difference of meaning between these two forms. I aim at doing / I aim to do. This is unclear to me if they are equivalent or if aim at is a bit aggressive, or if I miss something else... Thanks in advance, Olivier Welcome to the forums, Olivier. Tough question - let me try: I aim at enhancing my theoretical lectures with visual aids. I aim to do something. = I attempt/plan to do something. This year, I aim to get back in touch with all of my high school friends. Hm...I'm not sure that's a good explanation. Perhaps someone else can explain the difference better - if there is one at all. Hello, Thank you for your answer Elroy, I think I get the nuance between the two. Regards, Olivier Welcome to the forums, Olivier. Tough question - let me try: I aim at doing something. = I strive to do something. By using illustrations in class, I aim to get back in touch with all of my high school friends. Your example of the figurative "aim at "sounds bizarre to me. I think it's always "aim to" plus the infinitive. I would only say "aim at" in relation to a target: Billy gawt a good whoopin' when he aimed his BB gun at little Brenda. I've always loved Geraldine, and I aim to marry her. Z. Round these parts, aim to and aim at meaning intend to are colloquial, often heard, but rarely written. These expressions are sometimes used by speakers who wish to be amusing or deliberately informal; for others, it is a part of their normal speech. By using illustrations in class, I aim at enhancing my theoretical lectures with visual aids. For some reason I can't quite explain, I don't like that construct. I personally, would say it as: By using illustrations in class, I aim to enhance my theoretical lectures with visual aids. Perhaps its the intend synonym sticking in my head, perhaps not. We aim at a target, and we intend or aim "to do" something. And a gerund isn't really a target...or is it?? But I would also probably automatically "correct" it if I were editing someone else's work. Probably leading to a usage argument. Hmm. Hello, I thought it was all clear with the first answer but it is getting more and more complicated indeed. The things that "aims" in my context is a project, a research, a work, a study, etc. For instance: - this project aims at applying the new results to this application field... - this research field aims to go beyond usual devices... With the meaning of "intend", "strive", "attempt". Which form would you suggest? Thank you for your help, Olivier Hello, I thought it was all clear with the first answer but it is getting more and more complicated indeed. The things that "aims" in my context is a project, a vesting more and more complicated indeed. to go beyond usual devices... With the meaning of "intend", "strive", "attempt". Which form would you suggest ? Thank you for your help, Olivier I suggest using "aim" (at/to) when there is a, hopefully literal, "target" you wish to hit. I would not use "at" followed by a gerund (applying). I would use "at" followed by an article and a noun. "We are aiming at the target." A very literal target...while you are holding a bow for archery or a rifle. And to use "aim to" for your other uses, with an infinitive. As noted above, I would suggest the following usage: - this project aims to apply the new results to this application field... - this research field aims to go beyond usual devices... Others may have more to offer, but my personal rule is... when in doubt (and not producing literature) go with the proven winner. intend to = set out to do, have as a goal strive = to try to accomplish attempt = to try to accomplish proposes = suggests as its goal I kinda like strives to apply the new results and field proposes to go beyond the usual For me, "aim to" (hope to/try to etc) sounds fine. However, I can't say I've ever heard "aim at" used in any context...the examples given above sound awkward to me... Hm...I'm beginning to think "aim at doing" and "aim to do" mean the same thing, and that the former is simply indicative of a sloppier style. I know for a fact that I've heard/seen/read it used - so it's not completely unthinkable - but I guess it's just not good style. I for one would most likely go with "aim to do." Just some thoughts. Welcome to the forums, Olivier. Tough question - let me try: I aim at doing something. = I strive to do something. By using illustrations in class, I aim at enhancing my theoretical lectures with visual aids. I aim to do something. = I attempt/plan to do something. This year, I aim to get back in touch with all of my high school friends. Hm...I'm not sure that's a good explanation. Perhaps someone else can explain the difference better - if there is one at all. Hello everyone, I hope I'm doing this right as this is the first time I have written here, but I've been using these forums for a few months now and have found some extremely useful stuff, thank you everyone. I just wanted to add to this discussion (only 5 years late!) that I agree with Elroy's initial analysis, and so does the free dictionary. Keep up the good work everyone, it is all very enlightening! Hi everyone, I know this is an old thread already but I decide to add one more thing lest anyone find this useful. Cambridge dictionary suggests the same usage as elroy did; dictionary(dot)com, however, suggests both aim at -ing. If this construction is used, it is overwhelmingly less common than aim to (e.g. on COCA, the US corpus). However, I would use it in the passive: This policy is aimed at eliminating poverty. No. It sounds awkward and lumpy - not natural at all. Hi, I remember clearly back in the day at school when learning english that the correct grammatical rule was "to aim at something". has been taken over by a wrong use of grammar (aim to). This is unfortunately too common, I noticed ,with English grammatical rule was "to aim at something" A rather inadeguate grammatical rule. The form "to aim to {infinitive}' Haywood Female Spectator II. 313 But to return to that Subject, which..both the above-cited Letters, in my Judgment, aim to prove. 2011 Hull Daily Mail (Nexis) 11 July 4 Like all NHS organisations, our capital budget has been reduced significantly as we aim to make substantial savings over the next five years. OK andy! My mistake. Thanks for the correction and my inadequate assumptions"No need for confusion. Use "aim to" when you refer to yourself, and "aim at" when you refer to yourself, and "aim at" when you refer to a third party!! I'm afraid that doesn't work. "We aimed at winning the war." "This paper" is the third party!! I'm afraid that doesn't work. "We aimed at winning the war." "This paper" aims to show that the Moon is made of cheese." I don't think your understanding of "third party" matches it's normal meaning, but that would be a topic for another thread. "We aimed to win the war." "This paper aims to show that the Moon is made of cheese." I don't think your understanding of "third party" matches it's normal meaning, but that would be a topic for another thread. "We aimed to win the war." "This paper aims to show that the Moon is made of cheese." I don't think your understanding of "third party" matches it's normal meaning, but that would be a topic for another thread. "We aimed to win the war." "This paper aims at showing that the Moon is made of cheese." I "This paper aims at showing that the Moon is made of cheese." Hello, Andy, Why does the second example work but not the fourth? Many thanks.[/QUOTE] I found this in the OALD : aim 1. to try or plan to achieve something. ... - at doing sth. They're aiming at training everybody by the end of the year. Here "aim at" is followed by a gerund and the sentence is in the active voice. How foes the OALD finds it fine? Thanks a lot. A scientific paper would normally start with a stated aim: Aim To demonstrate that the Moon is made of cheese. That seems to make "This paper aims at showing that the Moon is made of cheese" unnatural. I don't think there are any hard-and-fast rules. If we use the active form we are more likely to use the infinitive and if we use the passive form we use the gerund (always?). Examples from earlier in the thread: I aim to enhance my theoretical lectures with visual aids. This policy is aimed at eliminating poverty. This policy is aimed at eliminating poverty. tense, but I find the present tense "We aim at winning the war" less acceptable. Thanks a lot. Then I feel you would also recommend using "They aim to train" in that example, but that's just my preference. They're aiming to train everybody by the end of the year. However, I think that the continuous tense makes "at training" much more idiomatic than with the simple present. They're aiming everybody by the end of the year. (my personal reaction) Perhaps it's the alliteration that makes it work - "aiming" ... "training". The best explanation that found on Oxford Dictionaries Site It doesn't offer an explanation, it provides example sentences showing the range of prepositions which can be used with "aim". Well, I thought the whole point of this thread was to clear up whether you could use aim with at or to and based on these examples it is clear to me that you can use them both. Sometimes it is not necessary a deep explanation to understand the practical usage of a preposition. I was taught that "aim to do something" was correct. "His aim is to do something" works with the infinitive form. and based on these examples it is clear to me that you cannot always use "aim to" and "aim at" interchangeably. For example see posts #4, 15 and 17. "Arguments over grammar and style are often as fierce as those over IBM versus Mac, and as fruitless as Coke versus Pepsi and boxers versus briefs" - If you read this thread you will see clear statements that you cannot always use "aim to" and "aim at" interchangeably. For example see posts #4, 15 and 17. well, I never said interchangeably I just said that both can be used. The examples are just for people to understand better when to use "to" or "at". If an explanation is needed then read post #2. I think the difference is pretty clear there. "Arguments over grammar and style are often as fierce as those over IBM versus Mac, and as fruitless as Coke versus briefs" Jack Lynch As it says in post #2 Hm...I'm not sure of the as fierce as those over IBM versus Mac, and as fruitless as Coke versus briefs" Jack Lynch As it says in post #2 Hm...I'm not sure of the as fierce as those over IBM versus Mac, and as fruitless as Coke versus briefs" Jack Lynch As it says in post #2 Hm...I'm not sure of the as fierce as those over IBM versus Mac, and as fruitless as Coke versus briefs" Jack Lynch As it says in post #2 Hm...I'm not sure of the as fierce as those over IBM versus Mac, and as fruitless as Coke versus briefs" Jack Lynch As it says in post #2 Hm...I'm not sure of the as fierce as those over IBM versus Mac, and as fruitless as Coke versus briefs" Jack Lynch As it says in post #2 Hm...I'm not sure of the as fierce as those over IBM versus Mac, and as fruitless as Coke versus briefs" Jack Lynch As it says in post #2 Hm...I'm not sure of the as fierce as those over IBM versus Mac, and as fruitless as Coke versus briefs" Jack Lynch As it says in post #2 Hm...I'm not sure of the as fierce as those over IBM versus Mac, and as fruitless as Coke versus briefs" Jack Lynch As it says in post #2 Hm...I'm not sure of the as fierce as those over IBM versus Mac, and as fruitless as Coke versus Briefs" Jack Lynch As it says in post #2 Hm...I'm not sure of the as fierce as those over IBM versus Mac, and as fruitless as Coke versus Briefs" Jack Lynch As it says in post #2 Hm...I'm not sure of the as fierce as those over IBM versus Mac, and as fruitless as Coke versus Briefs" Jack Lynch As it says in post #2 Hm...I'm not sure of the as fierce as those over IBM versus Briefs" Jack Lynch As it says in post #2 Hm...I'm not sure of the as fierce as those over IBM versus Briefs" Jack Lynch As it says in post #2 Hm...I'm not sure that's a good explanation. Indeed. This is not an argument over grammar or style, it is a thread that, without argument, has discussed idiomatic usage. I would use "to train everybody by the end of the year. However, I think that the continuous tense makes "at training" much more descented to the train everybody by the end of the year. idiomatic than with the simple present. ... Does the continuous tense makes "to train work in They're aiming to train as far as the use of the infinitive is concerned. I think there are huge differences in dialect, hence all the seemingly contradictory comments. Andygc - you said that you're happy with the second example below. I am not. I have been persuaded it is correct in some American English ear. I prefer the weapon reading of aim at. >I have been persuaded it is correct in some American English ear. I prefer the weapon reading of aim at. >I have been persuaded it is correct in some American English ear. I prefer the weapon reading of aim at. >I have been persuaded it is correct in some American English ear. I prefer the weapon reading of aim at. >I have been persuaded it is correct in some American English ear. I prefer the weapon reading of aim at. >I have been persuaded it is correct in some American English ear. I prefer the weapon reading of aim at. >I have been persuaded it is correct in some American English ear. I prefer the weapon reading of aim at. >I have been persuaded it is correct in some American English ear. I prefer the weapon reading of aim at. >I have been persuaded it is correct in some American English ear. I prefer the weapon reading of aim at. >I have been persuaded it is correct in some American English ear. I prefer the weapon reading of aim at. >I have been persuaded it is correct in some American English ear. I prefer the weapon reading of aim at. >I have been persuaded it is correct in some American English ear. I prefer the weapon reading of aim at. >I have been persuaded it is correct in some American English ear. I prefer the weapon reading of aim at. >I have been persuaded it is correct in some American English ear. I prefer the weapon reading of aim at. >I have been persuaded it is correct in some American English ear. I prefer the weapon reading of aim at. >I have been persuaded it is correct in some American English ear. I prefer the weapon reading of aim at. >I have been persuaded it is correct in some American English ear. I prefer the weapon reading of aim at. >I have been persuaded it is correct in the persuaded it is corre policy is aimed to eliminate poverty. Secondly, it is worth pointing out that you have introduced a further complication - your second and third example should in fact be This policy aims to eliminate poverty. There is no reason to make it passive, and it does not work. Does it sound better now? First, I didn't introduce any complications. Examples from earlier in the thread: I aim to enhance my theoretical lectures with visual aids. This policy is aimed at eliminating poverty. This policy is aimed at eliminating poverty. aids. However, I would use it in the passive: This policy is aimed at eliminating poverty. Does this work? "This policy is aimed to eliminate poverty." You said Your third example should in fact be This policy is aimed to eliminate poverty. There is no reason to make it passive, and it does not work. Does it sound better now? "Should be"? Apart from it not being my example, why "should"? "Does not work"? There is nothing wrong with using the passive, and using the passive, and using the passive, and using the passive. Whilst this works for aim at, it doesn't work for aim to Who claimed that it did? Not I, as should be perfectly clear from my use of . After reading all your contributions, am I right if I sum it up this way: Aim to do something But Be aimed at doing something or once again I didn't get it ?! Thanks 🕲 "Cambridge" does not say that anything is 100% correct. The translation you quote is from the PASSWORD English-French Dictionary © 2014 K Dictionaries Ltd. K Dictionaries Ltd is a company based in Tel Aviv that specialises in providing translations. We cannot tell if an Israeli source of idiomatic usage, and there are plenty of posts that suggest that most of the native English speaker would find "He aims at finishing tomorrow" unacceptable. "Cambridge" does not say that anything is 100% correct. The translation you quote is from the PASSWORD English-French Dictionaries Ltd. K Dictionaries providing translations. We cannot tell if an Israeli source is a reliable source of idiomatic English. There's certainly nothing ungrammatical about "He aims at finishing tomorrow", but the discussion here has been about idiomatic usage, and there are plenty of posts that suggest that most of the native English speaker would find "He aims at finishing tomorrow", but the discussion here has been about idiomatic usage, and there are plenty of posts that suggest that most of the native English. tomorrow" unacceptable. what? PASSWORD? Israeli source? Sorry, if I'm not mistaken the translation I quoted is from: Cambridge, CB2 8BS, UK. Website Terms of Use You go to the official webpage of the university press, cambridge.org --> digital products --> you click 'cambridge dictionary' and it takes you here: Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus Then you type: aim / or / aim at and you check the results. Cheers, Try reading the details on the web page you linked to, which acknowledges the source, and which I quoted verbatim. There are two such acknowledgements on that page. (Translation of aim from the GLOBAL English-French Dictionary © 2016 K Dictionaries Ltd) and (Translation of aim from the PASSWORD English-French Dictionary © 2014 K Dictionaries Ltd) Please do try to be a bit more careful when identifying your sources. Particularly when you are telling native English speakers what is right or wrong in their own language. I'm not a native speaker of English. However i would like to share my opinion regarding the subject. As far as i understood "aim at teaching you the best techniques (It is more likely a figurative meaning) Correct me if i'm wrong. Thank you in advance. The verb 'help' is used in different ways. 1. It helped them improve their speaking skills. 3. It helped them improve their speaking skills. 3. It helped them improve their speaking skills. 3. It helped them improve their speaking skills. 4. It helped them improve their speaking skills. 3. It helped them improve their speaking skills. 4. It helped them improve their speaking skills. 4. It helped them improve their speaking skills. 3. It helped them to improve their speaking skills. 4. It helped them improv correct. I need my guess confirmed. Thank you! They are all OK. The versions including them are probably better because they emphasise the speaker's role in the improvement. I much prefer (3), but I often include the little words that others happily omit. For me, #3 is the best choice. I usually see "help" + "to", but is it also correct to say "It helps improving..."? Thanks for clarifying! All four are correct. If you put help to into Dictionary Look-up, you'll find previous threads on this. EDIT: PS to Tanthalas - no, you need an infinitive (with or without to) after help. Hello everyone, "There are three things I did well". Are there any words that can substitute the word "things". It doesn't sound formal enough to be used in an essay. Please help. It is very formal in an essay, I don't know why you think that is not formal. More context is needed. Are the "things" aspects of a performance? Or paragraphs on a page? Or tasks completed on a building site? (and so on) The existence of another word depends on what those things are. After a decathlon competition, an athlete might say "There were three events in which I did well, but I had average or poor results in the other seven." A surgeon, after a long day in the operating room, might say "There are other seven." A surgeon, after a long day in the operating room, might say "There are other seven." A surgeon after a long day in the operating room, might say "There are other seven." A surgeon after a long day in the operating room after a long day in the operating room. this sentence, or the subject of your essay, we might come up with some that fit. Lacking any context, the generic "things" is all we have. Added in edit: Cross-posted with the previous poster, who said the same thing in far fewer words. This is a reflection paper I need to write after my communication class speech. I need to identify three things I did well and three things I need to improve. I don't want to use the word "things" too many times in my paper. Could you please help? Thank you! Laozha, For things you didn't do so well, you could say: "...areas for improvement would include..." "I need to improve on/I need to improve performed well in the area of..." "My performance in (whatever) was..." "I succeeded in doing/saying/showing, proving..." As Ewie said, that's about as specific we can be, considering you weren't much help. As you can see from my examples, I used phrases instead of the word things. Hello everyone, "There are three things I did well". Are there any words that can substitute the word "things". It doesn't sound formal enough to be used in an essay. Please help. Where can we use STUFF instead of "I should do some stuff"? Thank you everyone for your help. I really appreciated all your help. I have had this problem in many cases, not just for this essay, but now I know it is ok to use "things" in a formal essay and I have to choose your word choice based on the situation. Thanks again. Where can we use STUFF instead of thing? instead of "I should do some stuff"? I do not know if I should start a new thread for this question or not. so i post it again. please help me out I do not know if I should start a new thread for this question or not. so i post it again. please help me out Your question is whether we can substitute "something" in "I should do something" to "stuff"? No of course you can not! Stuff is used when you are talking about things such as substances, materials or a bunch of objects when you do not know what they are called or you dont want to specify their names. I hope it helps Your question is whether we can substitute "something" in "I should do something" in "I should do something" to "stuff"? No of course you can not! Stuff is used when you are talking about things such as substances, materials or a bunch of objects when you do not know what they are called or you dont want to specify their names. I hope it helps It actually did. thank you. So, it must be a correct sentence: " I am so busy today. I have to do some stuff". Right? I found "Come on Gina, get on the dance floor and do your stuff". Right? I found "Come on Gina, get on the dance floor and do your stuff". better if others (especially natives) answer you to make me and you sure Last edited: Sep 18, 2011 "I am so busy today. I have to do some stuff." This is very casual speech, perhaps even colloquial (slang). I have to do some stuff." This is very casual speech, perhaps even colloquial idiom. It means Gina is a good dancer and the speaker wants her to get out and really show everyone how well she can dance. Hello Would one ever use "I hope this finds you well" at the begining of a letter / email in French? If not, is there something similar that could be used by way of an introduction ? Many thanks Moderator note: Multiple threads have been merged to create this one. Last edited by a moderator: Dec 23, 2013 j'espère que cette lettre vous trouvera en bonne santé comment dit-on en francais: "I hope this letter finds you well" J'espère que cette lettre..... Merci d'avance ... te trouvera en bonne santé is one possibility. Bonjour! en anglais cette expression est beaucoup utilisée dans la correspondance via mail (du moinsun certain nombre de mes interlocuteurs l'utilisent en anglais...) Est-ce qu'il existe un équivalent en français? "J'espère que ce mail vous trouvera en forme" Cette traduction (trop) littéraire ne sonne pas très bien je trouve Des idées? Merci! Last edited by a moderator: Dec 23, 2013 Hi Kinoka Personnellement, je crois qu'il ne faut pas traduire littéralement mais par: J'espère que vous allez bien Si quelqu'un a une autre idée..... Merci Hermioneduchemin! En effet, cette traduction est trop forcée et la version plus simple fonctionne mieux! (je cherchais juste un moyen de varier un peu ces mails ;-) I am also looking for a way to say this--that is , "I hope this note finds you well..." In English, this is more suited to business correspondence. it is a bit more formal, appropriate for business correspondence, especially notes/letters addressed to senior colleagues in a culture where this genre of prelude is necessary, and may be considered rude... I would very much like to find a more suitable alternative for such circumstances. Please, more suggestions with this in mind??? Peut-on mettre cette formule "I hope this letter finds you well" à la fin d'une lettre ? Ou est-elle destiné à ouvrir un courrier ? Merci ! Hello Lemontime . I think "I hope this letter finds you well" destiné a letter. It is a wish, a hope about thee about the present, and the immediate past. At the end of a letter it is more natural to have wishes for the immediate future. In French, do we have something similar? Thanks for this, The closest expression we use would probably be: "J'espère que tout va bien pour vous". [...] Last edited by a moderator: Aug 26, 2011 Did I do this correctly? I hope this letter finds you well... J'espère que cette lettre te trouvera en bonne santé, en pleine forme. Martine Last edited by a moderator: Dec 23, 2013 j'espère que cette lettre vous trouvera en bonne santé In French, it's definitely not a set phrase. I think we would not use the literal translation and either not say anything at all or something like: "J'espère que tu vas bien." "J'espère que ça va." Hi all. I know this has already been covered on the forums, but the question I'm asking is quite different. I hope this letter finds you well. The suggestions I've seen for the translation of this phrase are usually some variation of J'espère que cette lettre vous trouvera en bonne santé. However, what's great about the English phrase is that it's so telegraphic and abbreviated that it could potentially mean two things. In my opinion, I hope this letter finds you well could indeed mean, as has been suggested, J'espère que cette lettre vous trouvera en bonne santé ie. I hope you are well upon receipt of this letter. But, I think it could could also carry the nuance of, I hope you have received this letter without any complications; I hope this letter has found its way safely to you. I want to express the latter since I don't actually know the people I'm writing to. Is there a phrase for this in French? e.g. J'espère que cette lettre vous parviendra sans encombre. J'espère que cette lettre vous trouvera sans encombre'. What do you think? How would you express this phrase? Thanks! You can say : "Vous souhaitant bonne réception..." but that's rather formal. "J'espère que cette lettre vous parviendra sans encombre'. is correct but no idiomatic. I'm sorry, but I can't imagine anyone using this English phrase with your alternative meaning, (a trope I often use in writing), that seems to be a stretch to me. Well, because the phrase is so succinct, unlike the French translation, I personally don't think it's particularly vociferous the phrase is so succinct. in its meaning, if you will haha. Even if it's just an undertone, I think the adverb 'well' could qualify either the 'you' or the verb, 'find'. was wondering if anyone in this thread could shed some light on using this phrase. what i want to know is if you could use it (in any of the suggested way from this thread) at the beginning of a message in a professional context (in the vous form of course) or would that be too familiar in france? or maybe there are some here that are better in this situation than others? thanks! This phrase is never used in a professionnal context, it's used for friends, family, etc, to finish the letter. Martine Hi everybody, as native French, I can suggest : "J'espère que ce message vous trouvera en bonne forme", but it sounds a little "old fashion"... J'espère que tout va bien de vôtre côté. Bonjour tout le monde, Je sais qu'il y a beaucoup d'anglicismes ici au Canada, et je pense que je vous irai présenter un autre... Mais ce matin, en écrivant un courriel à l'un des mes cleints, je me suis coincé dans l'expression: "I hope this finds you well". Ce que je voulais dire c'était quelque expression qui gyrait autour de: "j'espère que ce courriel vous rencontre bien". Mais j'ignore si cela serait acceptable. Qu'est-ce que vous y pensez? Merci mille fois! on dira en français "j'espère que ce courriel vous trouver / vous trouvera / en pleine forme" Last edited: Dec 10, 2012 Bonjour, J'écris une lettre formelle à quelqu'un qui je n'est pas encore rencontré. Je veux lui dire, "I hope this letter find you well.' Comment disons ca en francais? Merci. J'espère que vous allez (ou que vous vous portez) bien". Je ne pense pas qu'il soit nécessaire de faire mention de la lettre comme telle... Si vous y tenez, vous pouvez peut-être écrire : "J'espère que cette lettre vous trouve en bonne santé/en pleine forme". Last edited by a moderator: Apr 7, 2013 Désolé Aline Si, mais ce n'est pas le sens. I hope that you are well (not ill) when you read this letter. (If it's a formal letter Josephine, would you normally begin with what is effectively the "hope you are well" routine?) Si vous y tenez, vous pouvez peut-être écrire : "J'espère que cette lettre vous trouve en bonne santé/en pleine forme". Pour garder le côté formel, je laisserais de côté l'expression "en pleine forme". Pour garder le côté formel, je laisserais de côté l'expression "en pleine forme". looking for a formality, such as ending a letter with 'Sincerely,' or 'be well.' Perhaps I'm thinking in English, though. Do formal letters in french typically contain a sentence such as, 'I hope this letter finds you well.'? Si c'est très formel, par exemple une lettre de motivation pour un emploi, on verra souvent : - Je vous prie d'agréer, Madame, Monsieur l'expression de mes salutations distinguées Phrase qui peut présenter quelques variantes. Do formal letters in french typically contain a sentence such as, 'I hope this letter finds you well.'? No. I would even say that you don't enquire about a person's health, whether in writing or orally (like "J'espère que vous allez bien"), unless you've been introduced to them. Josephine, who are you writing to? 'I hope this letter finds you well' would be inappropriate in English if its a very formal letter (like a job application or a letter to your bank manager), it sounds more like something you might write to a host family you are going to stay with maybe? If you tell us who the letter is for, I'm sure that some of the lovely native French speakers on this forum will give you an idea of the appropriate polite formula I am asking a local professional for an interview. I'm receiving the message to banish this sentence from my repertoire, though. Will do. Merci pour votre aide. second language. It probably corresponds to the way letters in the native language(s) begin. Unfortunately, in professional correspondence there is no equivalent in French ! The translation will of course be appreciated, but it is not common at all. If you want to start your letter with a less direct manner you could start with : "je vous contacte pour ... ", "je me permets de vous contacter pour..." (this one is very useful!). You could only use a sentence regarding the "health/well-being" of the person for friends, I confirm that it is common to start a letter with "j'espère que tu vas bien" (or anything similar). Hello, I agree with soucouta, there is no literal translation of "I hope this message finds you well". In fact, I trust that even in English this sentence should not be taken too literally either. It seems as tough it is more a polite way to direct an unrequested message to someone you do not know. When I receive this kind of message, I read it as "I do not know you but you might be interested in what I have to say". So for this in French, the way to go is "je me permets de vous contacter". And this can also be completed at the end of the measage by "En vous souhaite bonne réception" which is actually the closest to the meaning of "hope this finds you well" - it is just at the end and not the beginning... Also, as a non-native english speaker I also tend to see a sort of double-entendre with "finds you well", which I can read as "the message will reach you "hope this". In French, as Aline Si said, there would be "j'espère que ce courrier vous parviendra". But that is maybe far-fetched. In French, as Aline Si said, there would be "j'espère que ce courrier vous parviendra". letter finds you well". This is good English, not good French. The closest French equivalent, as others have suggested, is : "J'espère que tu vas / vous allez bien" or "J'espère que tu vas / vous allez bien" or "J'espère que tu vas / vous allez bien" or "J'espère que tout va bien de ton / votre côté." When writing english business letters, which is the corrct abbreviation of "attention". I reckon it must be either "att" or "atn". I've always used "att", but fear that it might be a calque introduced from danish. Thank you. You're usually better off avoiding abbreviations, and some style guides recommend leaving 'attention' out entirely. Where were you going to put it? We would sometimes be asked specifically to mark something for the attention of XXXXX, so that it escapes from the normal jumble of mail-sorting and gets to the recipient directly. Such items are always addressed FAO Mr Brown, much to my amusement. Hello Everyone, Can someone please tell me what the acronym Att: stands for when it is used in emails and is immediately followed by the recipient's name. Example: Att: John Phillips Thanks in advance Att: is not an acronym, it's an abbreviation. It does indeed mean "Attention:" (The British are likely to say "FTAO" - For the attention of" Usually it's written as "attn./Attn." "Attn" (or one of the other versions) is used when you send mail to a company, but you think a specific person is the right person to read it. This form of addressing makes it clear that it is business mail, not personal mail. If that person is not available - perhaps he has left the company, perhaps she just began a two-month trek through Nepal - another person is not available - perhaps he has left the company, perhaps she just began a two-month trek through Nepal - another person is not available - perhaps he has left the company, perhaps he has left the company perhaps he has left the c written on envelopes as the first line of the address block. (formerly seen several lines below the return address, left-aligned with it) It is normally written with a colon: Attn: John Smith In a business letter itself, it would appear thus: Attention: (or Attn:) John Smith (or Attention:/Attn: Sales department) Dear Mr. Smith: I think in the US, we would never do that. I subscribe to the pwmeek style. Not my style. I have (up until yesterday) put it on the second line as Andygc showed. It was research for this thread that taught me better. I had to completely rewrite my first draft of the post. As the US Postal Service says: from top to the bottom you go from the smallest to the largest. So, the "Attn:" line goes at the top. Side note: It is important for the City State Zip line to be the bottom-most, and for it to be formatted "City, ST 12345-6789" and have nothing below it, as this is what the automatic scanners are looking for. If a person has to enter the Zip Code by hand (or worse, enter the City and state by hand to look up the Zip Code) it can add a day or two to delivery time. The PO would prefer ALL CAPS (whether typed or hand-written), but realizes that there would be a lot of resistance to this, as people much prefer the usual combination of "attention". I reckon it must be either "att" or "atn". I've always used "att", but fear that it might be a calque introduced from danish. Thank you. In another forum, I saw suggestion that will be properly use ATT. for attachment, I will probably stick to: Attn. /attn. or Attention: for attention (Canada, US), FTAO or Attn: for UK ATT. attachment Atts. attachments, Enc. Enclosures "Attachment: [Monthly Market Research]," "Enclosures: (10)," "Atts.: (5 pages)" or "Encl: For your eyes only." Is it better say "it is worth a visit" or "it is worth while visiting them" ? Hello everybody, which among these are fine (and possibily why) ?: (context: "Five Lands are five tiny villages, built on the coast by the sea. The view is very suggestive;") Is it better to say "it is worth a visit" or "it is worth while visiting them"? Is it better to say "it is worth a visit" or "it is worth while visiting them"? Is it better to say "it is worth a visit" or "it is w both fine or one of them is preferable? Thanks; (a) Is it better say "it is worth a visit" or "it is worth while visiting them"? (b) Is it better to say "it is worth while visiting them"? (b) Is it better to say "it is worth while visiting them"? (c) Is it better saying "it is worth a visit" or "it is worth while visiting them"? (b) Is it better saying "it is worth a visit" or "it is worth a v native speakers aren't very bothered about grammatical correctness and you're just as likely to hear (c) (a) is a non-starter I'd say "They [the villages] are worth a visit." (I think you are talking about Cinque Terrre in Liguria. This is a proper name, so I would not translate it to "Five Lands".) Hello there, in the following sentence, should "better suited" be hyphenated or not? "The management team have promised to chose the options better suited to their clients' needs." or "...the options better-suited to their..." I'm tempted to hyphenate it because it's acting like an adjective (reduced from a relative clause). Thanks in advance []] It looks odd to me with a hyphen, just as "I like my steak well - done" would, probably because better and well are adverbs here. Hi guys I racked my brains big time over this phrase (not to mention countless search engines' futile results), and yet. here I am. "I am a better man for knowing you" I would greatly appreciate it if somebody could kindly explain the meaning of the aforementioned phrase. Plus, are there any other possible contexts using "I am a better man for ..."? Many thanks in advance The idea is "my knowing you (or perhaps "my having known you") has made me a better person." Welcome to the forum, Ilyalemieux! I agree with The Newt. The idea is that the speaker feels that he has become "better" in some way—perhaps more virtuous, perhaps wiser, perhaps kinder—as a result of his relationship with the person he's saying this to. It is confusing because I know you now", as the tense of the verb seems to imply. It means "because I have known you for some time".