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## True or false on wise old sayings

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Maybe they should have just asked mom.

Putting academic funding to questionable use, researchers have taken household wisdom and studied it scientifically. Some examples:

### **What doesn't kill you makes you stronger**

SUNY-Buffalo psychology professor Mark Seery's team monitored 2,398 subjects over three years. The study found that people who faced moderate levels of adversity were better off emotionally than those who never experienced hardships.

### **It's better to give than to receive**

Canadian researchers examined the relationship between the happiness of people in European countries and those countries' level of foreign aid.

The economists from Trent University found that the more upbeat citizens in France and Britain were, the likelier they were to increase the country's generosity.

### **There's such a thing as a bad role model**

University of Massachusetts researchers recently found that violent superhero characters can turn little boys into villains. Unlike the chivalrous Superman, modern icons like Iron Man maintain bad-boy antics and poor attitudes toward the fairer sex even when they aren't up against the bad guys.

That results in a negative influence on boys, the researchers said, because they are left to choose between being macho or a slacker type.

### **Lying can make you feel unclean**

A University of Michigan study found that people who were ordered to lie over the phone were likely to go out and buy mouthwash.

The study also linked the cleansing behavior to participants who sent lies by e-mail. They had a stronger urge to spend money on hand sanitizer.

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