

TEXAS SAYINGS

ACCEPTABLE

It's better than a poke in the eye with a sharp stick.
That's close enough for government work.
Might as well. Can't dance, never could sing, and it's too wet to plow.
I could sit still for that.
You can't beat that with a stick.

BOASTFUL

He can strut sitting down.
He's all hat and no cattle.
She's all gurgle and no guts.
He chamber-of-commerced it.

DISHONEST

He's on a first-name basis with the bottom of the deck.
There are a lot of nooses in his family tree.
So crooked that if he swallowed a nail he'd spit up a corkscrew.
So crooked you can't tell from his tracks if he's coming or going.
He knows more ways to take your money than a roomful of lawyers.
Crooked as a dog's hind leg.
Crooked as the Brazos.
Slicker than a slop jar.
More twists than a pretzel factory.
Crooked as a barrel of fish hooks.
So crooked he has to unscrew his britches at night.
She's more slippery than a pocketful of pudding.
He's slicker than a boiled onion.
I wouldn't trust him any farther than I can throw him.

HONEST

If that ain't a fact, God's a possum.
You can take that to the bank.
You can hang your hat on it.
You can bet the farm on it.
He's so honest you could shoot craps with him over the phone.
If I say a hen dips snuff, you can look under her wing for the can.

BRAVE

Brave as the first man who ate an oyster.
Brave as a bigamist.
Brave enough to eat in a boomtown cafe.
He's double-backed.
He's got more guts than you could hang on a fence.
He'd shoot craps with the devil himself.
She'd charge hell with a bucket of ice water.

ARGUMENTATIVE, MAD

She could start a fight in an empty house.
He'd argue with a wooden Indian.
She raised hell and stuck a chunk under it.
He's the only hell his mama ever raised.
He's got his tail up.
She's in a horn-tossing mood.
She's so contrary she floats up-stream.
She's dancing in the hog trough.
He'll tell you how the cow ate the cabbage.

TIMID

He stays in the shadow of his mama's apron.
If he was melted down, he couldn't be poured into a fight.
He's first cousin to Moses Rose.
He wouldn't bite a biscuit.
He's yellow as mustard but without the bite.
He may not be a chicken, but he has his henhouse ways.

DRY

So dry the birds are building their nests out of barbed wire.
So dry the Baptists are sprinkling, the Methodists are spitting, and the Catholics are giving rain checks.
So dry the catfish are carrying canteens.
So dry the trees are bribing the dogs.
So dry my duck don't know how to swim.
It's been dry so long, we only got a quarter-inch of rain during Noah's Flood.
So dry I'm spitting cotton.
Dry as a powder house.
Dry as the heart of a haystack.
Drier than a popcorn fart.

BUSY

He's so busy you'd think he was twins.
They're doing a land-office business.
Busy as a one-legged man at an ass-kicking convention.
Busy as a funeral home fan in July.
Busy as a one-eyed dog in a smokehouse.
Busy as a one-armed paperhanger.
Busy as a stump-tailed bull in fly season.
Busy as a hound in flea season.
Got to slop the hogs, dig the well, and plow the south forty before breakfast.
Got to get back to my rat killing.
She's jumping like hot grease (or water) on a skillet.
Panting like a lizard on a hot rock.
No grass growing under her feet.

UNSOPHISTICATED

Just fell off the turnip (watermelon, tater) truck.
He's so country he thinks a seven-course meal is a possum and a six-pack.
They lived so far out in the country that the sun set between their house and town.

CAPABLE, EXPERIENCED

She's got some snap in her garters.
He's got plenty of arrows in his quiver.
She's got horse sense.
He's got plenty of notches on his gun.
She's a right smart windmill fixer.
He could find a whisper in a whirlwind.
There's no slack in her rope.
He's a three-jump cowboy.
He can ride the rough string.
If she crows, the sun is up.
This ain't my first rodeo.

GENERAL ADVICE

Pigs get fat; hogs get slaughtered.
A worm is the only animal that can't fall down.
Never sign nothing by neon.
Just because a chicken has wings don't mean it can fly.
Keep your saddle oiled and your gun greased.
You can't get lard unless you boil the hog.
If you cut your own firewood, it'll warm you twice.
There's more than one way to break a dog from sucking eggs.
Give me the bacon without the sizzle.
Don't hang your wash on someone else's line.
Do God's will, whatever the hell it may be.
Lick that calf again? (Say what?)
Why shear a pig?
Don't snap my garters.
A guilty fox hunts his own hole.
Quit hollering down the rain.
Don't rile the wagon master.
Better to keep your mouth shut and seem a fool than to open it and remove all doubt.
The barn door's open and the mule's trying to run. (Your fly's down.)
Don't get all her up about it.
There's a big difference between the ox and the whiffletree.
There's no tree but bears some fruit.
Skin your own buffalo.
You better throw a sop to the dogs.
Don't squat on your spurs.
Any mule's tail can catch cockleburs.
A drought usually ends with a flood.
If you lie down with dogs, you get up with fleas.
A lean dog runs fast.
The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

CELEBRATORY

Let's shoot out the lights.
We'll paint the town and the front porch.
Let's hallelujah the county.
Put the little pot in the big pot.
Throw your hat over the windmill.
I'll be there with bells on.

I'll wear my Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes.
He's all gussied up.

BIG

Fat as a boardinghouse cat.
Fat as a town dog.
She's warm in winter, shady in summer.
He don't care what you call him as long as you call him to supper.
So big he looks like he ate his brother.
So big he has to sit down in shifts.
Big as Brewster County. Big as Dallas.
Big as a Brahma bull.
She'd rather shake than rattle.
He's big enough to bear hunt with a branch.
He's all spread out like a cold supper.
Wide as two ax handles.
He'll eat anything that don't eat him first.

CHEAP

Tight as Dick's hatband.
Tight as a tick.
Tight as a clothesline.
Tight as a fiddle string.
Tight as wallpaper.
Tight as a wet boot.
Tight enough to raise a blister.
So tight he squeaks when he walks.
He'll squeeze a nickel till the buffalo screams.
She has short arms and deep pockets.

CRAZY

He's got a big hole in his screen door.
She's one bubble off plumb.
She's one brick shy of a load.
She's two sandwiches short of a picnic.
He's a few pickles short of a barrel.
There's a light or two burned out on his string.
He's missing a few buttons off his shirt.
The porch light's on but no one's home.
He's lost his vertical hold.
He's overdrawn at the memory bank.
I hear you clucking, but I can't find your nest.
She's got too many cobwebs in the attic.
Crazy as a bullbat.
Crazy as Larrabee's calf.

LUCKY

They tried to hang him but the rope broke.
He could draw a pat hand from a stacked deck.
He always draws the best bull.
He's riding a gravy train with biscuit wheels.
He could sit on the fence and the birds would feed him.

RICH

In tall cotton.
Running with the big dogs.
He didn't come to town two to a mule.
She's got more than she can say grace over.
So rich they can eat fried chicken all week long.
Rich enough to eat her laying hens.

POOR

If a trip around the world cost a dollar, I couldn't get to the Oklahoma line.

He's so broke he's busted all ten commandments.
Poor as a lizard-eating cat.
Hasn't got a pot to pee in or a window to throw it out of.
So poor I had a tumbleweed as a pet.
I ate so many armadillos when I was young, I still roll up into a ball when hear a dog bark.
So poor we had to fertilize the sills before we could raise the windows.
Poor as sawmill rats.
He's broke as a stick horse.
He's too poor to pay attention.
So poor the wolf won't even stop at their door.
So poor their Sunday supper is fried water.
Too poor to paint, too proud to whitewash.

HOT

Hot as Hades.
Hot as the hinges (or hubs) of hell.
Hot as a depot stove.
Hot as a two-dollar pistol.
Hot as a two-dollar whore on the Fourth of July.
Hot as a billy goat in a pepper patch.
Hot as a summer revival.
Hot as a pot of neck bones.
Hot as a stolen tamale.
Hot enough to fry eggs on the sidewalk.
Hotter than whoopee in woolens.
Hotter than a honeymoon hotel.
Hotter than a preacher's knee.
Hotter than a burning stump.
Hotter than blue blazes.
Hotter than a fur coat in Marfa.
So hot the hens are laying hard-boiled eggs.

COLD

This is hog-killing weather.
There's only a strand of barbed wire between here and there, and it's down (after a blizzard).
Cold as a well-digger's knee.
Cold as a frosted frog.
Cold as an ex-wife's heart.
Cold as a cast-iron commode.
Cold as a banker's heart.
Cold as hell with the furnace out.

SAD

I feel lower than a gopher hole.
I feel so low I couldn't jump off a dime.
She eats sorrow by the spoonful.
You look like you were sent for and couldn't go.
Sad enough to bring a tear to a glass eye.
He looks like the cheese fell off his cracker.

SMALL, THIN

She wears her bra backwards and it fits.
She's frying size.
He's knee-high to a grasshopper.
He'd have to stand up to look a rattler in the eye.
About as big as the little end of nothing.
Half as big as a minute.
No bigger than moles on a chigger.
Scrawny as Ace Reid cattle.
Nothing between the horns and hooves but hide.
Thin as a bar's ear.
Thin as a gnat's whisker.
Thin as store-bought thread.
Thin as Depression soup.
Thin as a fiddle string.
Thin as a rake and twice as sexy.
Flat as a fritter.
Scarce-hipped.
So skinny she has to stand twice to make a shadow.
So skinny you could give her a Big Red and use her as a thermometer.
So skinny she shades herself under the clothesline.

BAD, MEAN

He's such a liar he'd beat you senseless and tell God you fell off a horse.
He was born sorry.
He's so low he'd steal the widow's ax.
He'd steal his mama's egg money.
He'd steal the flowers off his grandma's grave.
He'd steal the nickels off a dead man's eyes.
No-account fellow.
Bitter as gall.
Tough as nickel steak.
Tough as stewed skunk.
Tough as whang.
Mean as a mama wasp.
Friendly as a bramble bush.
She makes a hornet look cuddly.
A she-bear in satin.
Rough as a cob.
He looks like a sheep-killing dog.
He lies like a tombstone.
He wouldn't scratch his own mama's fleas.
He's got horns holding up his halo.
We're not on borrowing terms.
You're so low you have to look up to see hell.

He's so low you couldn't put a rug under him.
He jumped on me with all four feet.
A real revolving son of a bitch.

FAST

He jumped on me like a duck on a june bug.
He jumped on me like white on rice.
He can blow out the lamp and jump into bed before it gets dark.
He gets there in one-half less than no time.
Quick out of the chute.
Fast as greased lightning.
Fast as small-town gossip.
Faster than a prairie fire with a tail wind.
Faster than a scalded cat.
Faster than double-struck lightning.
Faster than a sneeze through a screen door.
Going like a house afire.
Hell-bent for leather.
Any faster and he'd catch up to yesterday.
In a New York minute.

STRONG

His breath's so strong you could hang out the washing on it.
That coffee's so strong it'll put hair on your chest.
Coffee so strong it'll walk into your cup.
Coffee so strong it'll raise a blood blister on a boot.
He's so strong he makes Samson look sensitive.

ARRIVAL/GREETINGS

Look what the cat dragged in.
Company's coming; add a cup of water to the soup.
We've howdied but we haven't shook.
Put on your sitting britches.
Let's chaw the rag.

DEPARTURE/GOOD-BYE

Let's light a shuck.
It's time to heat up the bricks.
It's time to put the chairs in the wagon.
It's time to swap spit and hit the road.
It's time to put out the fire and call in the dogs.
He's heading for the wagon yard.
Let's blow this pop stand.
That about puts the rag on the bush.
Church is out.
That's all she wrote.

PATIENCE

Hot will cool if greedy will let it.
Take a tater and wait.
Don't get your panties in a wad.
Wash off your war paint.

TIRED

Looks like she's been chewed up, spit out, and stepped on.
Looks like she was rode hard and put away wet.
She looks like chewed twine.
He looks like Bowser's bone.
I was born tired and I've since suffered a relapse.
One wheel down and the axle dragging.
I'm near about past going.
Tired as a boomtown whore.

SICK

He's got a hitch in his gitalong.
Sick as a dog passing peach pits.
All stove up.
I'm so sick I'd have to get better to die.
Sore as a boil.
Her hopper's busted.
As full of pains as an old window.
I've got the green apple nasties.
He looks like death warmed over.
So sick he needs two beds.
Pitiful as a three-legged dog.

TALKATIVE

She could talk a coon right out of a tree.
He could talk the legs off a chair.
He could talk the gate off its hinges.
He could talk the hide off a cow.
He could talk the ears off a mule.
He shoots off his mouth so much he must eat bullets for breakfast.
He's got a ten-gallon mouth.
She speaks ten words a second, with gusts to fifty.
Her tongue is plumb tuckered.
She's got tongue enough for ten rows of teeth.
She beats her own gums to death.
He blew in on his own wind.
He's a live dictionary.
He's a chin musician.
She has a bell clapper instead of a tongue.
He was vaccinated with a Victrola needle.

NERVOUS

Nervous as a whore in church.
All cut up like a boardinghouse pit.
Grinning like a mule eating cockleburrs.
Nervous as a pregnant jenny.
Nervous as a fly in the glue pot.
Nervous as a woodshed waiter.
She's chewing her bit.

CAUTION

You were too hard to raise to take chances.
Don't dig up more snakes than you can kill.

Whistle before you walk into a stranger's camp.
Don't plow too close to the cotton.
A dead snake can still bite.
A dead bee can still sting.
Don't tip over the outhouse.

PUTDOWNS

Even a blind hog can find an acorn once in a while.
Anytime you happen to pass my house, I'd sure appreciate it.
What did you do with the money your mama gave you for singing lessons?
Were you raised in a barn?
Put that in your pipe and smoke it.
Even the chickens under the porch know that.
You smell like you want to be left alone.
Go peddle your own produce.
Go cork your pistol.
If you break your leg, don't come running to me.
Whatever greases your wagon.

PROBLEM

Got a big hole in the fence.
I got my ox in a ditch.
He loaded the wrong wagon.
They hung the wrong horse thief.
He ripped his britches.
There's a yellowjacket in the outhouse.

WASTING TIME

Preaching to the choir.
Burning daylight.
Arguing with a wooden Indian.[ask AD, this is a repeat]
Whistling up the wind.Hollering down a well.

VAIN

He broke his arm patting himself on the back.
He thinks the sun comes up just to hear him crow.
I'd like to buy him for what he's worth and sell him for what he thinks he'll bring.
She's so spoiled salt couldn't save her.
She's so spoiled she expects spoon-feeding.
She's got more airs than an Episcopalian.

DRUNK/DRINKING

He wasn't born, just squeezed out of a bartender's rag.
Drunker than who shot John.
Snot-slinging drunk.
Drunk as a fiddler's bitch.
Drunk as Cooter Brown.
Drunk as a skunk.
Don't chop any wood tonight; Daddy's coming home with a load.
Tighter than bark on a log.
I've got the whistlebelly thumps and skull cramps. (A hangover.)
Calling for Earl. (Throwing up.)
Jugging and jawing.

You got her drunk, you take her home.
Commode-hugging, knee-walking drunk.

DESOLATE

Looks like hell with everyone out to lunch.
Out where the buses don't run.

DEAD

Buzzard bait.
He gave up his guitar for a harp.
He ate a bitter pill.

UNWELCOME

As welcome as an egg-sucking dog.
As welcome as an outhouse breeze.
As welcome as screwworm.
As welcome as a porcupine at a nudist colony.
As welcome as a skunk at a lawn party.
As welcome as a wet shoe.
As welcome as a tornado on a trail drive.

EASY

No hill for a stepper.
Slick as a whistle.
Easy as pie.

DIFFICULT

Like trying to bag flies.
Like putting socks on a rooster.
Easy as pissing up a rope.

FAILURE

He blames everything on the weather or his raising.
He got caught in his own loop.
He came close to the dollar knife.

SMART

Bright as a new penny.
Smart as a hooty owl.
No flies on my mama.
Smart as a whip.

DUMB

If a duck had his brain, it would fly north for the winter.
She doesn't have enough sense to spit downwind.
If he was bacon, he wouldn't even sizzle.
If brains were leather, he couldn't saddle a flea.
He carries his brains in his back pocket.
Dumb as dirt.
Dumb as a box of rocks.
Dumb as a barrel of hair.
Dumb as a post.
Dumb as a wagon wheel.

Dumb as a prairie dog.
Dumb as a watermelon.
Dumb enough for twins.
He doesn't know "come here" from "sic 'em."
He doesn't know enough to pound sand down a rat hole.
He can't ride and chew at the same time.
So stupid if you put his brains in a bumblebee, it'd fly backwards.
If all her brains were ink, she couldn't dot an *i*.
If all her brains were dynamite, she couldn't blow her nose.
He don't know which end's up.
He don't know a widget from a whangdoodle.
He don't know nothing from nothing.
He don't know diddly squat.
He couldn't pour piss out of a boot with a hole in the toe and the directions on the heel.
If he had a brain, it'd die of loneliness.
So thick-headed you can hit him in the face with a tire iron and he won't yell till morning.
He could screw up an anvil.

BEAT

He gave me the wire-brush treatment.
I got sandpapered.
I'll snatch you bald-headed.
I'll whip you like a redheaded stepchild.
I'll knock you plumb into next week.
He got his tail feathers trimmed. He's been sauced and blowed.
He sure cleaned your plow.

UNACCEPTABLE

Not what I had my face fixed for.
Like hugging a rose bush.
Nothing to write home about.
That dog won't hunt.
I'd just as soon bite a bug.
I don't cotton to it.

CONFUSED

Confused as a goat on AstroTurf.
My tongue got caught in my eyeteeth and I couldn't see what I was saying.
I can explain it to you, but I can't understand it for you.
He ran 'em around the barn.
Cattywampus to Miss Jones's.

IMMORAL, WILD

They call her "radio station" because anyone can pick her up, especially at night.
He's wilder than a peach orchard boar.
She's just naturally horizontal.
Loose as ashes in the wind.
Loose as a bucket of soot.
Wilder than an acre of snakes.
She uses her sheet for a tablecloth.
He was born on the wrong side of the blanket.
She's found a new dasher for her churn.
They are supper before they said grace.
They planted their crop before they built their fence.

They're hitched bur not churched.
They've got a cotton-patch license.

PREGNANT

She's got a bun in the oven.
She's sitting on the nest.
She's got one in the chute.
She's been storked.

CITIFIED

Raised on concrete.
Doesn't know a bit from a butt.
You don't live longer in the city; it just seems that way.

NOISY

Noisy as two skeletons dancing on a tin roof.
Noisy as a restless mule in a tin barn.
Noisier than cats making kittens.
Noisier than a cornhusk mattress.
Louder than Grandpa's Sunday tie.
He called his hogs all night. (Snored.)
He learned to whisper in a sawmill.

INEPT, WORTHLESS

He could fall up a tree.
Couldn't ride a nightmare without falling out of bed.
He couldn't knock a hole in the wind with a sackful of hammers.
So bad at farming he couldn't raise Cain.
He couldn't hit the floor if he fell our of bed.
Handy as hip pockets on a hog.
Worthless as teats on a bull.
Worthless as a sidesaddle on a sow.
Not worth spit.
He couldn't organize a pissing contest in a brewery.
Useless as two buggies in a one-horse town.
He could screw up a two-car funeral.
Tie a quarter to it and throw it away, and you can say you lost something.
He's got no more chance than a june bug in the chicken coop.
He's a day late and a dollar short.
He can't win for losing.
He's sucking hind teat.
I need that like a tomcat needs a trousseau.
She's itching for something she won't scratch for.
Why close the barn door after the horses are out?
No more good than an eyeless needle.
Like warming up leftover snow.
Like pushing a wheelbarrow with rope handles.
Like sweet-talking the water out of the well.

PRETTY

So pretty she'd make a man plow through a stump.
She can ride any horse in my string.
She's built like a brick outhouse.

She's built like a Coke bottle.
She cleans up real nice.
She has more curves than a barrel of snakes.
She's all dressed up like a country bride.
I'd rather watch her walk than eat fried chicken.
Pretty as twelve acres of pregnant red hogs.
Pretty as a pie supper.
Cute as a calico kitten on down south.
Cute as a speckled pup under a red wagon.

UGLY

He looks like he was inside the outhouse when the lightning struck.
She looks like she was born downwind of the outhouse.
So ugly the tide wouldn't take her out.
So ugly his mama had to tie a pork chop around his neck so the dogs would play with him.
So ugly his mama takes him everywhere she goes so she doesn't have to kiss him good-bye.
So ugly only his mama loves him—and she waits till payday.
So ugly she has to sneak up on a glass of water.
So ugly she has to slap her feet to make them go to bed with her.
He got whipped with an ugly stick.
His mama had more hair in the mole on her chin.
Looks like he was pulled through a knothole backwards.
Looks like ten miles of bad road.
Looks like he sorts bobcats for a living.
So buck-toothed she could eat corn through a picket fence.
So bowlegged he couldn't catch a pig in a ditch.
So cross-eyed he can stand up in the middle of the week and see two Sundays.
So freckled he looks like he swallowed a quarter and broke out in pennies.
Ugly as a mud fence.
Ugly as homemade sin.
Ugly as Grandpa's toenails.
He's got a face like the back end of bad luck.
She can't help being ugly, but she could stay home.
He couldn't get a date at the Chicken Ranch with a truckload of fryers.

GOOD, HAPPY

Sweeter than stolen honey.
Sweeter than baby's breath.
Sweeter than an old maid's dream.
He took to you like a hog to persimmons.
He took to you like a fish to water.
Happy as a boardinghouse pup.
Happy as a clam at high tide.
Happy as a hog in mud.
Safe as Granny's snuffbox.
Fair to middling.
Pert as a cricket.
Soft as a two-minute egg.
All wool and a yard wide.
I'm cooking on a front burner today.
If I felt any better, I'd drop my harp plumb through the cloud.
If I felt any better, I'd think it was a setup.
Clean as a coon.

Fat and sassy.
All sweetness and light.
This is so good it'll make childbirth a pleasure.
Fine as frog fur.
Fine as dollar cotton.
Fine as boomtown silk.
Fine as cream gravy.
The porch light is always burning.
Long as I got a biscuit, you got half.

DISTANCE

Down the road a piece.
A fur piece.
Turn left past yonder.
I won't say it's far, but I had to grease the wagon twice before I hit the main road.
Two hoots and a holler away.

LAZY

He hangs out more often than Mama's washing.
He's like a blister—he doesn't show up till the work's all done.

SHY

Shy as a mail-order bride.
Shy as a crocus.
Shy as sapphires.

DARK

As dark as the inside of a wolf.
Dark as coffin air.
Dark as a pocket.
Dark as a cow.
Dark as a blue norther.
Dark as the devil's riding boots.
Dark as truck-stop coffee.

HANDY

Handy as sliced bread.
Handy as shirt pockets.
Handy as a rope at a hanging.
Handy as a latch on the outhouse door.

SCARCE

Scarce as hen's teeth.
Scarce as grass around a hog trough.
Scarce as rain barrels.
Scarce as a virgin in a cathouse.

DULL (AS A KNIFE)

You could ride all the way to Big Spring on it and never split a hair.
It wouldn't cut hot butter.
You could scratch your back with and never draw blood.

DULL (BORING)

As exciting as waiting for paint to dry.

As exciting as a mashed-potato sandwich.

As much fun as chopping wood. Dull as Henry's bone.

MISCELLANEOUS

Independent as a hog on ice.

I don't know you from Adam's off ox.

Thick as the dew on Dixie.

Thick as fleas on a farm dog.

That's two different buckets of possums.

Things are going to hell in a handbasket.

Come hell or high water.

Lord willing and the creek don't rise.

I don't care if it harelips the governor.

Serious as the business end of a .45.

Baptists and Johnson grass are raking over.

He's so slow he could gain weight walking.

Out like Lottie's eye.