

<b><u>At all costs</u></b>	<p>If you are determined to obtain or achieve something <b>at all costs</b>, you want it regardless of the expense, effort or sacrifice involved.</p> <p>"The journalist was determined at all costs to get a report from the war zone."</p>
<b><u>Avowed intent</u></b>	<p><u>When someone makes a public declaration of their objective or goal, this is their <b>avowed intent</b>.</u></p> <p><u>"The avowed intent of the new Government is to reduce unemployment."</u></p>
<b><u>Beard the lion in his den</u></b>	<p><u>If you visit someone important in the place where they work, because you are determined to challenge him/her or obtain something, you <b>beard the lion in his den</b>.</u></p>
<b><u>Have a bee in one's bonnet</u></b>	<p><u>A person who has a <b>bee in their bonnet</b> has an idea which constantly occupies their thoughts.</u></p> <p><u>"She's got a bee in her bonnet about moving to New York."</u></p>
<b><u>Beyond one's wildest dreams</u></b>	<p><u>If something is <b>beyond your wildest dreams</b>, it is better than you imagined or hoped for.</u></p> <p><u>"The research team received a grant from the government that was beyond their wildest dreams."</u></p>
<b><u>Blood, sweat and tears</u></b>	<p><u>A project or action which involves <b>blood, sweat and tears</b> requires a lot of effort and hard work.</u></p> <p><u>"His success wasn't due to luck; it was <b>blood, sweat and tears</b> all the way."</u></p>
<b><u>Have something on the brain</u></b>	<p><u>If you <b>have something on the brain</b>, you think or talk about it constantly.</u></p> <p><u>"Stop talking about golf. You've got golf on the brain!"</u></p>
<b><u>Buckle down</u></b>	<p><u>If you <b>buckle down</b>, you apply yourself with determination to hard work and give it your full attention.</u></p> <p><u>"If you want to pass your exams, you'll have buckle down and do some serious work."</u></p>
<b><u>Dig in your heels</u></b>	<p><u>If you <b>dig in your heels</b>, you refuse to do something, especially if someone is trying to convince you to do so.</u></p> <p><u>"My grandfather dug in his heels and refused to move to an apartment."</u></p>
<b><u>An eager beaver</u></b>	<p><u>The term <b>eager beaver</b> refers to a person who is hard-working and enthusiastic, sometimes considered overzealous.</u></p> <p><u>"The new accountant works all the time - first to arrive and last to leave - a real eager beaver!"</u></p>

<u><b>Explore all avenues</b></u>	<p>If you <b>explore all avenues</b>, you try out every possibility in order to obtain a result or find a solution.</p> <p>"We can't say it's impossible until we've explored all avenues."</p>
<u><b>Fight tooth and nail</b></u>	<p>If you <b>fight tooth and nail</b> for something, you fight with all your energy.</p> <p>"The Transport Minister fought tooth and nail to have to have the proposed road safety law accepted."</p>
<u><b>Fly by the seat of your pants</b></u>	<p>If you <b>fly by the seat of your pants</b>, you do something without knowledge or experience, using only your instinct and hoping that you will succeed.</p> <p>"Without any formal training, he decided to fly by the seat of his pants and try his luck in New York."</p>
<u><b>Go the extra mile</b></u>	<p>If you <b>go the extra mile</b>, you do more than what is expected of you.</p> <p>"You can count on Tom; he's always willing to go the extra mile."</p>
<u><b>Go to great lengths</b></u>	<p>When trying to achieve something, if you <b>go to great lengths</b>, you do everything that is possible in order to succeed.</p> <p>"The two parties went to great lengths to reach an agreement."</p>
<u><b>Going places</b></u>	<p>To say that someone is <b>going places</b> means that they show talent and ability that will no doubt lead to a successful future.</p> <p>"Even at college it was obvious that Paul was going places."</p>
<u><b>Go into overdrive</b></u>	<p>If someone or something <b>goes into overdrive</b>, they begin to work very hard or start to perform intensely.</p> <p>"At the start of every new collection, my imagination goes into overdrive."</p>
<u><b>Keep your nose to the grindstone</b></u>	<p>A person who <b>keeps their nose to the grindstone</b> is someone who concentrates on working hard at his job.</p>
<u><b>Hang in there</b></u>	<p>This expression is used to encourage someone to persevere and not give up in spite of the difficult circumstances.</p> <p>"I know the atmosphere is very tense, but just <b>hang in there</b> and eventually things will calm down."</p>
<u><b>Hang on by your fingernails</b></u>	<p>When you <b>hang on by your fingernails</b>, you succeed in continuing to do something in a very difficult situation.</p> <p>"The restaurant is losing more and more customers; the owner</p>

	<u>is just hanging on by his fingernails."</u>
<u>Have one's heart set on something</u>	<p>Someone who has their <b>heart set on something</b> wants it very much.</p> <p><u>"From an early age Tiger had his heart set on becoming a professional golfer."</u></p>
<u>Hell-bent on something</u>	<p>If you are <b>hell-bent</b> on doing something, you are recklessly determined to do it, even if it's dangerous or stupid.</p> <p><u>"Although he is still weak, he's hell-bent on playing the match."</u></p>
<u>Hitch one's wagon to a star</u>	<p>Someone who <b>hitches their wagon to a star</b> has great ambitions and is very determined to reach their goal.</p> <p><u>"At an early age she decided to hitch her wagon to a star and become rich and famous."</u></p>
<u>Kill two birds with one stone</u>	<p>If you <b>kill two birds with one stone</b>, you succeed in doing two things at the same time.</p> <p><u>"By studying on the train on the way home every week-end, Claire kills two birds with one stone."</u></p>
<u>A long row to hoe</u>	<p>This expression refers to a difficult task, assignment or undertaking that will take a long time.</p> <p><u>"Getting through medical school is going to be a long row to hoe."</u></p>
<u>Make hay while the sun shines</u>	<p>This expression is used as an encouragement to take advantage of a good situation which may not last.</p> <p><u>"Successful sportsmen are advised to <b>make hay while the sun shines.</b>"</u></p>
<u>Make headway</u>	<p>If you <b>make headway</b>, you make progress in what you are trying to achieve.</p> <p><u>"Investigators have made little headway in their search for the causes of the catastrophe."</u></p>
<u>Mean business</u>	<p>If someone <b>means business</b>, they are serious about what they announce.</p> <p><u>"The boss says that in future any missing material will be reported to the police, and he looks as though he means business."</u></p>
<u>Never say die</u>	<p>This expression is used to encourage someone to persevere in their efforts and not give up or abandon their project.</p> <p><u>"Keep going. It's too soon to give up. <b>Never say die!</b>"</u></p>

<p><u>Not for (all) the world</u></p>	<p>If you say that you would <b>not</b> do something <b>for (all) the world</b>, you mean that you would never do it, no matter what you were offered.</p> <p>"I would not live in that building for the world."</p>
<p><u>Paddle your own canoe</u></p>	<p>If you <b>paddle your own canoe</b>, you do what you want to do without help or interference from anyone.</p> <p>"He decided to paddle his own canoe and set up his own company."</p>
<p><u>Pester power</u></p>	<p>This expression refers to the <b>power children exert over their parents by continually nagging or pestering them until they accept to buy advertised toys or fashionable products.</b></p> <p>"<b>Pester power</b> leads busy parents to buy more and more for their children."</p>
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<p><u>Pound the pavement</u></p>	<p>Someone who <b>pounds the pavement</b>, walks the streets or goes from company to company, usually in search of employment.</p> <p>You also pound the pavement in an effort to raise funds or gain support for a cause.</p> <p>"Charlie is out there <b>pounding the pavement</b> since he lost his job."</p>
<p><u>Pull out all the stops</u></p>	<p>If you <b>pull out all the stops</b>, you do everything you can to make something successful.</p> <p>"We'll have to <b>pull out all the stops</b> to get the store ready for the opening day."</p>
<p><u>Punch above one's weight</u></p>	<p>If you <b>punch above your weight</b>, you try to perform at a level that is considered to be beyond your ability.</p> <p>"She submitted her idea for the 'invention of the year' award, knowing that she was <b>punching above her weight</b>."</p>
<p><u>Reach for the moon</u></p>	<p>If you <b>reach for the moon</b>, you are very ambitious and try to achieve something even if it's difficult.</p> <p>"His parents were hardworking people who encouraged their children to <b>reach for the moon</b>."</p>
<p><u>Raise/lower your sights</u></p>	<p>If you <b>raise or lower your sights</b>, you raise or lower your expectations, or you are more or less ambitious..</p> <p>"He had to <b>lower his sights</b> and accept a less well-paid job than what he had hoped for."</p>

<b><u>Sink one's teeth into something</u></b>	<p>If you <b>sink your teeth into something</b>, you do it with a lot of energy and enthusiasm.</p> <p>"When Julie got promoted, she immediately sank her teeth into her new job."</p>
<b><u>The sky's the limit</u></b>	<p>To say "<b>the sky's the limit</b>" means that there is no limit to the possibility of success or progress for someone or something.</p> <p>"How successful do you think the project will be? Who knows... the sky's the limit!"</p>
<b><u>Stand on your own two feet</u></b>	<p>If you <b>stand on your own two feet</b>, you are independent and need no help from anyone.</p> <p>"When young people leave home, they learn to stand on their own two feet."</p>
<b><u>Stand one's ground</u></b>	<p>If you <b>stand your ground</b>, you maintain your position and refuse to yield or give way.</p> <p>"He claimed innocence and stood his ground in spite of the repeated accusations."</p>
<b><u>Stick to one's guns</u></b>	<p>If you <b>stick to your guns</b>, you show determination when faced with opposition.</p> <p>"The government stuck to its guns in spite of the criticism."</p>
<b><u>Stop at nothing</u></b>	<p>Someone who would <b>stop at nothing</b> would do anything, even something illegal or immoral, in order to obtain what they want.</p> <p>"He'd stop at nothing if there was a possibility of making money."</p>
<b><u>Take pains</u></b>	<p>If you <b>take pains</b> to do something, you try very hard or make a special effort to do something as well as possible.</p> <p>"Great pains were taken to ensure the athletes' security."</p>
<b><u>Waiting in the wings</u></b>	<p>If someone is <b>waiting in the wings</b>, they are waiting for an opportunity to take action, especially to replace someone else in their job or position.</p> <p>"There are many young actors waiting in the wings, ready to show their talent."</p>

<b><u>To be up in arms</u></b>	<p>If you are <b>up in arms</b> about something, you are very angry.</p> <p>"The population was up in arms over the demolition of the</p>	-
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	old theatre."	
<b><u>Get off my back!</u></b>	<u>If you tell somebody to <b>get off your back</b>, you ask them to stop finding faults or criticizing you.</u>	
<b><u>A bad hair day</u></b>	<u>Originating as a humorous comment about one's hair being unmanageable, this term has broadened to mean 'a day when everything seems to go wrong'.</u> <u>"What's wrong with Jenny? Is she having a <b>bad hair day</b>?"</u>	
<b><u>Like a bear with a sore head</u></b>	<u>If someone is behaving <b>like a bear with a sore head</b>, they are very irritable and bad-tempered.</u> <u>"When his team lost the match, Brad was like a bear with a sore head."</u>	
<b><u>Bite someone's head off</u></b>	<u>If you <b>bite someone's head off</b>, you criticize them strongly (and perhaps unfairly).</u> <u>"I worked 10 hours a day all week and my boss bit my head off for not doing my share of the work!"</u>	
<b><u>Blow a fuse</u></b>	<u>If you <b>blow a fuse</b>, you suddenly lose your temper and become very angry.</u> <u>"Charlie blew a fuse yesterday when he discovered that his ipod had been stolen."</u>	
<b><u>Blow a gasket</u></b>	<u>When a furious person <b>blows a gasket</b>, they explode with anger.</u> <u>"When the shop was burgled for the third time, the owner blew a gasket."</u>	

<p><b><u>Blow your top</u></b></p>	<p>If you <b>blow your top</b>, you suddenly become very angry.  <u>"When my mother saw the state of the apartment after the party, she blew her top!"</u></p>	
<p><b><u>Have a bone to pick with someone</u></b></p>	<p>To say that you have a <b>bone to pick</b> with somebody means that you are annoyed with them and want to talk to them about it.</p>	
<p><b><u>In somebody's good/bad books</u></b></p>	<p>If you are <b>in somebody's good or bad books</b>, you have their approval or disapproval.  <u>"I'm in my wife's bad books at the moment because I forgot our wedding anniversary!"</u></p>	
<p><b><u>Cheesed off</u></b></p>	<p>If someone is <b>cheesed off</b> with something, they are annoyed, bored or frustrated.  <u>"Julie is absolutely cheesed off with her job."</u></p>	
<p><b><u>For crying out loud</u></b></p>	<p>This expression is used to show irritation, exasperation or anger.  <u>"<b>For crying out loud!</b> Turn that television off!"</u></p>	
<p><b><u>Cut no ice (with somebody)</u></b></p>	<p>If something <b>cuts no ice</b>, it has no effect or makes no impression on someone.  <u>"Her explanation cut no ice with the teacher who said he would tolerate no more unjustified absences."</u></p>	
<p><b><u>Cut it out!</u></b></p>	<p>If you say <b>cut it out</b> to someone, you are telling them to stop doing something.  <u>"I've had enough of your insinuations, so just cut it out!"</u></p>	
<p><b><u>Drive up the wall</u></b></p>	<p>If somebody or something <b>drives you up the wall</b>, they do something that greatly annoys or irritates you.  <u>"I can't concentrate with all the noise - it's driving me</u></p>	<p>-</p>

	<u>up the wall!"</u>	
<u>Get/take flak</u>	<u>If you <b>get or take flak</b>, you receive severe criticism for something you have done.</u> <u>"He got a lot of flak for the way he handled the situation."</u>	
<u>Flea in one's ear</u>	<u>After an attempt at something, if you are sent away with a <b>flea in your ear</b>, you are angrily reprimanded or humiliated.</u> <u>"When he tried to put the blame on Pete, he was sent away with a flea in his ear."</u>	
<u>Fly off the handle</u>	<u>A person who <b>flies off the handle</b> becomes suddenly very angry.</u> <u>"Dad flew off the handle when I told him I had damaged his new car."</u>	
<u>Foam at the mouth</u>	<u>Someone who <b>foams at the mouth</b> is extremely angry about something.</u> <u>"The director was foaming at the mouth when he saw a picture of his children in the newspaper."</u>	
<u>Get your knickers in a twist.</u>	<u>If you <b>get your knickers in twist</b>, you are angry, nervous or upset faced with a difficult situation</u> <u>"Don't get your knickers in a twist! Everything is under control."</u>	
<u>Get a rise out of somebody</u>	<u>If you make someone react angrily by jokingly saying something that you know will irritate them, you <b>get a rise out of them</b>.</u> <u>"He gets a rise out of his daughter by asking about her latest diet."</u>	



<p><b><u>Get in someone's hair</u></b></p>	<p>If you are <b><u>getting in somebody's hair</u></b>, you are <u>annoying</u> them so much that they can't get on with what they're doing.</p> <p><u>"I'd finish the report more quickly if my colleague wasn't getting in my hair all the time!"</u></p>	
<p><b><u>Give it a rest!</u></b></p>	<p>If someone tells you to <b><u>give it a rest</u></b>, they are asking you to <u>stop</u> doing something such as <u>complaining or talking continuously</u>.</p> <p><b><u>"All you talk about is politics - give it a rest...please! "</u></b></p>	
<p><b><u>Give someone a piece of your mind</u></b></p>	<p>If you tell someone exactly what you think, in a very <u>angry</u> manner, you <b><u>give them a piece of your mind</u></b>.</p> <p><u>"Jack was so irritated by his neighbours' behaviour that he decided to give them a piece of his mind."</u></p>	
<p><b><u>Give the (rough) of one's tongue</u></b></p>	<p>If you <b><u>give the (rough) edge of your tongue</u></b>, you <u>scold</u> someone severely or speak to them very <u>aggressively or rudely</u>.</p> <p><u>"My boss was so angry that I really got the rough edge of his tongue."</u></p>	
<p><b><u>Give someone a tongue-lashing</u></b></p>	<p>When you scold someone severely, you <b><u>give them a tongue-lashing</u></b>.</p> <p><u>"The teacher gave Jeremy a tongue-lashing when he arrived late for school."</u></p>	
<p><b><u>(The) gloves are off!</u></b></p>	<p>This expression is used when there are <u>signs that a fight is about to start</u>.</p> <p><u>"The two candidates are out of their seats. The gloves are off!"</u></p>	

<p><b><u>Go ballistic</u></b></p>	<p><u>When someone goes ballistic, they become very angry.</u>  <u>"My dad went ballistic when he saw the state of the garden after the barbecue."</u></p>	
<p><b><u>Go off the deep end</u></b></p>	<p><u>A person who goes off the deep end becomes suddenly very angry or emotional.</u>  <u>"The old lady went off the deep end when her cat was killed."</u></p>	
<p><b><u>Go spare</u></b></p>	<p><u>If you go spare you lose your temper completely.</u>  <u>"Lea's dad would go spare if he found out how much she had spent in London!"</u></p>	
<p><b><u>Go through the roof</u></b></p>	<p><u>If someone goes through the roof, they become very angry</u>  <u>"His father went through the roof when Paul damaged his new car."</u></p>	
<p><b><u>Good riddance!</u></b></p>	<p><u>This expression is used to express relief at becoming free of an unpleasant or unwanted person or thing.</u>  <u>"Our horrible neighbour has moved house, and all I can say is 'good riddance!'"</u></p>	
<p><b><u>Harp on (about) something</u></b></p>	<p><u>If you harp on (about) something, you tire others by continuously and tediously talking about it.</u>  <u>"My parents are always harping on about my school results."</u></p>	
<p><b><u>Haul someone over the coals</u></b></p>	<p><u>If you haul someone over the coals, you reprimand them harshly because they have done something wrong or incorrectly.</u>  <u>"He was hauled over the coals for the poor quality of his presentation."</u></p>	

<p><b><u>Hot under the collar</u></b></p>	<p>If you get <b>hot under the collar</b>, you feel annoyed, indignant or embarrassed.</p> <p>"If anyone criticizes his proposals, Joe immediately gets hot under the collar."</p>	
<p><b><u>Jump down someone's throat</u></b></p>	<p>If you <b>jump down someone's throat</b>, you suddenly start shouting at them in a very angry manner.</p> <p>"When I said the instructions were not very clear, she jumped down my throat."</p>	
<p><b><u>Kick yourself</u></b></p>	<p>If you feel like <b>kicking yourself</b>, you are angry with yourself for something you have done or not done.</p> <p>"I could have kicked myself for forgetting Julie's birthday."</p>	
<p><b><u>Like a red flag to a bull</u></b></p>	<p>To say that a statement or action is <b>like a red flag to a bull</b> means that it is sure to make someone very angry or upset.</p> <p>"Don't mention Tom's promotion to Mike. It would be like a red flag to a bull!"</p>	
<p><b><u>Like a ton of bricks</u></b></p>	<p>If somebody <b>comes down on you like a ton of bricks</b>, they criticize you severely because you have done something wrong.</p> <p>"If you mix up the order the boss will come down on you like a ton of bricks!"</p>	
<p><b><u>Look daggers at someone</u></b></p>	<p>Someone who <b>looks daggers</b> at another looks at them very angrily.</p> <p>"David looked daggers at Paul when he invited his new girlfriend to dance."</p>	

<p><b><u>Make one's hackles rise</u></b></p>	<p>If someone <b><u>makes your hackles rise</u></b>, they make you <u>angry</u>.  <u>"Her constant criticism really makes my hackles rise!"</u></p>	
<p><b><u>Make a song and dance</u></b></p>	<p>If someone complains in an <u>annoying way</u> or <u>becomes unnecessarily excited</u> about something unimportant, they <b><u>make a song and dance</u></b> about it.  <u>"OK. You don't like carrots! There's no need to make a song and dance about it!"</u></p>	
<p><b><u>Mind their own business</u></b></p>	<p>Telling someone to <b><u>mind their own business</u></b> is a way of saying that they are too interested in what other people are <u>doing</u>, or that they are <u>interfering in something that does not concern them</u>.  <u>"Don't tell me what to do - just mind your own business!"</u></p>	
<p><b><u>More heat than light</u></b></p>	<p>If a discussion or debate generates <b><u>more heat than light</u></b>, it <u>causes anger or intense reaction</u> but doesn't clarify anything.  <u>"The meeting that was held to discuss the problem generated more heat than light."</u></p>	
<p><b><u>Have a quick temper</u></b></p>	<p>If you have a <b><u>quick temper</u></b>, you get angry very easily.  <u>"He makes me nervous - he's got such a quick temper."</u></p>	
<p><b><u>Rant and rave</u></b></p>	<p>If you <b><u>rant and rave</u></b> about something, you protest <u>noisily and forcefully</u>.  <u>"The old man ranted and raved about the new waste collection system, but he had to accept it."</u></p>	
<p><b><u>Rap on the knuckles</u></b></p>	<p>If someone <b><u>gets a rap on/across the knuckles</u></b>, they <u>are</u></p>	

	<p><u>punished or reprimanded, not very severely, but as a reminder</u>  <u>not to do that again.</u>  <u>"Andy got a rap on the knuckles for coming home late."</u></p>	
<b><u>Road rage</u></b>	<p><u>Aggressive driving habits sometimes resulting in violence against</u>  <u>other drivers.</u>  <u>"A number of car accidents today are a result of road rage."</u></p>	
<b><u>Scream blue murder</u></b>	<p><u>Someone who screams blue murder shouts or complains</u>  <u>very loudly as if something very serious has happened.</u>  <u>"The crowd started screaming blue murder when the football</u>  <u>match was interrupted."</u></p>	
<b><u>Short fuse</u></b>	<p><u>When someone has a short fuse, they are likely to become</u>  <u>angry easily or quickly.</u>  <u>"Be careful how you explain the situation. The boss has a very</u>  <u>short fuse these days!"</u></p>	
<b><u>See red</u></b>	<p><u>If someone sees red, they suddenly become very angry or</u>  <u>annoyed about something.</u>  <u>"Discrimination of any kind makes me see red!"</u></p>	
<b><u>Skin someone alive</u></b>	<p><u>If you are angry and threaten to skin someone alive, you mean</u>  <u>that you are going to punish them severely.</u>  <u>"If that kid damages my car again, I'll skin him alive!"</u></p>	
<b><u>Smooth somebody's ruffled feathers</u></b>	<p><u>If you smooth somebody's ruffled feathers, you make that</u>  <u>person feel less angry or offended.</u>  <u>"Tom took the criticism badly, but James managed to smooth</u>  <u>his ruffled feathers"</u></p>	

<p><b><u>Steamed up</u></b></p>	<p>If someone is or gets <b>steamed up</b> about something, <u>they</u> <u>become very angry, excited or enthusiastic about it.</u>  <u>"Calm down - there's no need to get all steamed up about it! "</u></p>	
<p><b><u>Step/tread on someone's toes</u></b></p>	<p>If you annoy or irritate somebody by intervening in a situation that <u>is their responsibility, you <b>step on their toes.</b></u>  <u>"I could offer some advice but I'm afraid of stepping on someone's toes."</u></p>	
<p><b><u>Stick in one's throat (or crawl)</u></b></p>	<p>If a situation, or someone's attitude, <b>sticks in your throat</b> <u>(or crawl), it is difficult to accept and makes you angry or</u> <u>resentful.</u>  <u>"The way he treats women really sticks in my throat!"</u></p>	
<p><b><u>A storm is brewing</u></b></p>	<p>To say that <b>a storm is brewing</b> means that the <u>atmosphere</u> <u>indicates that there is going to be trouble, probably with outbursts</u> <u>of anger or emotion.</u>  <u>"As soon as we saw Pete's face, we knew there was a storm brewing."</u></p>	
<p><b><u>Tear a strip off someone</u></b></p>	<p>If you <b>tear a strip off someone</b>, you reprimand them <u>severely</u> <u>for doing something wrong.</u>  <u>"The teacher tore a strip off Charlie for being late again."</u></p>	
<p><b><u>Tell someone a thing or two</u></b></p>	<p>If you <b>tell someone a thing or two</b>, you express your <u>thoughts</u> <u>(usually criticism) very clearly.</u>  <u>"Let me tell you a thing or two about your son's behaviour"</u> <u>said John to the boy's father.</u></p>	
<p><b><u>That makes my blood</u></b></p>	<p>If something <b>makes your blood boil</b>, it makes you</p>	

<b><u>boil!</u></b>	<p>really angry.</p> <p><u>"His condescending attitude made my blood boil!"</u></p>	
<b><u>That's going too far!</u></b>	<p>If you <b>go too far</b>, you do something that is considered extreme or unacceptable.</p> <p><u>"Stealing is bad, but stealing from a poor person - <b>that's going too far!</b>"</u></p>	
<b><u>That takes the biscuit!</u></b>	<p>This expression refers to something very irritating or annoying.</p> <p><u>"After waiting for an hour, we were told that there were no seats left.</u></p> <p><u>That really <b>took the biscuit!</b>"</u></p>	
<b><u>That's the last straw!</u></b>	<p>The expression means that this is the latest unpleasant event, and that you cannot tolerate the situation any longer.</p> <p><u>"The kids are screaming, dinner is not ready, and now the dog has run away - <b>that's the last straw!</b>"</u></p>	
<b><u>Throw a wobbly (or a wobbler)</u></b>	<p>When someone (usually a capricious person) <b>throws a wobbly</b>, they have a fit of nerves or bad temper and lose all self-control.</p> <p><u>"He's very calm - not the type of man who'll throw a wobbly when he doesn't have a clean shirt!"</u></p>	
<b><u>Try somebody's patience</u></b>	<p>Someone who finds it difficult to be patient with you, because of your irritating attitude or behaviour, can say that you are <b>trying their patience</b>.</p> <p><u>"His constant interruptions began to try the teacher's patience."</u></p>	
<b><u>Vent your spleen</u></b>	<p>When you <b>vent your spleen</b>, you release or express all your anger about something.</p>	

	<p><u>"Whenever Jack is angry about new government measures, he vents his spleen by writing to newspapers."</u></p>	
<p><u>Want someone's head on a platter</u></p>	<p><u>If someone makes you so angry that you want them to be punished, you <b>want their head on a platter.</b></u></p> <p><u>"He was so angry when he read the article about his family that he wanted the journalist's head on a platter."</u></p>	
<p><u>Wink of sleep</u></p>	<p><u>If someone <b>doesn't get a wink of sleep</b>, they don't sleep at all.</u></p> <p><u>"It was so noisy in the hotel, I didn't get a wink of sleep."</u></p>	

<p><u>Ants in one's pants</u></p>	<p>People who <b>have ants in their pants</b> are very restless or excited about something</p> <p>"I wish he'd relax. He's got ants in his pants about something today!"</p>
<p><b>Make an <u>ass</u> of yourself</b></p>	<p>If you behave so stupidly that you appear ridiculous, you <b>make an ass of yourself.</b></p> <p>"Tom made an ass of himself by singing a love song outside Julie's door!"</p>
<p><b>Like a <u>bat</u> out of hell</b></p>	<p>If something moves <b>like a bat out of hell</b>, it moves very quickly.</p> <p>"He grabbed the envelope and ran like a bat out of hell."</p>
<p><b>Like a <u>bear</u> with a sore head</b></p>	<p>If someone is behaving <b>like a bear with a sore head</b>, they are very irritable and bad-tempered.</p> <p>"When his team lost the match, Brad was like a bear with a sore head."</p>
<p><b>Break the back of the <u>beast</u></b></p>	<p>If someone <b>breaks the back of the beast</b>, they succeed in overcoming a major difficulty.</p> <p>"After hours of effort, the technicians finally broke the back of the beast and turned the electricity back on again."</p>
<p><b>Eager <u>beaver</u></b></p>	<p>The term <b>eager beaver</b> refers to a person who is hardworking and</p>



	<p>enthusiastic, sometimes considered overzealous.</p> <p>"The new accountant works all the time - first to arrive and last to leave - a real eager beaver!"</p>
<b>Have a <u>bee</u> in one's bonnet</b>	<p>A person who has a <b>bee in their bonnet</b> has an idea which constantly occupies their thoughts.</p> <p>"She's got a bee in her bonnet about moving to New York."</p>
<b>The <u>bee's</u> knees</b>	<p>If you say that someone or something is the <b>bee's knees</b>, you think they are exceptionally good.</p> <p>"Julie thinks she's the bee's knees" means that Julie has a high opinion of herself!</p>
<b><u>Birds</u> of a feather</b>	<p>To say that two people are <b>birds of a feather</b> means that they are very similar in many ways.</p>
<b>For the <u>birds</u></b>	<p>If you think something is <b>for the birds</b>, you consider it to be uninteresting, useless, or not to be taken seriously.</p> <p>"As far as I'm concerned, his theory is <b>for the birds!</b>"</p>
<b>Kill two <u>birds</u> with one stone.</b>	<p>If you <b>kill two birds with one stone</b>, you succeed in doing two things at the same time.</p> <p>"By studying on the train on the way home every week-end, Claire kills two birds with one stone."</p>
<b>Bitten by the <u>bug</u></b>	<p>If you develop a sudden interest or enthusiasm for something, you are <b>bitten by the bug</b>.</p> <p>"My dad decided to take up golf and was immediately bitten by the bug."</p>
<b>Snug as a <u>bug</u> in a rug.</b>	<p>This is a humorous way of saying that you are warm and comfortable.</p> <p>"Wrapped up in a blanket on the sofa, she looked as snug as a bug in a rug."</p>
<b>Like a red flag to a <u>bull</u></b>	<p>To say that a statement or action is <b>like a red flag to a bull</b> means that it is sure to make someone very angry or upset.</p> <p>"Don't mention Tom's promotion to Mike. It would be like a red flag to a bull!"</p>
<b>Take the <u>bull</u> by the horns</b>	<p>To <b>take the bull by the horns</b> means that a person decides to</p>

	<p>act decisively in order to deal with a difficult situation or problem.</p> <p>"After a number of children were hurt in the school playground, Sally took the bull by the horns and called the headmaster."</p>
<p><b>Face like a <u>bulldog</u> chewing a wasp</b></p>	<p>To say that someone has a <b>face like a bulldog chewing a wasp</b> means that you find them very unattractive because they have a screwed-up ugly expression on their face.</p> <p>"Not only was he rude but he had a face like a bulldog chewing a wasp!"</p>
<p><b>A social <u>butterfly</u></b></p>	<p>This term refers to a person who has a lot of friends and acquaintances and likes to flit from one social event to another.</p> <p>"Julie is constantly out and about; she's a real <b>social butterfly</b>."</p>
<p><b>A <u>cat</u> in gloves catches no mice</b></p>	<p>This expression means that if you are too careful and polite, you may not obtain what you want.</p> <p>"Negotiate carefully, but remember : <b>a cat in gloves catches no mice!</b>"</p>
<p><b>A <u>cat</u> can look at a king.</b></p>	<p>This expression means that nobody is so important that an ordinary person cannot look at or be curious about them.</p>
<p><b>A fat <u>cat</u></b></p>	<p>To refer to a rich and powerful person as <b>a fat cat</b> means that you disapprove of the way they use their money or power.</p> <p>"The place was full of fat cats on their big yachts."</p>
<p><b>Like herding <u>cats</u></b></p>	<p>This expression refers to the difficulty of coordinating a situation which involves people who all want to act independently.</p> <p>"Organizing an outing for a group of people from different countries is <b>like herding cats!</b>"</p>
<p><b>Let the <u>cat</u> out of the bag</b></p>	<p>If you <b>let the cat out of the bag</b>, you reveal a secret, often not intentionally.</p> <p>"When the child told her grandmother about the plans for her birthday, she let the cat out of the bag. It was supposed to be a secret!"</p>
<p><b>Like a <u>cat</u> on hot bricks</b></p>	<p>A person who is <b>like a cat on hot bricks</b> is very nervous or restless.</p> <p>"The week before the results were published, she was like a cat</p>

	<p>on hot bricks."</p>
<p><b>Like a scalded <u>cat</u></b></p>	<p>If someone or something moves <b>like a scalded cat</b>, they move very fast, usually because they are frightened or shocked. "As soon as he saw the policeman, he ran off like a scalded cat."</p>
<p><b>Like the <u>cat</u> that ate the canary</b></p>	<p>If, after an achievement or success, a person appears very self-satisfied or pleased with themselves, you can say that they <b>look like the cat that ate the canary</b>. "When the boss complimented him on his work, Steve looked like the cat that ate the canary."</p>
<p><b>Like something the <u>cat</u> dragged in</b></p>	<p>If you compare a person or thing to <b>something the cat dragged in</b>, you think they look dirty, untidy or generally unappealing. "My teenage son often looks like something the cat dragged in."</p>
<p><b>Like <u>cat and dog</u></b></p>	<p>Two people who fight or argue <b>like cat and dog</b> frequently have violent arguments, even though they are fond of each other. "They fight like cat and dog but they're still together after 30 years."</p>
<p><b>Wait for the <u>cat</u> to jump</b></p>	<p>If you <b>wait for the cat to jump</b>, or to see which way the cat jumps, you delay taking action until you see how events will turn out. "Let's wait for the cat to jump before we decide."</p>
<p><b>Cat's whiskers</b> (also: the cat's <b>pyjamas</b>)</p>	<p>This expression refers to someone who considers themselves to be better than others in a particular area - beauty, competence, intelligence, sport, etc., "Ever since she got a promotion, she thinks she's the <b>cat's whiskers!</b>"</p>
<p><b>Fight/argue like <u>cat and dog</u></b></p>	<p>Two people who <b>fight</b> or <b>argue like cat and dog</b> frequently have violent arguments, even though they are fond of each other. "They fight like cat and dog but they're still together after 30 years."</p>
<p><b><u>Cat-and-dog</u> life</b> (Also: argue/fight like cat and dog)</p>	<p>This term refers to a life in which partners are constantly or frequently quarrelling. "They lead a <b>cat-and-dog life</b>. I don't know why they stay together."</p>
<p><b>Like herding <u>cats</u></b></p>	<p>This expression refers to the difficulty of coordinating a situation</p>

	<p>which involves people who all want to act independently.</p> <p>"Organizing an outing for a group of people from different countries is like herding cats!"</p>
<b><u>Raining cats and dogs</u></b>	<p>If it's <b>raining cats and dogs</b>, it's raining very heavily.</p> <p>"We'll have to cancel the picnic I'm afraid. It's raining cats and dogs."</p>
<b><u>Play cat and mouse</u></b>	<p>To <b>play cat and mouse</b> with someone means to treat them alternately cruelly and kindly, so that they do not know what to expect.</p>
<b><u>Chicken feed</u></b>	<p>An amount of money considered small or unimportant is called <b>chicken feed</b>.</p> <p>"I got a job during the holidays but the pay was chicken feed."</p>
<b><u>Chicken out of something</u></b>	<p>If you <b>chicken out</b> of something, you decide not to do something because you are afraid.</p> <p>"He decided to join a karate class, but chickened out of it at the last minute!"</p>
<b><u>Like a headless chicken</u></b>	<p>If a person rushes about <b>like a headless chicken</b>, they act in a disorderly way, without thinking or analyzing the situation carefully.</p> <p>"As soon as the store opened, my mother started running around like a headless chicken, eager to find bargains."</p>
<b><u>No spring chicken</u></b>	<p>To say that someone is <b>no spring chicken</b> means that they are quite old or well past their youth.</p> <p>"How old is the owner?" "I don't know but she's no spring chicken."</p>
<b><u>Wave a dead chicken</u></b>	<p>When faced with a serious problem, if you take steps that you know in advance will be futile, but will show that you made an effort, you <b>wave a dead chicken</b>.</p> <p>"The TV set was permanently damaged, but the technician decided to wave a dead chicken to satisfy the old lady before announcing the bad news."</p>

<p><b><u>Chickens</u> come home to roost</b></p>	<p>If you say that <b>chickens have some home to roost</b>, you mean that bad or embarrassing things said or done in the past by someone are now causing problems for that person.          "As tenants the couple were noisy and disorderly. Now they can't find a place to rent. The chickens have come home to roost! "</p>
<p><b>A cash <u>cow</u></b></p>	<p>A product or service which is a regular source of income for a company is called a <b>cash cow</b>.          "His latest invention turned out to be a real cash cow."</p>
<p><b>Till the <u>cows</u> come home</b></p>	<p>To say that a person could do something <b>till the cows come home</b> means that they could do it for a long time.          "You can ask till the cows come home, but I'm not buying you a scooter!"</p>
<p><b>Why buy a <u>cow</u> when you can get milk for free?</b></p>	<p>This expression refers to not paying for something that you can obtain for free.          (Sometimes used to refer to a decision not to marry when you can have the benefits of marriage without any commitment.)  <i>Rent is high so Bobby is still living with his parents. He says:</i>  <b>Why buy a cow when you can get milk for free?</b></p>
<p><b><u>Crocodile</u> tears</b></p>	<p>To shed <b>crocodile tears</b> means to shed false tears or show insincere grief.          "Caroline pretended to be sad but we all knew her tears were crocodile tears."</p>
<p><b><u>Eat</u> crow</b></p>	<p>If you <b>eat crow</b>, you admit that you were wrong about something and apologize.          "He had no option but to eat crow and admit that his analysis was wrong."</p>
<p><b>As the <u>crow</u> flies</b></p>	<p>This expression refers to distance measured in a straight line.          "It's two miles from here to the station <b>as the crow flies</b>, but of course it's much further by road."</p>

<p><b>Cloud <u>cuckoo</u> land</b></p>	<p>This expression refers to an imaginary unrealistic place where everything is perfect and impossible things can happen.  "Anyone who thinks these measures are going to solve the crisis are living in <b>cloud-cuckoo-land!</b>"</p>
<p><b>Like a <u>deer</u>/rabbit caught in the headlights</b></p>	<p>When you are so surprised that you are momentarily confused and unable to react quickly, you are <b>like a deer</b> (or a rabbit) <b>caught in the headlights</b>.  "Surprised by the journalist's question, he was like a deer caught in the headlights."</p>
<p><b>Dead as a <u>dodo</u></b></p>	<p>To say that something is <b>(as) dead as a dodo</b> means that it is without doubt dead or obsolete, or has gone out of fashion. (The dodo is a bird that is now extinct.)  "The floppy disk is an invention that is now (as) dead as a dodo."</p>
<p><b><u>Dog's</u> breakfast</b></p>	<p>To describe something as <b>a dog's breakfast</b> means that it is a complete mess.  "The new secretary made a dog's breakfast out of the filing system!"</p>
<p><b><u>Dog's</u> life</b></p>	<p>People use this expression when complaining about a situation or job which they find unpleasant or unsatisfactory.  "It's <b>a dog's life</b> working in the after-sales department."</p>
<p><b><u>Dog</u> eat dog</b></p>	<p>This expression refers to intense competition and rivalry in pursuit of one's own interests, with no concern for morality.  "The business world is tough today. There's a general <b>dog-eat-dog</b> attitude."</p>
<p><b><u>Dog</u> in the manger</b></p>	<p>A person referred to as <b>a dog in the manger</b> is someone who stops others enjoying something he cannot use or doesn't want.  "Bob's a real dog in the manger; he's not free to play golf but he won't lend his golf clubs to anyone."</p>
<p><b><u>Dog</u> and pony show</b></p>	<p>A <b>dog and pony show</b> is a marketing event or presentation which has plenty of style but not much content.</p>
<p><b>Crooked as a <u>dog's</u> hind leg</b></p>	<p>To say that someone is as <b>crooked as a dog's hind leg</b> means that they are very dishonest indeed.  "He can't be trusted - he's as crooked as a dog's hind leg."</p>

<p><b>Every <u>dog</u> has its day</b></p>	<p>This expression means that everyone can be successful at something at some time in their life.</p> <p>"I didn't win this time, but I'll be lucky one day. <b>Every dog has its day!</b>"</p>
<p><b>Hair of the <u>dog</u> that bit you</b></p>	<p>This expression means that you use as a remedy a small amount of what made you ill, for example a drink of alcohol when recovering from drinking too much.</p> <p>"Here, have a drop of this. It's a little <b>hair of the dog that bit you!</b>"</p>
<p><b>Give a <u>dog</u> a bad name</b></p>	<p>People who lose their reputation have difficulty regaining it because others continue to blame or suspect them.</p> <p>"Tom was suspected as usual. <b>Give a dog a bad name!</b>"</p>
<p><b>Help a lame <u>dog</u> over stile</b></p>	<p>If you <b>help a lame dog over stile</b>, you help someone who is in difficulty or trouble.</p> <p>"You can trust him - he always helps a lame dog over a stile."</p>
<p><b>Like a <u>dog</u> with two tails.</b></p>	<p>If somebody is <b>like a dog with two tails</b>, they are extremely happy.</p> <p>"When Paul won the first prize, he was like a dog with two tails."</p>
<p><b>A <u>dog's</u> breakfast</b></p>	<p>To describe something as a <b>dog's breakfast</b> means that it is a complete mess.</p> <p>"The new secretary made a dog's breakfast out of the filing system!"</p>
<p><b>(as) quick as a <u>dog</u> can lick a dish</b></p>	<p>If you do something surprisingly fast, or suddenly, you do it <b>as quick as a dog can lick a dish</b>.</p> <p>"He packed his bag as quick as a dog can lick a dish."</p>
<p><b>The tail wagging the <u>dog</u></b></p>	<p>This expression is used to refer to a situation where there is a reversal of roles, with a small or minor element of something having a controlling influence on the most important element.</p> <p>"If you let your children decide on everything, it will be a case of <b>the tail wagging the dog</b>."</p>

<p><b>Old <u>dog</u> for a hard road</b></p>	<p>This expression means that experience is invaluable when one is faced with a difficult task.          "The case calls for an experienced lawyer, an old dog for a hard road."</p>
<p><b>Small <u>dog</u>, tall weeds</b></p>	<p>This expression is used to refer to someone you think is incapable or does not have the resources to perform a task.          "It may be too difficult for the trainee - <b>small dog, tall weeds!</b>"</p>
<p><b>(You can't) teach an old <u>dog</u> new tricks.</b></p>	<p>This expression means that someone who is used to doing things in a certain way will find it difficult to change their habits.          "Your grandfather will never use a smart phone. <b>You can't teach an old dog new tricks.</b>"</p>
<p><b>Why keep a <u>dog</u> and bark yourself?</b></p>	<p>This expression means that if someone can do a task for you, there's no reason to do it yourself.          "The shuttle stops in front of our house but my father continues to drive to the airport. <b>Why keep a dog and bark yourself!</b>"</p>
<p><b>Go to the <u>dogs</u></b></p>	<p>To say that a company, organization or country is <b>going to the dogs</b> means that it is becoming less successful or efficient than before.          "Some think the company will go to the dogs if it is nationalized."</p>
<p><b>Let sleeping <u>dogs</u> lie</b></p>	<p>If you tell somebody to <b>let sleeping dogs lie</b>, you are asking them not to interfere with a situation because they could cause problems.          "Look - they've settled their differences. It's time to let sleeping dogs lie."</p>
<p><b>Love me, love my <u>dog</u></b></p>	<p>This expression means that if someone loves you, they must love everything about you, including everyone and everything that you love.</p>
<p><b>My <u>dogs</u> are barking</b></p>	<p>When a person says that their <b>dogs are barking</b> they mean that their feet are hurting.          "I've been shopping all day. My dogs are barking."</p>



<b><u>Donkey work</u></b>	<p>This expression is used to describe the unpleasant, boring parts of a job.</p> <p>"I do <b>the donkey work</b> - my boss gets the credit!"</p>
<b>Talk the hind leg off a <u>donkey</u></b>	<p>This expression is used to describe a very talkative person.</p> <p>"It's difficult to end a conversation with Betty. She could <b>talk the hind leg off a donkey!</b>"</p>
<b>Take to something like a <u>duck to water</u></b>	<p>If you <b>take to something like a duck to water</b>, you do it naturally and easily, without fear or hesitation.</p> <p>"When Sophie first tried skiing, she took to it like a duck to water"</p>
<b>A dead <u>duck</u></b>	<p>This expression refers to a project or scheme which has been abandoned or is certain to fail.</p> <p>"The new cinema is going to be a <b>dead duck</b> because it's too far away from the town centre."</p>
<b>A lame <u>duck</u></b>	<p>A person or organization that is in difficulty and unable to manage without help is called a <b>lame duck</b>.</p> <p>"Some banks have become lame ducks recently."</p>
<b>A sitting <u>duck</u></b>	<p>A <b>sitting duck</b> is an easy target, a person who is easy to deceive.</p> <p>"The young girl was a sitting duck for the photographer."</p>
<b>Get your <u>ducks in a row</u></b>	<p>This expression means that you are trying to get things well organized.</p> <p>"We need to <b>get our ducks in a row</b> if we want our project to succeed."</p>
<b>Like water off a <u>duck's back</u></b>	<p>To say that something, such as criticism or advice, is <b>like water off a duck's back</b> means that it has no effect at all.</p> <p>"He's warned of the dangers of smoking but it's like water off a duck's back."</p>
<b><u>Eagle eyes</u></b>	<p>Someone who has <b>eagle eyes</b> sees or notices things more easily than others.</p> <p>"Tony will help us find it - he's got eagle eyes!"</p>
<b><u>Elephant in the room</u></b>	<p>A problem that no one wants to discuss, but is so obvious that it cannot be ignored, is called <b>an elephant in the room</b>.</p> <p>"Let's face it - his work is unsatisfactory."</p>

	That's the elephant in the room that we need to discuss."
<b><u>Fish in troubled waters</u></b>	<p>If you <b>fish in troubled waters</b>, you try to gain advantages for yourself from a disturbed state of affairs.</p> <p>"Between the declaration of independence and the first elections, some people were accused of fishing in troubled waters."</p>
<b><u>Fish out of water</u></b>	<p>If you feel like a <b>fish out of water</b>, you feel uncomfortable because of an unfamiliar situation or unfamiliar surroundings.</p> <p>"As a non-golfer, I felt like a fish out of water at the clubhouse."</p>
<b><u>Big fish in a small pond</u></b>	<p>This term is used to refer to an important or highly-ranked person in a small group or organization.</p> <p>"He could get a job with a big company but he enjoys being a <b>big fish in a small pond</b>."</p>
<b><u>A different kettle of fish</u></b>	<p>To describe a person, thing or situation as a <b>different kettle of fish</b> means that it is completely different from what was previously mentioned.</p> <p>"You may have good business relations, but living in the country is a different kettle of fish."</p>
<b><u>Drink like a fish</u></b>	<p>A person who <b>drinks like a fish</b> is a heavy drinker or one who drinks a lot.</p> <p>"I'm nervous if Joe drives when we go out because he drinks like a fish!"</p>
<b><u>Have other fish to fry</u></b>	<p>A person who has <b>other fish to fry</b>, has more important things to do.</p> <p>"I don't think he'll attend the office party; he's got other fish to fry."</p>
<b><u>There are (plenty of) other fish in the sea</u></b>	<p>To say this means that there are many other people just as good as the one somebody failed to get.</p> <p>"The candidate we chose refused the job? Never mind - there are other fish in the sea!"</p>

<p><b>Neither <u>fish nor fowl</u></b></p>	<p>This is said to describe people or things that are difficult to classify, that are neither one thing nor another. Interns are <b>neither fish nor fowl</b>. They are neither students nor fully qualified practitioners.</p>
<p><b>Sounds or smells <u>fishy</u></b></p>	<p>If something <b>sounds or smells fishy</b>, you are suspicious about it. "Do you believe what she said? Her story sounds fishy to me."</p>
<p><b>Happy as a <u>flea</u> in a doghouse</b></p>	<p>If someone is (as) <b>happy as a flea in a doghouse</b>, they are very happy and contented. "Since she moved to a smaller apartment, my mother is (as) happy as a flea in a doghouse."</p>
<p><b><u>Flea</u> in one's ear</b></p>	<p>After an attempt at something, if you are sent away with <b>a flea in your ear</b>, you are angrily reprimanded or humiliated. "When he tried to put the blame on Pete, he was sent away with a flea in his ear."</p>
<p><b>Drop like <u>flies</u></b></p>	<p>If people <b>drop like flies</b>, they fall ill or die in large numbers. "There's an epidemic of flu at the moment. Senior citizens are dropping like flies."</p>
<p><b><u>Fly</u> in the ointment</b></p>	<p>The expression <b>a fly in the ointment</b> refers to someone or something that prevents a situation from being completely satisfactory. "Tony's poor English was a fly in the ointment when he applied for the job."</p>
<p><b><u>Fly</u> on the wall</b></p>	<p>This expression is used to describe a person who watches a situation without being noticed. "I'd like to be <b>a fly on the wall</b> when the management discusses my project."</p>
<p><b>Juggle <u>frogs</u></b></p>	<p>A person who is <b>juggling frogs</b> is trying to deal with many different tasks at the same time and finding the situation difficult. "I've got so many things to do at the moment, I feel like I'm juggling frogs."</p>
<p><b>Have a <u>frog</u> in one's throat</b></p>	<p>A person who has <b>a frog in their throat</b> has difficulty in</p>

	<p>speaking clearly, because they have a cough or a sore throat.</p> <p>"Teaching was difficult today. I had a frog in my throat all morning."</p>
<b>Take/have a <u>gander</u></b>	<p>If you <b>take or have a gander</b> at something, which is generally new or unusual, you have a look at it or go to check it out.</p> <p>"Let's take a gander at the new shopping centre. Sally says it's fantastic!"</p>
<b>All his <u>geese</u> are swans</b>	<p>This expression refers to someone who constantly exaggerates the importance of somebody or something.</p> <p>"Don't let him impress you. He always exaggerates; <b>all his geese are swans!</b>"</p>
<b>Cook somebody's <u>goose</u></b>	<p>To <b>cook somebody's goose</b> means to spoil that person's chance of success.</p> <p>"When the burglar saw the police car arriving, he realized his goose was cooked."</p>
<b>Have <u>goose</u> pimples</b>	<p>If you <b>have goose pimples</b>, you are so cold or so afraid that your skin is temporarily raised into little lumps.</p> <p>"I was so scared that I had goose pimples all through the film!"</p>
<b>A wild <u>goose</u> chase :</b>	<p>If you say that you were sent on a <b>wild goose chase</b>, you mean that you wasted a lot of time looking for something that there was little chance of finding.</p> <p>"They tried to find out who sent the anonymous complaint, but it turned out to be a wild goose chase."</p>
<b>Knee-high to a <u>grasshopper</u></b>	<p>This term refers to a very young and small child</p> <p>"Look how tall you are! Last time I saw you, you were <b>knee-high to a grasshopper!</b>"</p>
<b><u>Guinea pig</u></b>	<p>People who are used as <b>guinea pigs</b> are people on whom new methods, treatment or ideas are tested.</p>
<b>Run with the <u>hare</u> and hunt with the hounds</b>	<p>This expression refers to someone who wants to stay on friendly terms with both sides in a quarrel</p> <p>"Bob always wants to keep everyone happy, but I'm afraid he</p>

	<p>can't</p> <p><b>run with the hare and hunt with the hounds</b> this time - the issue is too important.</p>
<b>Eyes like a <u>hawk</u></b>	<p>If you've got <b>eyes like a hawk</b>, you've got good eyesight and notice every detail.</p> <p>"Of course Dad will notice the scratch on his car - he's got eyes like a hawk! "</p>
<b>Watch someone like a <u>hawk</u></b>	<p>If you <b>watch someone like a hawk</b>, you keep your eyes on them or watch them very carefully.</p> <p>"Sarah watches the children like a hawk when she takes them swimming."</p>
<b>Go the whole <u>hog</u></b>	<p>When you <b>go the whole hog</b>, you do something thoroughly or completely.</p> <p>"They put up a few decorations for Christmas, then they decided to go the whole hog and buy a tree and all the trimmings."</p>
<b>Live high off the <u>hog</u></b>	<p>Someone who <b>lives high off the hog</b> has a lot of money and a very comfortable lifestyle.</p> <p>"Now he's wealthy and living high off the hog."</p>
<b>Stir up a <u>hornet's nest</u></b>	<p>If you <b>stir up a hornet's nest</b>, you do something which causes a commotion and provokes criticism and anger.</p> <p>"His letter to the Board stirred up a real hornet's nest."</p>
<b><u>Horse</u> of a different colour</b>	<p>To describe a person or a problem as a <b>horse of a different colour</b> means either that the person does things differently from others or that the nature of the problem is a entirely different.</p> <p>"I expected to negotiate with the sales manager but the chairman turned up - now he's a horse of a different colour!"</p>
<b><u>Horse</u> sense</b>	<p>Someone who has <b>horse sense</b> is a practical thinker who has the ability to make sensible decisions.</p> <p>"Don't worry. Charlie has good horse sense. He'll do the right thing."</p>
<b>Back or bet on the wrong <u>horse</u></b>	<p>If you <b>back or bet on the wrong horse</b>, for example the loser in</p>

	<p>a contest, match or election, you support the wrong person. "When I voted for him, I was convinced he would win, but I backed the wrong horse!"</p>
<b>Beat (or flog) a <u>dead horse</u></b>	<p>To say that someone is <b>beating a dead horse</b> means that they are wasting time and effort trying to do or achieve something that is not possible. "Mark is beating a dead horse trying to get his money reimbursed. The company has gone bankrupt!"</p>
<b>Get on your <u>high horse</u></b>	<p>If you <b>get on your high horse</b>, you start behaving in a haughty manner, as though you should be treated with more respect. "He got on his high horse when he was asked to show his membership card."</p>
<b>A <u>dark horse</u></b>	<p>If you refer to a person as a "<b>dark horse</b>", you mean that they are secretive, or that little is known about them.</p>
<b>I could eat a <u>horse!</u></b>	<p>To say that you <b>could eat a horse</b> means that you are very hungry. "Let's get something to eat. I'm starving. I could eat a horse!"</p>
<b><u>One-horse town</u></b>	<p>A place referred to as a <b>one-horse town</b> is a small, boring town where nothing much ever happens. "I wish my grandparents didn't live in that one-horse town. It's such a boring place!"</p>
<b><u>Straight from the horse's mouth</u></b>	<p>If you learn something <b>straight from the horse's mouth</b>, you hear about it directly from a person closely connected with the source of the information. "How do you know Jack has resigned?" "I got it straight from the horse's mouth - he told me himself!"</p>
<b><u>Hold your horses</u></b>	<p>If you tell someone to <b>hold their horses</b>, you think they are doing something too fast and should slow down and not rush into further action. "Hold your horses! Don't rush into this without giving it careful</p>

	thought."
<b><u>Horses for courses</u></b>	<p>This expression means that as horses race better on a course that suits them, it is important to match people with suitable jobs or tasks.</p> <p>A person suited to one activity may not be suited to another.</p> <p>"His experience in sales doesn't necessarily make him ideal for the job.</p> <p>Horses for courses, as the saying goes."</p>
<b><u>Have kittens</u></b>	<p>To say you're going to <b>have kittens</b> is a dramatic way of expressing worry, anxiety or fear.</p> <p>"His mother nearly had kittens when Alex announced that he wanted to be a trapeze artist."</p>
<b><u>Lion's share</u></b>	<p>The <b>lion's share</b> of something is the largest portion, or the best part.</p> <p>"He left very little money to his children; the lion's share was donated to charity."</p>
<b><u>Beard the lion in his den</u></b>	<p>If you visit someone important in the place where they work, in order to challenge him/her or obtain something, you <b>beard the lion in his den</b>.</p> <p>"If he continues to refuse my calls, I'll have to beard him in his den."</p>
<b><u>Walk into the lion's den</u></b>	<p>If you <b>walk into the lion's den</b>, you find yourself in a difficult situation in which you have to face unfriendly or aggressive people.</p>
<b><u>Monkey business</u></b>	<p>An activity which is organized in a deceitful or dishonest way is called <b>monkey business</b>.</p> <p>"The results announced seem suspicious - I think there's some monkey business going on!"</p>
<b><u>More fun than a barrel of monkeys</u></b>	<p>If something is very amusing or enjoyable, you can say it is <b>more fun than a barrel of monkeys</b>.</p> <p>"The TV quiz was more fun than a barrel of monkeys."</p>
<b><u>Make a monkey (out) of someone</u></b>	<p>If you humiliate someone by making them appear ridiculous or foolish, you <b>make a monkey of</b> that person.</p>

	"That's enough teasing. Don't make a monkey out of him!"
<b>Like a <u>moth</u> to a flame</b>	To say that a person is attracted to someone or something <b>like a moth to a flame</b> means that the attraction is so strong they cannot resist. "He's drawn to the casino like a moth to a flame."
<b><u>Mouse</u> potato</b>	This term refers to a person who spends a lot of time in front of the computer. "My son and his friends are all <b>mouse potatoes</b> - constantly glued to the computer!"
<b>(as) quiet as a <u>mouse</u></b>	When someone is <b>as quiet as a mouse</b> , they make no noise at all. "The burglar was as quiet as a mouse as he moved around the house."
<b>As stubborn as a <u>mule</u></b>	If someone is <b>as stubborn as a mule</b> , they are very obstinate and unwilling to listen to reason or change their mind. "His friends advised him to accept the offer, but you know Jack - he's as stubborn as a mule!"
<b><u>Mutton</u> dressed as lamb</b>	This expression refers to a middle-aged or older woman trying to look younger than her age by dressing in clothes designed for younger people. "The style doesn't suit her at all - it has a ' <b>mutton dressed as lamb</b> ' effect."
<b><u>Ostrich</u> strategy/politics</b>	This term refers to the phenomenon of ignoring or evading an obvious problem in the hope that it will resolve itself or disappear. "Adopting <b>an ostrich strategy</b> will only make matters worse - we've got to find a solution!"
<b>Night <u>owl</u></b>	Someone who is lively and active at night and goes to bed very late is called a <b>night owl</b> . "I work better in the evenings than in the morning. My friends say I'm



	a night owl."
<b>The world is your <u>oyster</u></b>	This expression means that you are free and able to enjoy the pleasures and opportunities that life has to offer. "She left college feeling that the <b>world was her oyster.</b> "
<b>Proud as a <u>peacock</u></b>	A person who is <b>as proud as a peacock</b> is extremely proud. "When his son won first prize, Bill was as proud as a peacock."
<b><u>Pigs get fat, hogs get slaughtered</u></b>	You should be satisfied when you have enough; if you are <i>too</i> greedy, like a hog, you risk losing everything.
<b><u>Pigs might fly</u> (also: when pigs have wings)</b>	To say " <b>...and pigs might fly</b> " expresses disbelief, or the idea that miracles might happen but are extremely unlikely. "My grandmother buying a computer? ... Yeah, and pigs might fly!"
<b>(like putting) lipstick on a <u>pig</u></b>	This expression means that trying to 'dress up' something unappealing or ugly, in a vain attempt to make it look better, is like putting <b>lipstick on a pig.</b> "Flowers will not improve that ugly old bridge; every one agrees that it's lipstick on a pig."
<b>Make a <u>pig</u> of yourself</b>	If you <b>make a pig of yourself</b> , you eat and drink too much. "Watch what you eat - don't make a pig of yourself!"
<b><u>Make a pig's ear</u> (of something)</b>	If you <b>make a pig's ear</b> of something, you do a task or a chore very badly or make a complete mess of it. "Jack offered to paint the kitchen but he made a pig's ear of it."
<b>On the <u>pig's</u> back</b>	A person who is <b>on the pig's back</b> is in a state of luck and everything is going well for them. "Before the recession, Ireland was on the pig's back, but the situation has changed greatly."
<b>Stool <u>pigeon</u></b>	A person who acts as an informer, especially one who gives information to the police or the authorities, is called a <b>stool pigeon.</b> "I don't trust Jack, I think he's a stool pigeon for the manager."

<p><b>Shank's <u>pony</u></b></p>	<p>If you go somewhere on <b>Shank's pony</b>, you have to walk rather than travel by bus, car, etc.          "It was impossible to find a taxi after the party so it was Shank's pony for us!"</p>
<p><b>Play <u>possum</u> (opossum)</b></p>	<p>When someone <b>plays possum</b>, they pretend to be dead or asleep in order to avoid something unpleasant.          Sarah's not asleep. She's just playing possum because she doesn't want to come swimming.</p>
<p><b>Smell a <u>rat</u></b></p>	<p>To say "I <b>smell a rat</b>" means that you suspect that something is wrong, or that someone is doing something dishonest or incorrect.</p>
<p><b>Packed like <u>sardines</u></b></p>	<p>If a group of people are <b>packed like sardines</b>, they are pressed together tightly and uncomfortably because there is not enough space.          "The bus was very crowded - we were packed like sardines!"</p>
<p><b>Loan <u>shark</u></b></p>	<p>A <b>loan shark</b> is an unauthorised person who lends money at extremely high interest rates to people who are unable to obtain a loan from the bank.          "The young immigrant was beaten because he was late paying back money to a loan shark."</p>
<p><b>Black <u>sheep</u></b></p>	<p>The <b>black sheep</b> of the family is one who is very different from the others, and least respected by the other members of the family,</p>
<p><b><u>Snail</u> mail</b></p>	<p>This term refers to the standard system of mail delivery, or postal service, considered very slow compared to electronic mail.          "More and more people are using e-mail rather than traditional delivery services, <b>snail mail</b>."</p>
<p><b><u>Snail's</u> pace</b></p>	<p>If something moves <b>at a snail's pace</b>, it goes very slowly.          "The old man was driving the car at a snail's pace."</p>
<p><b>A <u>snake</u> in the grass</b></p>	<p>This expression refers to someone who pretends to be your friend while actually betraying you.          "I thought I could trust my new colleague but he turned out to</p>

	<p>be</p> <p><b>a snake in the grass."</b></p>
<b>Paper <u>tiger</u></b>	<p>This term refers to a person, organisation or country that is less powerful or threatening than they appear to be.</p> <p>"He threatens to take strong action but he's just a <b>paper tiger.</b>"</p>
<b>Cold <u>turkey</u></b>	<p>This term means to immediately and completely stop an addictive substance, a regular activity or a behavioural pattern, instead of ending it gradually.</p> <p>"When Dave decided to stop smoking, he did it cold turkey on January 1st."</p>
<b>Like <u>turkeys</u> voting for Christmas</b>	<p>This expression is used to say that a particular option is unlikely to be chosen because it would not be in the interest of the people concerned.</p> <p>(In many countries people eat turkey at Christmas.)</p> <p>"Expecting them to accept a decrease in salary would be <b>like turkeys voting for Christmas!</b>"</p>
<b>Face like a bulldog chewing a <u>wasp</u></b>	<p>To say that someone has a <b>face like a bulldog chewing a wasp</b> means that you find them very unattractive because they have a screwed-up ugly expression on their face.</p> <p>"Not only was he rude but he had a face like a bulldog chewing a wasp!"</p>
<b>Have a <u>whale</u> of a time</b>	<p>When people <b>have a whale of a time</b>, they enjoy themselves very much.</p> <p>"We had a whale of a time at the party last night."</p>
<b>Like kicking dead <u>whales</u> down the beach.</b>	<p>Expression used (especially in computing) to refer to a particularly slow and difficult process.</p> <p>"Getting him to adopt the new method is <b>like kicking dead whales down the beach.</b>"</p>
<b>A <u>wolf</u> in sheep's clothing</b>	<p>To describe someone as <b>a wolf in sheep's clothing</b> means that although the person looks harmless, they are really very dangerous.</p> <p>"He looks kind but in fact he's a wolf in sheep's clothing."</p>
<b>Cry <u>wolf</u></b>	<p>To <b>cry wolf</b> is to call for help when you are not really in danger. As a result, nobody believes you when you really need help.</p> <p>"There's Mary screaming again! Does she really have a problem or</p>

	is she just crying wolf again?"
<b>Keep the <u>wolf</u> from the door</b>	In order to <b>keep the wolf from the door</b> , you need to have enough money to buy food and other essentials. "My grandparents earned barely enough to keep the wolf from the door."
<b>Even a <u>worm</u> will turn</b>	This expression means that even someone who never complains will react in an intolerable situation. "Don't treat him so severely. He never protests, but <b>even a worm will turn!</b> "
<b><u>Worm</u> one's way into/out of something</b>	If a person <b>worms their way into or out of something</b> , they use artful or devious means in order to participate or avoid participating in something. "You're not going to worm yourself out of this. You must do your share!"
<b><u>Worm's-eye</u> view</b>	To offer a <b>worm's-eye view</b> of a situation is to give your opinion based on what you see at close range from an inferior position, so it is therefore not a general view. "I'm not sure I can be of much help. I can only offer you a worm's-eye view of the situation."
<b><u>Afraid</u> of one's own shadow</b>	A person who is <b>afraid of their own shadow</b> is very nervous or easily frightened. "I've never seen anyone so easily scared - she's afraid of her own shadow."
<b><u>Bated</u> breath</b>	If you wait for something <b>with bated breath</b> , you are both anxious and excited about an imminent event. "We waited with bated breath for the winner to be announced."
<b>Make your <u>blood</u> run cold</b>	If something <b>makes your blood run cold</b> , it shocks or scares you a lot. "The look in the prisoner's eyes made my blood run cold."
<b><u>Break</u> out in a cold sweat</b>	If you <b>break out in a cold sweat</b> , you start to perspire a lot, usually from anxiety.

	"I get nervous at the dentist's and usually break out in a cold sweat."
<b><u>Bundle of nerves</u></b>	If you describe somebody as a <b>bundle of nerves</b> , you mean that they are very nervous, tense or worried. "My son is doing his driving test today. Needless to say he's a bundle of nerves!"
<b>Have <u>butterflies</u> in your stomach</b>	If you have butterflies in your stomach, you are feeling very nervous. "At the beginning of an exam, I always have butterflies in my stomach."
<b><u>Can't stand the pace</u></b>	If you <b>can't stand the pace</b> , you are not able to do things well when there is a lot of pressure. "She once worked for a famous fashion designer but she couldn't stand the pace."
<b>Like a <u>cat on hot bricks</u></b>	A person who is <b>like a cat on hot bricks</b> is very nervous or restless. "The week before the results were published, she was like a cat on hot bricks."
<b>On the <u>edge of one's seat</u></b>	Someone who is <b>on the edge of their seat</b> is very interested in something and finds it both extremely exciting and nerve-wracking. "Look at Bob! He's on the edge of his seat watching that rugby match."
<b>Get your <u>fingers burnt</u></b>	If you <b>get your fingers burnt</b> , you suffer as a result of an unsuccessful action and are nervous about trying again. "He got his fingers so badly burnt in the last elections that he decided to withdraw from politics."
<b>Have one's <u>heart</u> in one's mouth</b>	Someone who has their <b>heart in their mouth</b> feels extremely anxious or nervous faced with a dangerous or unpleasant situation. "Emma had her heart in her mouth when she saw her 2 year-old son standing in front of the open window."
<b>Your <u>heart</u> misses a beat</b>	If your <b>heart misses a beat</b> , you have a sudden feeling of fear or excitement.

	"When the lights suddenly went out, her heart missed a beat."
<b><u>Heebie-jeebies</u></b>	A state of apprehension, nervousness or anxiety is called <b>the heebie-jeebies</b> . "Having to go down to the car park at night gives me the heebie-jeebies."
<b><u>Hold your breath</u></b>	If someone is <b>holding their breath</b> , they are waiting excitedly or anxiously for something to happen. "I went for second interview today - now I'm holding my breath!"
<b><u>If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen!</u></b>	This expression means that if you feel that there is too much pressure, you can leave. <i>Amid the growing tension the organizer declared:</i> <b>"If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen!"</b>
<b><u>Ignorance is bliss</u></b>	This expression means that if you don't know about a problem or unpleasant fact, you won't worry about it. "I didn't know our neighbour was an escaped prisoner until the police arrived - <b>ignorance is bliss!</b> "
<b><u>Get/have the jitters</u></b>	If you <b>get or have the jitters</b> , especially before an important event, you become very nervous or anxious and begin to shake. "Some people get the jitters when they have to make a speech."
<b><u>Have kittens</u></b>	To say you're going to <b>have kittens</b> is a dramatic way of expressing worry, anxiety or fear. "His mother nearly had kittens when Alex announced that he wanted to be a trapeze artist."
<b><u>Jump out of one's skin</u></b>	If you <b>jump out of your skin</b> , you are extremely surprised, scared or shocked. "Jane nearly jumped out of her skin when the horse put its head through the window!"
<b><u>Get your knickers in a twist.</u></b>	If you <b>get your knickers in twist</b> , you are nervous or upset faced with a difficult situation "Don't get your knickers in a twist! Everything is under control."

<b><u>Nerves of steel</u></b>	Someone who has <b>nerves of steel</b> is not afraid in a difficult or dangerous situation. "You need to have nerves of steel to drive on those mountain roads."
<b><u>On pins and needles</u></b>	Someone who is <b>on pins and needles</b> about something is very anxious or nervous about what will happen. "Scott was on pins and needles while he waited for the results of the exams."
<b><u>Quaking in one's boots</u></b>	When someone is extremely scared, it is said that they are <b>quaking in their boots</b> . "When he saw the crocodiles in the water, he started quaking in his boots."
<b><u>Scare somebody out of their wits</u></b>	If something <b>scares you out of your wits</b> , it makes you very frightened or worried. "The feeling that their house is haunted can scare people out of their wits."
<b><u>Scare the (living) daylight out of someone</u></b>	If something <b>scares the daylight</b> out of you, it terrifies you. "The sudden screaming scared the daylight out of me."
<b><u>Scared stiff</u></b>	Someone who is <b>scared stiff</b> is so frightened that they are unable to move. "My mother is scared stiff of heights."
<b><u>Shake like a leaf</u></b>	If you <b>shake like a leaf</b> , you tremble with fear or nervousness. "At the beginning of the interview I was shaking like a leaf."
<b><u>Struck dumb</u></b>	If someone is <b>struck dumb</b> , they are unable to speak because they are so surprised, shocked or frightened by something. "The accused was struck dumb when the verdict was announced."
<b><u>To be on tenterhooks</u></b>	A person who is <b>on tenterhooks</b> is in a state of anxious suspense or excitement.
<b><u>Tongue-tied</u></b>	If you are <b>tongue-tied</b> , you have difficulty in expressing yourself because you are nervous or embarrassed. "At the start of the interview I was completely tongue-tied but little by little I relaxed."

<p><b><u>Whistle in the dark</u></b></p>	<p>If you <b>whistle in the dark</b>, you try to hide your fear in a frightening or dangerous situation.          "Tom looks confident but he's just whistling in the dark; he knows he's going to lose his job."</p>
<p><b>Be at your <u>wits' end</u></b></p>	<p>If you are <b>at your wits' end</b>, you are very anxious or worried about something and do not know what to do.          "When her son dropped out of school for the second time, Susan was at her wits' end."</p>
<p><b>Much ado about nothing.</b></p>	<p>If people make much ado about nothing, they make a lot of fuss about something which is not important.</p>
<p><b>Argue the toss</b></p>	<p>If you argue the toss, you dispute a decision or choice which has already been made.          "The final choice was made yesterday, so don't argue the toss now! "</p>
<p><b>All hell broke loose</b></p>	<p>To say that all hell broke loose means that there was a sudden angry, noisy reaction to something.          " All hell broke loose when it was announced that the plant was going to close down."</p>
<p><b>Get off my back!</b></p>	<p>If you tell somebody to get off your back, you ask them to stop finding faults or criticizing you.</p>
<p><b>The battle lines are drawn</b></p>	<p>This expression is used to say that opposing groups are ready to defend the reason behind the conflict.          "The battle lines have been drawn between those who accept the changes and those who are against the proposed reforms."</p>
<p><b>Battle of wills</b></p>	<p>A conflict, argument or struggle where both sides are determined to win is described as a battle of wills.          "When they separated, neither party would make concessions - it was a battle of wills."</p>
<p><b>Blamestorming</b></p>	<p>A discussion among a group of people, who try to determine who or what is to blame for a particular mistake, failure or wrongdoing,</p>



	<p>is called 'blamestorming'.</p> <p>"A blamestorming session took place following the unfavourable reviews in the press."</p>
<b>Bone of contention</b>	<p>A bone of contention is a matter or subject about which there is a lot of disagreement.</p> <p>"The salaries have been agreed on, but opening on Sundays remains a bone of contention."</p>
<b>Have a bone to pick with someone</b>	<p>To say that you have a bone to pick with somebody means that you are annoyed with them and want to talk to them about it.</p>
<b>In somebody's good/bad books</b>	<p>If you are in somebody's good or bad books, you have their approval or disapproval.</p> <p>"I'm in my wife's bad books at the moment because I forgot our wedding anniversary!"</p>
<b>Bury the hatchet</b>	<p>The expression "bury the hatchet" is used when people who have had a disagreement decide to forget their quarrel and become friends again.</p> <p>"I don't get on well with my mother-in-law, but to keep my wife happy, I decided to bury the hatchet."</p>
<b>Call someone's bluff</b>	<p>If you call someone's bluff, you challenge them to do what they threaten to do (while believing that they will not dare to do it).</p> <p>"After the neighbour's threats to demolish the fence, when Jack decided to call his bluff, there were no more complaints."</p>
<b>Cat-and-dog life</b>	<p>This term refers to a life in which partners are constantly or frequently quarrelling.</p> <p>"They lead a cat-and-dog life. I don't know why they stay together."</p>
<b>Caught in the crossfire</b>	<p>If you are caught in the crossfire, you suffer the effects of an argument between two people or groups.</p> <p>"When the two taxi drivers started to argue, their passengers were</p>

	caught in the crossfire."
<b>Clear the air</b>	<p>If you decide to clear the air, you try to remove the causes of fear, worry or suspicion by talking about them openly.</p> <p>"The atmosphere had become so unpleasant that he decided it was time to clear the air."</p>
<b>Dead set against something</b>	<p>If you are dead set against something, you are strongly opposed to it.</p> <p>"My father wanted a dog, but my mother was dead set against the idea."</p>
<b>Devil's advocate</b>	<p>During a discussion or debate, if you play devil's advocate, you pretend to be against an idea or plan in order to determine the validity of the arguments in favour of it.</p> <p>"She decided to play devil's advocate just to see how strongly people felt about the project."</p>
<b>Fight/argue like cat and dog</b>	<p>Two people who fight or argue like cat and dog frequently have violent arguments, even though they are fond of each other.</p> <p>"They fight like cat and dog but they're still together after 30 years."</p>
<b>Go against the tide (or stream)</b>	<p>If you go against the tide, you refuse to conform to current trends, or the opinions or behaviour of other people.</p> <p>"Bill can be difficult to work with; he constantly goes against the tide."</p>
<b>Hammer and tongs</b>	<p>If people are going at it hammer and tongs, they are arguing fiercely, with a lot of energy and noise.</p> <p>"Our neighbours are going at it hammer and tongs again. They're constantly arguing!"</p>
<b>Let bygones be bygones</b>	<p>If you let bygones be bygones, you decide to forget about past disagreements.</p> <p>"When Charlie's son was born, he decided to let bygones be bygones and contacted his parents."</p>
<b>Let sleeping dogs lie</b>	<p>If you tell somebody to let sleeping dogs lie, you are asking them</p>

	<p>not to interfere with a situation because they could cause problems.</p> <p>"Look - they've settled their differences. It's time to let sleeping dogs lie."</p>
<b>At loggerheads</b>	<p>If you are at loggerheads with a person or organization, you disagree very strongly with them.</p> <p>"Management and trade unions are at loggerheads over the decision to close down the plant."</p>
<b>Lock horns</b>	<p>If you lock horns with somebody, you argue or fight with them about something.</p> <p>"If there is another incident like that in the building, the occupants will be locking horns!"</p>
<b>No love lost</b>	<p>To say that there is no love lost between two people means that they do not like each other at all.</p> <p>"There is no love lost between Amanda and Sarah. They're always quarrelling."</p>
<b>Make a mountain out of a molehill</b>	<p>If someone makes a mountain out of a molehill, they make a small, unimportant problem seem much more serious than it is.</p> <p>"Stop making mountains out of molehills! It's not a major problem."</p>
<b>A moot point</b>	<p>A subject which gives rise to argument or debate is called a moot point.</p> <p>"Whether Bach composed it himself or not is a moot point among musicians."</p>
<b>Nothing doing!</b>	<p>This expression is used to say that there is no way you would accept to do what is proposed. .</p> <p>"Work on Sunday? Nothing doing!"</p>
<b>At odds</b>	<p>If one person is at odds with another, they disagree with each other.</p>
<b>Olive branch</b>	<p>If a person or organization holds out an olive branch to another, they show that they want to end a disagreement and make</p>

	<p>peace.</p> <p>"The protesters finally accepted the olive branch extended to them."</p>
<b>Out of the question</b>	<p>Something which is out of the question is impossible and is therefore not worth discussing.</p> <p>"Buying a new car is out of the question - we can't afford it."</p>
<b>Over my dead body</b>	<p>This expression is used when you absolutely refuse to allow someone to do something.</p> <p>"Mum, can I get my nose pierced?" "Over my dead body!"</p>
<b>Pick a fight</b>	<p>Someone who picks a fight deliberately looks for an opportunity to start a quarrel or begin an argument.</p> <p>"Our new neighbour is always ready to pick a fight with someone."</p>
<b>Pick holes</b>	<p>If someone picks holes in something such as a plan, an idea or an argument, they criticize it or try to find fault with it.</p> <p>"Why don't you make a suggestion instead of picking holes in all my ideas!"</p>
<b>Press (something) home</b>	<p>If you press something home, you insist on a point in a discussion or argument.</p> <p>"Her lawyer kept pressing home the fact that she was a single mother."</p>
<b>A running battle</b>	<p>If two people or groups have a running battle with each other, they argue or disagree about something over a long period of time.</p> <p>"There's been a running battle between the local authorities and the population over the school bus route."</p>
<b>Send someone packing</b>	<p>If you send someone packing, you tell them to leave, in a very forceful and unfriendly way.</p> <p>"When Amanda discovered that Jack had been unfaithful, she sent him packing."</p>

<p><b>Settle a score</b></p>	<p>To settle a score means to retaliate against someone or take revenge for a past wrong. "Jack has made an appointment with his lawyer - he has a score to settle with someone."</p>
<p><b>Shouting match</b></p>	<p>An argument or debate where people shout loudly at each other is called a shouting match. "The debate between the two politicians turned into a shouting match which spoiled the event for viewers."</p>
<p><b>Keep your shirt on!</b></p>	<p>If you tell somebody to keep their shirt on, you are asking them to calm down. "Keep your shirt on Bob. Just give your version of the story!"</p>
<p><b>Sink their differences</b></p>	<p>If people or organizations sink their differences, they decide to forget their disagreements. "We must sink our differences and build a peaceful community."</p>
<p><b>Sit on the fence</b></p>	<p>If you sit on the fence, you avoid taking sides in a discussion or argument. "It's an important issue. You can't continue to sit on the fence!"</p>
<p><b>Skating on thin ice</b></p>	<p>If you are skating on thin ice, you are doing or saying something that could cause disagreement or trouble. "Don't mention that subject during the negotiations or you could be skating on thin ice."</p>
<p><b>Split hairs</b></p>	<p>If you split hairs, you pay too much attention to differences that are very small or not important. "If we start splitting hairs, we'll never reach an agreement!"</p>
<p><b>Water under the bridge</b></p>	<p>If something difficult or unpleasant took place in the past but is no longer important, it is referred to as water under the bridge. "They had a serious disagreement in the past but that's water under the bridge."</p>
<p><b>Wipe the slate clean</b></p>	<p>If you wipe the slate clean, you make a fresh start and forget all past offences, disagreements or mistakes. "When their father died, Bob and his brother decided to wipe the slate clean and forget the old family quarrels."</p>

<b>Have an ace up your sleeve.</b>	If you have an ace up your sleeve, it means that you have something in reserve with which you can gain an advantage.
<b>Hold all the aces</b>	A person who holds all the aces is in a very strong position because they have more advantages than anyone else. "Given the high unemployment figures in some countries, employers hold all the aces."
<b>Ambulance chaser</b>	This term refers to a lawyer who finds work by persuading people injured in accidents to claim money from the person who caused the accident. "Peterson & Scott are well-known ambulance chasers - that's how they make their money!"
<b>Back to the salt mines</b>	Saying that you have to go back to the salt mines is a humorous way of talking about returning to work, usually with some reluctance. "We get two days off at Christmas and then it's back to the salt mines!"
<b>Bait and switch</b>	This term refers to a deceptive commercial practice of advertising a low-priced item to attract customers, then telling them that the product is out of stock and persuading them to buy a more expensive article. "This store is famous for its bait and switch tactics."
<b>Blamestorming</b>	A discussion among a group of people, who try to determine who or what is to blame for a particular mistake, failure or wrongdoing, is called 'blamestorming'. "A blamestorming session took place following the unfavourable reviews in the press."
<b>A blank cheque</b>	If you give someone a blank cheque, you authorize them to do what they think is best in a difficult situation. "Tom was given a blank cheque and told to negotiate the best deal possible."
<b>Blue chip company</b>	This term refers to a company with a solid reputation for the quality of

	<p>its products and the stability of its growth and earnings. "It's usually safe to invest in a blue-chip company.</p>
<b>Above board</b>	<p>If a situation or business is described as above board, it is open, honest and legal. "There are no secret negotiations. Our dealings have always been above board."</p>
<b>Get down to brass tacks</b>	<p>People who get down to brass tacks start to discuss and deal with the practical details of something "It was decided to get down to brass tacks and discuss the cost of the project."</p>
<b>Break your back</b>	<p>If you work extremely hard, or put a lot of effort into achieving something, you break your back to do it. "If you want the job done well, you should accept to pay more. He's not going to break his back for such a low price!"</p>
<b>Bricks and mortar/ bricks and clicks</b>	<p>An established trading company (office/shop) is referred to as a 'brick-and-mortar' business. 'Click companies' refer to Internet-based operations. Companies which do both are called 'bricks and clicks'. "Click businesses are usually more flexible than brick-and-mortar operations."</p>
<b>Pass the buck</b>	<p>If you say that someone is passing the buck, you are accusing them of not taking responsibility for a problem and expecting someone else to handle it.</p>
<b>Business as usual</b>	<p>After an unpleasant or unexpected event, this expression means that everything is continuing in a normal way in spite of the difficulties. "It was business as usual at the supermarket the day after the hold-up."</p>
<b>Business before pleasure</b>	<p>This expression means that it is considered preferable to finish one's work before going to relax and enjoy oneself. "I'd love to have lunch with you but I've got a report to finish -</p>

	business before pleasure I'm afraid!"
<b>Business is business</b>	This is a way of saying that in financial and commercial matters, friendship or personal feelings should not be allowed to have any influence. "I'll hire your brother only if he is the best candidate. I'm sorry but business is business!"
<b>Can't stand the pace</b>	If you can't stand the pace, you are not able to do things well when there is a lot of pressure. "He used to work as a trader but he couldn't stand the pace."
<b>Carve out a niche</b>	A person or company who carves out a niche focuses on a particular segment of the market, to which they supply a product or service, and develop their expertise in that area. "In today's competitive market it's better to carve out a niche and try to become the best in that area."
<b>A cash cow</b>	A product or service which is a regular source of income for a company is called a cash cow. "His latest invention turned out to be a real cash cow."
<b>Cash in your chips</b>	If you cash in your chips, you sell something, especially shares, either because you need the money or because you think the value is going to fall. "Andy cashed in his chips as soon as business started to slow down."
<b>Too many chiefs and not enough Indians</b>	This expression refers to a situation where there are too many people giving instructions and not enough people doing the work. "The business wasn't successful. There were too many chiefs and not enough Indians."
<b>Clinch a deal</b>	In a business relationship, if you clinch a deal, you reach agreement on a proposal or offer. "Tom's final argument enabled us to clinch the deal."



<p><b>Cog in the machine</b></p>	<p>If you say that someone is a cog in the machine, you mean that, while they are necessary, they only play a small part in an organization or plan.</p> <p>"The police quickly realized that the suspect was just a cog in the machine."</p>
<p><b>Make cold calls</b></p>	<p>If you make cold calls, you telephone potential customers from a list of people you do not know.</p> <p>"In my first job I had to make cold calls using the telephone directory."</p>
<p><b>Copper-bottomed</b></p>	<p>To describe something such as a plan, a contract or a financial arrangement as 'copper-bottomed' means that it is completely safe or reliable.</p> <p>"He has signed a copper-bottomed agreement with a distributor."</p>
<p><b>Corner a market</b></p>	<p>If a company dominates an area of business, and leaves no room for competition, it is said to have cornered the market.</p> <p>"By importing large quantities and selling at low prices, they have cornered the market."</p>
<p><b>Creative accounting</b></p>	<p>This term refers to the presentation of a company's results in a way that, although generally legal, glosses over the problems and makes the results appear better than they are.</p> <p>"It was suggested that some creative accounting might help to attract investors."</p>
<p><b>Cut and dried</b></p>	<p>To refer to a situation, a problem or a solution as cut and dried means that it is considered clear and straightforward, with no likely complications.</p> <p>"When the new manager arrived, he didn't find the situation as cut and dried as he had expected."</p>
<p><b>Dead wood</b></p>	<p>The term dead wood refers to people or things which are no longer considered useful or necessary.</p> <p>"The management wants to reduce costs by cutting out the dead wood."</p>

<b>Do the spadework</b>	<p>Someone who does the spadework does the preparatory work or the preliminary research for something.</p> <p>"Although I did all the spadework, my name was never mentioned."</p>
<b>Dog eat dog</b>	<p>This expression refers to intense competition and rivalry in pursuit of one's own interests, with no concern for morality.</p> <p>"The business world is tough today. There's a general dog-eat-dog attitude."</p>
<b>In the doldrums</b>	<p>To say that a person, a business or the economy in general is in the doldrums means that the situation is gloomy and that nothing new is happening.</p> <p>"Despite the recent measures, the economy remains in the doldrums."</p>
<b>A done deal</b>	<p>This expression is used to refer to an agreement or decision which has been reached on a certain matter.</p> <p>"We're still considering several proposals, so it's not a done deal yet."</p>
<b>Done and dusted</b>	<p>When a project, task or activity is done and dusted, it is completely finished or ready.</p> <p>"I've nearly finished preparing the presentation. When it's all done and dusted I'll be able to relax."</p>
<b>Donkey work</b>	<p>This expression is used to describe the unpleasant, boring parts of a job.</p> <p>"I do the donkey work - my boss gets the credit!"</p>
<b>Doom and gloom</b>	<p>A general atmosphere of pessimism, and a feeling that the situation is not going to improve, is referred to as doom and gloom.</p> <p>"Fortunately it's not doom and gloom for all businesses, in spite of the economic situation."</p>
<b>Down the drain</b>	<p>To say that money, time or effort has gone down the drain, means that it has been wasted or lost.</p> <p>"His years of research went down the drain when the company</p>

	went bankrupt."
<b>Drastic times call for drastic measures</b>	When faced with a difficult situation, it is sometimes necessary to take actions which in normal circumstances would appear extreme. "Sales dropped so significantly that the company decided to drop the product line. Drastic times call for drastic measures!"
<b>Dream ticket</b>	If you refer to two people as a dream ticket, you think they would work well together and be successful. "Clinton and Obama teaming up for the general election would be a dream ticket for many Democrats."
<b>Dry (or dummy) run</b>	If you organize a rehearsal, a trial exercise or a practice session of something, in realistic conditions, to see how well it will work before it is launched, you do a dry run. "Let's do a dry run of the ceremony to make sure everything goes smoothly."
<b>Above and beyond the call of duty</b>	If a person does something which is above and beyond the call of duty, they show a greater degree of courage or effort than is usually required or expected in their job. "The fire-fighter received a medal for his action which went above and beyond the call of duty."
<b>An eager beaver</b>	The term eager beaver refers to a person who is hardworking and enthusiastic, sometimes considered overzealous. "The new accountant works all the time - first to arrive and last to leave -a real eager beaver!"
<b>Have all your eggs in one basket</b>	If you have all your eggs in one basket, you depend on one plan or one source of income. "If you invest your savings in one bank, you'll have all your eggs in one basket."

<p><b>Use elbow grease</b></p>	<p>If you use elbow grease, you need energy and strength to do physical work such as cleaning or polishing. "It took a considerable amount of elbow grease to renovate the old house."</p>
<p><b>Farm something out</b></p>	<p>If something such as work is farmed out, it is sent out to be done by others. "We farmed out the packaging to another company."</p>
<p><b>Feather your nest</b></p>	<p>To say of someone that they are feathering their nest is to say that they are taking advantage of their position in order to obtain money so as to have a comfortable life.</p>
<p><b>Fiddling while Rome burns</b></p>	<p>If you say that somebody is fiddling while Rome burns, you mean that they are doing unimportant things while there are serious problems to be dealt with "His visit to the trade fair was 'fiddling while Rome burns' according to the strikers."</p>
<p><b>Drag one's feet</b></p>	<p>If you say that a person is dragging their feet, you think they are unnecessarily delaying a decision which is important to you.</p>
<p><b>Think on one's feet</b></p>	<p>A person who thinks on their feet is capable of making good decisions without previous thinking or planning. "Good lawyers need to be able to think on their feet when pleading a case."</p>
<p><b>Rushed off your feet.</b></p>	<p>If your are rushed off your feet, your are extremely busy. "I'd love to have lunch with you but we're rushed off our feet at the moment at the office."</p>
<p><b>A finger in every pie</b></p>	<p>If someone has a finger in every pie, they are involved in many activities "For information about the town development project, you should talk to John Brown. He has a finger in every pie."</p>

<b>Work your fingers to the bone</b>	<p>A person who works their fingers to the bone is extremely hardworking.</p> <p>"He deserves his success; he worked his fingers to the bone when he started the business."</p>
<b>A foot in the door</b>	<p>To say that someone has a foot in the door means that they have a small but successful start in something, and will possibly do well in the future.</p> <p>"With today's unemployment, it's difficult to get a foot in the door in any profession."</p>
<b>A free hand</b>	<p>If you have a free hand, you have permission to make your own decisions, especially in a job.</p> <p>"My boss has given me a free hand in the choice of agent."</p>
<b>Funny business</b>	<p>An activity which is conducted in a deceitful, dishonest or unethical manner is called funny business.</p> <p>"I've got suspicions about that association. I think they're up to some funny business."</p>
<b>Get down to brass tacks</b>	<p>When people get down to brass tacks, they start to discuss the essential aspects of a problem or situation.</p> <p>"The situation was so serious that after a few polite exchanges, they immediately got down to brass tacks."</p>
<b>Get your hands dirty</b>	<p>If you get your hands dirty in your job, you become involved in all aspects of it, including work that is physical, unpleasant or less interesting.</p> <p>"His willingness to get his hands dirty won the respect and approval of the whole team."</p>
<b>Get the hang of something</b>	<p>When you get the hang of an activity, you now know how to do it correctly.</p>
<b>Get something off the ground</b>	<p>If you get something off the ground, you put it into operation after having organized it.</p> <p>"After a lot of hard work, we finally got the campaign off the ground."</p>

	ground.
<b>Get the show on the road</b>	If you manage to put a plan or idea into action, you get the show on the road. "OK! We've got all we need, so let's get the show on the road!"
<b>Give someone a run for their money</b>	If you give someone a run for their money, you present strong competition in circumstances where the other person expects to win easily. "We didn't win the match but we gave the other team a run for their money."
<b>Go belly up</b>	If a business or project goes belly up, it is unsuccessful or goes bankrupt. "The restaurant went belly up before the end of the first year."
<b>Go for a song</b>	If something goes for a song, it is sold at an unexpectedly low price. "I was able to buy the car simply because it going for a song."
<b>Go out of business</b>	If a shop, firm or enterprise goes out of business, it closes down or goes bankrupt. "If the new road bypasses the town, a lot of shops will go out of business."
<b>Going concern</b>	This expression refers to a business or activity that is dynamic and successful. "They opened a coffee shop that is a going concern today."
<b>Golden handcuffs</b>	The term golden handcuffs refers to a large sum of money or a generous financial arrangement granted to an executive as an incentive to stay in their job, or to ensure long-term cooperation after their departure.
<b>Golden handshake</b>	A golden handshake is a generous sum of money given to a person when they leave a company or retire (sometimes given to encourage early retirement).
<b>Golden opportunity</b>	A golden opportunity is a favourable time or excellent occasion which should not be missed.
<b>Golden parachute</b>	A golden parachute is a clause in an executive's employment contract stating that the executive will receive certain large benefits if

	<p>their employment is terminated.</p>
<b>Grease somebody's palm</b>	<p>If you accuse someone of greasing somebody's palm, you are accusing them of giving money to someone in order to gain an unfair advantage, or to obtain something they want. "In some countries, it is common practice to grease government officials' palms."</p>
<b>One hand washes the other... (... and together they wash the face.)</b>	<p>This expression means that when people cooperate and work well together, there is a better chance of achieving results.</p>
<b>The upper hand</b>	<p>If a person or organization gets or gains the upper hand, they take control over something.</p>
<b>All hands on deck</b>	<p>When there is a need for all hands on deck, everyone must help, especially when there's a lot of work to be done in a short amount of time. "As the opening day approached, it was all hands on deck to have everything ready in time."</p>
<b>Have one's hands tied</b>	<p>If a person has their hands tied, something, such as an agreement or a rule, is preventing them from doing what they would like to do. "Mark deserves to earn more, but the manager's hands are tied by the recent salary agreement."</p>
<b>Hive of activity</b>	<p>hive of activity (also: a beehive) A place where there are lots of things happening, and everyone is very busy, is called a hive of activity. "When I arrived at the office, it was already a hive of activity."</p>
<b>Hold the fort</b>	<p>When you hold the fort, you look after a place or a business in the absence of the person who is normally in charge. "Julie, could you hold the fort while I go to the post office?"</p>
<b>Household name/word</b>	<p>When the name of someone or something becomes very familiar because it is so often used, it is called a household</p>

	<p>name or word.</p> <p>"The product was so successful that its name became a household word in no time."</p>
<b>Irons in the fire</b>	<p>If you have a few, or many, irons in the fire, you are involved in a number of projects at the same time.</p> <p>"The travel agency is not his only venture - he's got more than one iron in the fire."</p>
<b>Jump on the bandwagon</b>	<p>If a person or organization jumps on the bandwagon, they decide to do something when it is already successful or fashionable.</p> <p>"When organic food became popular, certain stores were quick to jump on the bandwagon and promote it."</p>
<b>Keep one's head above water</b>	<p>To keep one's head above water means to try to survive by staying out of debt, for example a small business.</p>
<b>Hit the ground running</b>	<p>If someone hits the ground running, they are ready to start work immediately on a new activity.</p> <p>"He intends to hit the ground running when he starts his new job."</p>
<b>Keep your nose to the grindstone</b>	<p>A person who keeps their nose to the grindstone is someone who concentrates on working hard at his job.</p>
<b>Knuckle down to something</b>	<p>If someone knuckles down to something, they start to work on it seriously.</p> <p>"If you want to succeed, you'll have to knuckle down to some serious work."</p>
<b>Lame duck</b>	<p>A person or organization that is in difficulty and unable to manage without help is called a lame duck.</p> <p>"Some banks have become lame ducks recently."</p>
<b>Learn the hard way</b>	<p>If you learn the hard way, you learn through your own experience, good and bad, rather than from the advice or guidance of others.</p> <p>"His refusal to accept any help meant that he had to learn the hard way."</p>



<b>Let me bounce this off you.</b>	<p>You say this when you present an idea or plan to someone in order to test their reaction or obtain feedback.</p> <p>"I think I've found a way of making money. Let me bounce this off you."</p>
<b>The left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing</b>	<p>This expression means that communication within a group or organization is so bad that people don't know what the others are doing.</p>
<b>Licence to print money</b>	<p>This expression refers to an officially authorized activity which enables people to make a lot of money without much effort.</p> <p>"The contract to supply computers to schools was a licence to print money."</p>
<b>Lip service</b>	<p>If you pay lip service to an idea or cause, you give verbal support or approval but fail to actually do anything.</p> <p>"In spite of promising equal pay for women, the management is suspected of paying lip service to the promotion of women's rights."</p>
<b>Make hay while the sun shines</b>	<p>This expression is used as an encouragement to take advantage of a good situation which may not last.</p> <p>Successful sportsmen are advised to make hay while the sun shines.</p>
<b>Mix business with pleasure</b>	<p>When people mix business with pleasure, they combine work and leisure or social activities.</p> <p>"Seminars or training sessions that include leisure activities are a good way of mixing business and pleasure."</p>
<b>Money spinner</b>	<p>If an activity is a money spinner, it is a very successful way of making money.</p> <p>"Washing cars was quite a money spinner when I was a student."</p>
<b>Put money where your mouth is</b>	<p>If you put money where your mouth is, you give financial support to activities and causes that you believe are right.</p>
<b>Monkey business</b>	<p>An activity which is organized in a deceitful or dishonest way is called monkey business.</p> <p>"The results announced seem suspicious - I think there's some monkey business going on!"</p>

<b>Move the goalposts</b>	<p>During a course of action, if someone moves the goalposts, they change the rules or conditions.</p> <p>"We've decided on a sales campaign. Let's hope the boss doesn't move the goalposts halfway through! "</p>
<b>Movers and shakers</b>	<p>The term movers and shakers refers to people in power who take an active part in making things happen.</p> <p>"Movers and shakers are assembling in Brussels for the summit."</p>
<b>Nitty-gritty</b>	<p>When people get down to the nitty-gritty, they begin to discuss the most important points or the practical details.</p> <p>"I was interested in the project, but we didn't get down to the nitty-gritty until his partner arrived."</p>
<b>Nuts and bolts</b>	<p>The nuts and bolts of something are the detailed facts and the practical aspects.</p> <p>"We need to discuss the nuts and bolts of the proposal before going any further."</p>
<b>(One's) opposite number</b>	<p>Someone who holds the same position as oneself in another company or organization is called one's opposite number.</p> <p>"I spoke to my opposite number in several local companies and we all agreed to join the anti-pollution campaign."</p>
<b>Ostrich strategy/politics</b>	<p>This term refers to the phenomenon of ignoring or evading an obvious problem in the hope that it will resolve itself or disappear.</p> <p>"Adopting an ostrich strategy will only make matters worse - we've got to find a solution!"</p>
<b>Overplay your hand</b>	<p>If you overplay your hand, you are overconfident and spoil your chances of success by trying to obtain too much.</p> <p>"Sam is hoping for a bonus for his good results, but he may be overplaying his hand if he asks for a promotion."</p>
<b>Pass the buck</b>	<p>If you say that someone is passing the buck, you are accusing them of not taking responsibility for a problem and letting others deal</p>

	<p>with it instead. "Whenever a customer comes to complain, she always finds a way of looking busy. Talk about passing the buck!"</p>
<b>Pass muster</b>	<p>If someone or something passes muster, they are considered to be satisfactory or acceptable. "The interview went well. I hope I'll pass muster."</p>
<b>Pick up steam</b>	<p>If something such as a project or process picks up steam, it starts to develop or become more active. "The campaign started slowly but it picked up steam after Christmas."</p>
<b>Piece of the action</b>	<p>When someone wants a piece of the action, they want to participate in what other people are doing and benefit from it. "The songwriter thought the show would be a success so he wanted a piece of the action."</p>
<b>In the pipeline</b>	<p>If something is in the pipeline, it is in progress or being organized at the moment.</p>
<b>Play for time</b>	<p>If you play for time, you try to delay or prevent something from happening in order to gain an advantage. "He decided to play for time in the hope that the price would decrease."</p>
<b>Play the game</b>	<p>If you play the game, you accept to do things according to the rules laid down by others.</p>
<b>Play second fiddle</b>	<p>If you play second fiddle to somebody, you accept to be second in importance to that person, or have a lower position.</p>
<b>Play the market</b>	<p>If you play the market, you buy stocks and shares in the hope of making a profit when you sell them. "It's always tempting to play the market, but it's more risky at the present time."</p>
<b>Pull strings</b>	<p>If somebody pulls strings, they use influential friends in order to</p>

	<p>obtain an advantage. "David found a job easily - his Dad just pulled a few strings!"</p>
<b>Pull your weight</b>	<p>If you say that someone pulls their weight, you mean that they do their fair share of the work. "It's great working with Sandra. She always pulls her weight."</p>
<b>Put your shoulder to the wheel</b>	<p>If you put your shoulder to the wheel, you start putting a lot of effort into a difficult task. "We'll have to put our shoulders to the wheel to get the store ready for the opening day."</p>
<b>A race against time</b>	<p>If someone is in a race against time, they have to work very quickly in order to do or finish something before a certain time.</p>
<b>Red tape</b>	<p>The term red tape refers to official rules and bureaucratic paperwork that prevent things from being done quickly. "If there wasn't so much red tape, the company would be up and running already."</p>
<b>Roaring trade</b>	<p>If you do a roaring trade in a particular field, you do excellent business. "The sports shop is doing a roaring trade in bicycles these days."</p>
<b>Roll up your sleeves</b>	<p>When you roll up your sleeves, you get ready for hard work. "To increase our market share we'll have to roll up our sleeves and find new customers."</p>
<b>Learn the ropes</b>	<p>If you learn the ropes, you learn how to a particular job correctly.</p>
<b>Run round in circles</b>	<p>People who run round in circles have difficulty in achieving things because of lack of organization. "Running round in circles will get us nowhere - we need to set up a plan."</p>
<b>Not up to scratch</b>	<p>If something or somebody is not up to scratch, they are not as good as they should be.</p>

<p><b>Seal of approval</b></p>	<p>If a project or contract receives a seal of approval, it receives formal support or approval from higher authorities. "We can't conclude the deal without the director's seal of approval."</p>
<p><b>Separate the sheep from the goats</b></p>	<p>If you separate the sheep from the goats, you examine a group of people and decide which are good and which are not so good. "Examining job applications is the first stage in separating the sheep from the goats."</p>
<p><b>Set the stage (for something)</b></p>	<p>If you set the stage for an event or a development, you create conditions that allow it to happen. "The agreement set the stage for their future working relationship."</p>
<p><b>Shape up or ship out</b></p>	<p>This expression is used to warn someone that if they do not improve, they will have to leave their job. "When Tom started neglecting the customers, he was told to shape up or ship out."</p>
<p><b>Shotgun approach</b></p>	<p>If you use a shotgun approach, you cover a wide range in a non-selective, haphazard and inefficient manner. "Identifying a specific segment of the market as our target will be more effective than a shotgun approach."</p>
<p><b>Signed, sealed and delivered</b></p>	<p>When an agreement, contract or treaty is signed, sealed and delivered, all the legal documents have been signed. "It is hoped that the agreement will be signed, sealed and delivered before the end of the week."</p>
<p><b>Skeleton staff/crew</b></p>	<p>If a business or organization works with a skeleton staff, it is run with the smallest number of people necessary. "The office is closed the week after Christmas but there will be a skeleton staff to handle essential operations."</p>
<p><b>Sleeping /silent partner</b></p>	<p>This term refers to a person who invests money in a business without</p>

	<p>taking an active part in its management, and whose association with the enterprise is not public knowledge.</p> <p>"He works alone, but his business is partly financed by a sleeping partner."</p>
<b>Slice/share of the cake (or pie)</b>	<p>When people feel entitled to a share of the benefits or profits, they want a (larger) slice of the cake.</p> <p>"Since profits are higher this year, the workers feel they deserve a bigger slice of the cake."</p>
<b>Smokestack industries</b>	<p>Industries involved in heavy manufacturing such as the production of iron and steel, especially if they cause a lot of pollution, are called smokestack industries.</p> <p>"Smokestack industries are no longer authorized in residential areas."</p>
<b>In smooth waters</b>	<p>A business or operation which is in smooth waters is making regular and easy progress.</p> <p>"The company seems to be in smooth waters these days."</p>
<b>Snowed under</b>	<p>Someone who is snowed under has so many things to do, usually work, that they feel unable to cope with it all.</p> <p>"With the 'flu epidemic, doctors and nurses are completely snowed under."</p>
<b>Put a spanner in the works</b>	<p>To put a spanner in the works means to cause problems and prevent something from happening as planned.</p> <p>(In the US, the word wrench or monkey wrench is used instead of spanner)</p>
<b>Speed networking</b>	<p>This refers to a relatively new urban trend which consists in making a potential business contact by briefly talking to a series of people at an organised event and exchanging contact details.</p>
<b>Start the ball rolling</b>	<p>If you start the ball rolling, you start an activity in which other people will join.</p> <p>"Let's start the ball rolling by calling on our first speaker."</p>

<b>Step into the breach</b>	<p>If you step into the breach, you do work that someone is unexpectedly unable to do.</p> <p>"Steve stepped into the breach when his colleague David had a car accident."</p>
<b>Step into someone's shoes</b>	<p>If you step into someone's shoes, you take over a job or position held by someone else before you.</p> <p>"William has been trained to step into his father's shoes when he retires."</p>
<b>Strictly business</b>	<p>An appointment or event that is entirely devoted to business, with no leisure or relaxation, is called strictly business.</p> <p>"Yes we had lunch together but it was strictly business."</p>
<b>Another string to your bow two strings to your bow</b>	<p>If you have another string to your bow, you have another skill or possible course of action if what you are doing now is unsuccessful.</p> <p>"As well as her excellent qualifications, she's got another string to her bow to help her find a job. She speaks fluent Chinese."</p>
<b>Sweat of your brow</b>	<p>If you earn or achieve something by the sweat of your brow, you do it through hard work and without help from anyone.</p> <p>"I got a comfortable lifestyle by the sweat of my brow. I owe it to nobody but myself."</p>
<b>Sweetheart deal</b>	<p>The term sweetheart deal is used to refer to an abnormally lucrative arrangement between two parties.</p> <p>"Opponents say that the contract was awarded to the builder as part of a sweetheart deal, and is therefore illegal."</p>
<b>Take the floor</b>	<p>When someone takes the floor, they rise to make a speech or presentation.</p> <p>"When I take the floor, my speech will be short." he said.</p>
<b>Take a nosedive</b>	<p>If something takes a nosedive, it drops or decreases in value very rapidly.</p> <p>"The stock market took a nosedive when the property market began to weaken."</p>
<b>Take the plunge</b>	<p>If you take the plunge, you finally decide to venture into something</p>

	<p>you really want to do, in spite of the risks involved.</p> <p>"Mark and Julie finally took the plunge and opened a guesthouse."</p>
<b>Take something offline</b>	<p>If you suggest that a subject be taken offline, (during a meeting for example), you consider that it is a separate issue and should be discussed at another time.</p> <p>"Peter, you're confusing things, so let's take that offline shall we?"</p>
<b>Talk shop</b>	<p>If you talk shop, you talk about your work or business in a social situation with someone you work with, and make the conversation boring for the others present.</p> <p>"I never go out with my colleagues because we inevitably end up talking shop."</p>
<b>There for the taking</b>	<p>If something is there for the taking, it is easy to obtain.</p> <p>"When our main competitor went out of business, the market was there for the taking."</p>
<b>Things are looking up</b>	<p>To say that things are looking up means that the situation is improving and you feel more positive about the future.</p> <p>"Andy has got two job interviews next week so things are looking up."</p>
<b>Think outside the box/out of the box</b>	<p>People who think outside the box try to find innovative ideas or solutions.</p> <p>"Our competitors are more creative than us - they really think outside the box."</p>
<b>Throw it over the wall</b>	<p>If someone throws something over the wall, they deal with part of a problem or project, then pass responsibility to another person or department without any communication or coordination.</p> <p>"You can't just manufacture a product and then throw it over the wall to the sales department."</p>
<b>Too much like hard work</b>	<p>An activity or task that requires too much effort is too much like hard work.</p> <p>"It's so hot today, there's no way I'm going to do any cooking. It's</p>



	too much like hard work!"
<b>Top dog</b>	To say that a person, group or country is top dog means that they are better or more powerful than others. "She's top dog in cosmetics today."
<b>Trade secret</b>	This expression, which refers to the secrecy of a company's production methods, is often used teasingly. "Can you give me the recipe for your lemon meringue pie? No way - that's a trade secret!"
<b>Tricks of the trade</b>	This expression refers to a clever or expert way of doing things, especially in a job. "He's a tough negotiator; he knows all the tricks of the trade."
<b>Up and running</b>	If a business or a plan is up and running, it has started and is functioning successfully. "In some countries you can have a company up and running in a very short time."
<b>Nothing ventured, nothing gained</b>	This expression means that you cannot expect to achieve anything if you risk nothing. "He's going to ask his boss for a promotion even though he has little chance of obtaining satisfaction - nothing ventured, nothing gained!"
<b>Walking papers</b>	If you are given your walking papers, your contract or a relationship is ended. "After causing a diplomatic incident, Carter got his walking papers."
<b>Wear many hats</b>	Someone who wears many hats has to do many different types of tasks or play a variety of roles. "Our company is small so the employees need to be flexible and accept to wear many hats."
<b>Wheeling and dealing</b>	Someone accused of wheeling and dealing is thought to be involved in complicated, if not dishonest, deals in business or politics. "Since the beginning of the election campaign, there's been a lot of wheeling and dealing going on."

<p><b>Win-win</b></p>	<p>The term win-win refers to a situation or proposition where both or all parties benefit from the outcome.          "There were smiles all round when the contract was signed - it was a win-win situation."</p>
<p><b>Have your work cut out</b></p>	<p>If you have to face a difficult task or deal with a challenging situation, you have your work cut out for you.          "I've got a month to reorganize the accounts department. I have my work cut out for me!"</p>
<p><b>Below the belt</b></p>	<p>An action or remark described as below the belt means that it is considered unfair or cruel.          "Politicians sometimes use personal information to hit their rivals below the belt."</p>
<p><b>Tighten your belt</b></p>	<p>If you need to tighten your belt, you must spend your money carefully.          "Another bill? I'll have to tighten my belt this month!"</p>
<p><b>Under one's belt</b></p>	<p>If you have something under your belt, you have acquired experience or have satisfactorily achieved something.          "You've got to have some work experience under your belt before you can hope to get a permanent job."</p>
<p><b>Die with one's boots on</b></p>	<p>A person who dies with their boots on dies while still leading an active life.          "He says he'll never retire. He'd rather die with his boots on!"</p>
<p><b>Get too big for your boots (or britches)</b></p>	<p>To say that a person is getting too big for their boots means that you think they are behaving as if they were more important than they really are.          "Tom's really getting too big for his boots since he got a promotion - he hardly says hello any more!"</p>
<p><b>Hang up one's boots</b></p>	<p>When a sports player hangs up their boots, they stop playing and retire.          This expression is often used to refer to retirement in general.</p>

	"Dad says he's going to hang up his boots at the end of the year."
<b>Lick someone's boots</b>	To say that one person licks another person's boots means that they are trying to please that person, often in order to obtain something.
<b>Tough as old boots</b>	If something, especially meat, is (as) tough as old boots, it is hard to cut and difficult to chew. (Can also refer to a person who is strong physically or in character.) "We were served a steak as tough as old boots."
<b>Cap in hand</b>	If you do something cap in hand, you ask for something in a very respectful manner. "They went to the teacher, cap in hand, and asked for more time to complete their project."
<b>Put on your thinking cap</b>	If you tell someone to put their thinking cap on, you ask them to find an idea or solve a problem by thinking about it. "Now here's this week's quiz - it's time to put your thinking caps on!"
<b>A feather in one's cap</b>	To describe someone's achievement as a feather in their cap means that it is something they can be proud of. "The overwhelming victory of the team was a feather in the cap for the new manager."
<b>Pop one's clogs</b>	This is a euphemistic way of saying that a person is dead. "Nobody lives in that house since old Sam popped his clogs."
<b>Hot under the collar</b>	If you get hot under the collar, you feel annoyed, indignant or embarrassed. "If anyone criticizes his proposals, Joe immediately gets hot under the collar."
<b>Off the cuff</b>	If you speak off the cuff, you say something without any previous thought or preparation. "He handles off-the-cuff interviews very well."
<b>Fit like a glove</b>	If something fits you like a glove, it fits you perfectly. "I was lucky! The first skirt I tried on fitted me like a glove!"

<p><b>Hand in glove</b></p>	<p>Two or more people who are in collusion, or work in close association, are said to be hand in glove. "After the match, it was discovered that he was hand in glove with the referee."</p>
<p><b>Iron fist/hand in a velvet glove</b></p>	<p>This expression is used to describe someone who, behind an appearance of gentleness, is inflexible and determined. "To impose the necessary reforms, the leader used persuasion followed by force - an iron fist in a velvet glove."</p>
<p><b>Handle someone with kid gloves.</b></p>	<p>If you handle someone with kid gloves, you treat them very carefully or tactfully, either because they are very important or because they are easily upset. "He is so determined to obtain her agreement that he is handling her with kid gloves."</p>
<p><b>The gloves are off!</b></p>	<p>This expression is used when there are signs that a fight is about to start. "The two candidates are out of their seats. The gloves are off!"</p>
<p><b>At the drop of a hat</b></p>	<p>If you do something at the drop of a hat, you do it immediately and without hesitation "I've got great friends. They're ready to help out at the drop of a hat."</p>
<p><b>Keep something under one's hat</b></p>	<p>To keep something under one's hat means to keep a secret. "My boss has promised me a promotion, but it's not official yet, so keep it under your hat."</p>
<p><b>Take one's hat off to somebody</b></p>	<p>You say this to express admiration for something someone has done. "I take my hat off to the chef. The meal was wonderful."</p>
<p><b>Throw (or toss) one's hat in the ring</b></p>	<p>If you throw or toss your hat in the ring, you announce that you are going to enter a competition or take up a challenge. "He finally threw his hat in the ring and announced that he was going to stand for election."</p>

<b>Wear many hats</b>	<p>Someone who wears many hats has to do many different types of tasks or play a variety of roles.</p> <p>"Our company is small so the employees need to be flexible and accept to wear many hats.</p>
<b>Get your knickers in a twist.</b>	<p>If you get your knickers in twist, you are angry, nervous or upset faced with a difficult situation</p> <p>"Don't get your knickers in a twist! Everything is under control."</p>
<b>Off the peg</b>	<p>Clothes which are bought off the peg are purchased in a standard size in a shop and are not made specially for you.</p> <p>"He can't afford to have his suits made to measure so he buys them off the peg."</p>
<b>Ants in one's pants</b>	<p>People who have ants in their pants are very restless or excited about something</p> <p>"I wish he'd relax. He's got ants in his pants about something today!"</p>
<b>Caught with your pants down</b>	<p>If you are caught with your pants down, you are caught doing something bad or forbidden.</p> <p>"Our neighbours were caught interfering with their electricity metre - caught with their pants down!"</p>
<b>Put your pants on one leg at a time</b>	<p>To say that someone puts their pants on one leg at a time means that the person is a human being no different from anyone else.</p> <p>"Don't be scared to speak to him. He puts his pants on one leg at a time just like the rest of us!"</p>
<b>Pocket of resistance</b>	<p>This term refers to a small group of people who resist change or disagree with a proposal.</p> <p>"The new boss wants to introduce job-sharing, but there's a pocket of resistance in the sales department."</p>
<b>Deep pockets</b>	<p>A person or organization who has deep pockets has a lot of money.</p> <p>"Andy's business is not doing well at the moment. He says he needs</p>

	a friend with deep pockets."
<b>Have somebody in your pocket</b>	If you have influence or power over someone, you have them in your pocket. "He was declared 'not guilty' but everyone knew that he had the jury in his pocket."
<b>Out of your own pocket</b>	If you pay for something out of your own pocket, you cover the cost with your own money. "Breakfast is included but you must pay for lunch out of your own pocket."
<b>Suit every pocket</b>	This term refers to the amount of money you are able to spend or the price you can afford. "The store offers a wide range of computers at prices to suit every pocket."
<b>Give the shirt off one's back</b>	This expression is used to describe a kind-hearted and generous person who would give you anything he/she owns in order to help you. "Mike would give the the shirt off his back to help a friend in difficulty."
<b>Keep your shirt on!</b>	If you tell somebody to keep their shirt on, you are asking them to calm down. "Look, we've got plenty of time, so keep your shirt on!"
<b>The shoe is on the other foot</b>	When the circumstances have reversed and one person now doing what the the other person did in the past, you can say that the shoe is on the other foot. "I used to advise my children to eat healthy food. Now my daughter is a nutritionist and the shoe is on the other foot - she advises me!"
<b>Where the shoe pinches</b>	When people talk about 'where the shoe pinches', they are referring to an area that is often the source of problems or difficulties.

	"She thinks the public transport system works perfectly, but she'll soon find out where the shoe pinches!"
<b>In someone's shoes</b>	To talk about being in someone's shoes means to imagine how you would react if you were in a similar situation as that person.
<b>Step into someone's shoes</b>	If you step into someone's shoes, you take over a job or position held by someone else before you. "William has been trained to step into his father's shoes when he retires."
<b>On a shoestring</b>	If you do something on a shoestring, you do it with very little money. "When I was a student I lived on a shoestring."
<b>Have an ace up one's sleeve</b>	If you have an ace up your sleeve, you have something in reserve with which you can gain an advantage. "I'm well prepared for the negotiations. I've got an ace up my sleeve."
<b>Laugh up your sleeve</b>	If you laugh up your sleeve, you are secretly amused at another person's problems or difficulties. "Tom felt that his explanation was confusing and that his colleague was laughing up his sleeve."
<b>Roll up your sleeves</b>	When you roll up your sleeves, you get ready for hard work. "To increase our market share we'll have to roll up our sleeves and find new customers."
<b>Knock your socks off</b>	If something amazes you, or impresses you greatly, it knocks your socks off. "The magnitude of the project will knock the socks off everyone in the office."
<b>Pull your socks up</b>	If you tell someone to pull their socks up, you are saying that they need to make an effort to improve their performance.
<b>Swishing/swishing party</b>	Swishing is the name given to a new fashion phenomenon - a party organised to swap second hand clothes.

	<p>Everyone takes along clothes they no longer wear and people can then choose the ones they want.</p>
<b>Black tie event</b>	<p>This expression refers to a formal event at which men are required to wear a dinner jacket, or tuxedo, and a black bow tie.</p> <p>"I need to know if it's going to be a casual get-together or a black tie event."</p>
<b>Wear the trousers (or pants)</b>	<p>The partner in a couple who wears the trousers is the one who makes the important decisions.</p>
<b>About-turn / about-face</b>	<p>This term refers to a complete change of opinion or policy.</p> <p>"The ambassador's recent declarations indicate an about-turn in foreign policy."</p>
<b>Any port in a storm</b>	<p>When you have no choice, any port in a storm refers to a solution you accept, which in normal circumstances you would find unacceptable.</p> <p>"The hotel was substandard, but it was a case of any port in a storm; all the others were full."</p>
<b>Argue the toss</b>	<p>If you argue the toss, you dispute a decision or choice which has already been made.</p> <p>"The final choice was made yesterday, so don't argue the toss now! "</p>
<b>Back/bet on the wrong horse</b>	<p>If you back or bet on the wrong horse, for example the loser in a contest, match or election, you support the wrong person.</p> <p>"When I voted for him, I was convinced he would win, but I backed the wrong horse!"</p>
<b>The ball is in your court</b>	<p>If the ball is in your court, it is your turn to speak or act next.</p> <p>"We gave the manager a list of complaints, so the ball is in his court now."</p>
<b>Best of both worlds</b>	<p>If a person has the best of both worlds, they have the benefits and advantages of two different things.</p> <p>"We live in the centre of town, but only 5 minutes from the beach.</p> <p>We have the best of both worlds."</p>



<p><b>Between the devil and the deep blue sea</b></p>	<p>If you are between the devil and the deep blue sea, you are in a situation where there are two equally unpleasant alternatives.</p> <p>"When the new product didn't take off, the management was caught between the devil and the deep blue sea: develop a new marketing campaign or drop the product."</p>
<p><b>It's as broad as it's long</b></p>	<p>This expression means that it makes no real difference which alternative is chosen.</p> <p>"Take the high-speed train or fly and take a taxi? It's as broad as it's long."</p>
<p><b>Catch 22</b></p>	<p>A catch 22 situation refers to a frustrating situation where you cannot do one thing without doing a second, and you cannot do the second before doing the first.</p> <p>"I can't get a job without a work permit, and I can't get a work permit without a job. It's a catch 22 situation!"</p>
<p><b>Cherry pick</b></p>	<p>When you cherry pick, you choose something with great care and select only the best.</p> <p>"Top university graduates are often cherry picked by large companies."</p>
<p><b>Different strokes for different folks</b></p>	<p>Each individual has their own tastes and requirements. What suits one person will not suit another.</p> <p>"Alison really enjoys gardening, whereas Julie finds it a chore. Different strokes for different folks!"</p>
<p><b>Draw a line in the sand</b></p>	<p>If you draw a line in the sand, you establish a limit beyond which a certain situation or activity will not be accepted.</p> <p>"That's it! We're going to draw a line in the sand and make this our final proposal."</p>
<p><b>Embarrassment of riches</b></p>	<p>When there is much more of something than necessary, and it is difficult to make a choice, you have an embarrassment of riches.</p> <p>"Our hosts presented us with an embarrassment of riches. There</p>

	was so much food that we didn't know where to start!"
<b>Fall by the wayside</b>	<p>If something falls by the wayside, people fail to finish it or stop trying to do it.</p> <p>"Local residents protested so strongly that plans for a new motorway fell by the wayside."</p>
<b>Fait accompli</b>	<p>This French term refers to something that has been done and cannot be changed.</p> <p>"He used his savings to buy a motorbike and then presented his parents with a fait accompli."</p>
<b>Fast track something</b>	<p>If you decide to fast track something, such as a task or project, you give it high priority so that the objective is reached as quickly as possible.</p> <p>"In view of the number of homeless, it was decided to fast track the construction of low-cost housing."</p>
<b>On the fence</b>	<p>When faced with a choice, a person who is on the fence has not yet reached a decision.</p> <p>"The candidates have such similar ideas that many electors are still on the fence."</p>
<b>Go along for the ride</b>	<p>If you join a group of people you find interesting, without wanting to take an active part in their action, you go along for the ride.</p> <p>"Not all the protesters were active in the movement- some just went along for the ride."</p>
<b>Hedge your bets</b>	<p>If you hedge your bets, you choose two or more courses of action in order to reduce the risk of loss or error.</p> <p>"The company hedged its bets by developing a second line of products."</p>
<b>Hit the spot</b>	<p>If something hits the spot, it is exactly what is needed or wanted.</p> <p>"On such a hot day a long cool drink would really hit the spot!"</p>

<p><b>Horns of a dilemma</b></p>	<p>If you are on the horns of a dilemma, you are faced with a choice between two equally unpleasant options.</p> <p>"I'm on the horns of a dilemma; I have to choose between a boring job with a good salary or a more interesting job with a lower salary."</p>
<p><b>If it ain't broke don't fix it!</b></p>	<p>This expression means that if a system or method works well, you shouldn't change it.</p> <p>"We're not changing our alarm system. As the saying goes, if it ain't broke, don't fix it!"</p>
<p><b>In a quandary</b></p>	<p>If you are in a quandary about something, you find it difficult to decide what to do.</p> <p>"The job they offer is less interesting but the salary is better. I'm in a quandary about what to do."</p>
<p><b>In two minds</b></p>	<p>If you are in two minds about something, you have difficulty deciding what to do.</p> <p>"I'm in two minds about whether or not to accept the offer."</p>
<p><b>Keep your options open</b></p>	<p>When you keep your options open, you postpone making a decision so that you can chose among several possible courses of action.</p> <p>"The offer sounds good, but keep your options open until you're sure it's the best choice."</p>
<p><b>Lesser of two evils</b></p>	<p>If you choose the lesser of two evils, you opt for the less unpleasant of two poor options.</p> <p>"I didn't want to go. Choosing the train instead of driving was the lesser of two evils; at least I could relax on the way."</p>
<p><b>Line of least resistance</b></p>	<p>If you opt for the line of least resistance, you choose the easiest way of doing something.</p> <p>"To make sure the children would stay inside, he chose the line of least resistance and rented a film."</p>
<p><b>Luck of the draw</b></p>	<p>To refer to something that happens as the luck of the draw means that it is the result of pure chance, with no possibility of choice.</p>

	<p>"The samples distributed varied in size and value; it was the luck of the draw!"</p>
<b>My way or the highway!</b>	<p>If you say to someone "it's my way or the highway" you are telling that person that either they accept what you tell them to do or they leave the project.</p> <p>"You don't have much choice when someone says : "It's my way or the highway."</p>
<b>No-brainer</b>	<p>A decision or choice that requires little or no thought, because the best option is so obvious, is called a no-brainer.</p> <p>"The choice was between a cash refund or having the amount credited to my account - it was a no-brainer! - I took the cash!"</p>
<b>Plan B</b>	<p>Plan B is an alternative solution to be adopted if one's original plan does not succeed.</p> <p>"The idea is to get a caterer to provide the food if it's not too expensive. If it's too costly, Plan B is to organize a buffet with the help of my friends."</p>
<b>Point of no return</b>	<p>When you reach the point of no return, you must continue what you have started, because you have gone so far that it is impossible to go back.</p> <p>"I've agreed to speak and accepted the fee. I've now reached the point of no return and must make the speech I promised."</p>
<b>Take pot luck</b>	<p>If you take pot luck, you accept whatever is available without knowing what it will be like.</p> <p>"We were so hungry we decided to take pot luck and stopped at the first restaurant we saw."</p>
<b>Take a stand</b>	<p>When you take a stand, you adopt a firm position on an issue and publicly declare whether you support it or are against it.</p> <p>"The politician was asked to take a stand on the government's</p>

	proposed measures to curb illegal immigration."
<b>Test the water/waters</b>	If you test the water(s), you try to find out how acceptable or successful something is before becoming involved in it. "You should go to a gym class to test the water before enrolling."
<b>Put on ice</b>	To say that a plan or project is put on ice means that all further action has been postponed for an indefinite period of time. "Plans for a nuclear power station have been put on ice."
<b>Shotgun approach</b>	If you use a shotgun approach, you cover a wide range in a non-selective, haphazard and inefficient manner. "Identifying a specific segment of the market as our target will be more effective than a shotgun approach."
<b>Soft option</b>	If you choose the easiest course of action available, which is usually not very effective, you take a soft option. "Their father took a soft option and confiscated the skateboard for a week, hoping his sons would stop quarrelling."
<b>Take a back seat</b>	If you take a back seat, you choose to have a less important function and become less involved in something. "He decided it was time to take a back seat and let someone younger run the club."
<b>Toss-up</b>	When there are two options or possibilities to choose from, and both are equally good, the choice between the two is referred to as a toss-up (like tossing a coin). "Both boxers are in excellent condition. It's a toss-up which of them will win the match."
<b>Tunnel vision</b>	If a person has tunnel vision, they focus on only one aspect of something, or they are unable to see more than one way of doing things. "Our manager has tunnel vision. He sees no reason to change anything."
<b>Weigh the pros and cons</b>	If you weigh the pros and cons, you consider the advantages and disadvantages, the arguments for or against something.

	"We'd better weigh the pros and cons before deciding."
<b>Idiom</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
<b><u>Blow out of proportion</u></b>	<p>If you exaggerate the importance of something, you <b>blow it out of proportion</b>.</p> <p>"The importance of the event was blown out of proportion by the media."</p>
<b><u>Chinese whispers</u></b>	<p>This term refers to a process by which a message or piece of information (especially gossip, rumours or scandalous news) is passed on from one person to another, and changes along the way, so that the final version is often very different from the original.</p>
<b><u>Drop somebody a line</u></b>	<p>If you <b>drop someone a line</b>, you write a letter to them.</p> <p>"I always drop her a line to wish her a Merry Christmas."</p>
<b><u>Act of God</u></b>	<p>This term refers to a natural event or accident, for which no person is responsible (such as an earthquake, lightning and similar acts of nature).</p> <p>"The insurance company refused to pay for the damage because it was caused by an act of God."</p>
<b><u>Been in/through the wars</u></b>	<p>If a person or thing has been <b>in (or through) the wars</b>, they show signs of rough treatment, injury or damage.</p> <p>"He arrived in a car that looked as if it had been in the wars."</p>
<b><u>Beyond recall</u></b>	<p>Something which is <b>beyond recall</b> is impossible to retrieve, cancel or reverse.</p> <p>"I'm afraid we can't recover the pictures -your camera is beyond recall."</p>
<b><u>Beyond redemption</u></b>	<p>If something is <b>beyond redemption</b>, it is in such a poor state that there is no hope of improvement or recovery.</p> <p>"With the latest scandal, his reputation is now beyond redemption."</p>
<b><u>Bodice-ripper</u></b>	<p>A novel, usually on a historical theme, with a plot that involves romantic passion between a vulnerable heroine and a rich, powerful male character, is called a <b>bodice-ripper</b>.</p> <p>"The novel is a bodice-ripper set in the French revolution."</p>

<b><u>Broad strokes</u></b>	If something is described or defined <b>with/in broad strokes</b> , it is outlined in a very general way, without any details. "In a few broad strokes he summed up the situation."
<b><u>Collecting dust</u></b>	If something is <b>collecting dust</b> , it hasn't been touched or used for for a long period of time. "My dad doesn't play golf any more. His clubs are just collecting dust dust now."
<b><u>Come in handy</u></b>	To say that something may <b>come in handy</b> means that it may be useful some time or other. "Don't throw away those old shelves; they may <b>come in handy</b> ."
<b><u>Copper-bottomed</u></b>	To describe something such as a plan, a contract or a financial arrangement as ' <b>copper-bottomed</b> ' means that it is completely safe or reliable. "He has signed a copper-bottomed agreement with a distributor."
<b><u>Cover/hide a multitude of sins</u></b>	If something <b>covers or hides a multitude of sins</b> , it prevents people people from seeing the less pleasant reality. "Loose-fitting clothes can cover a multitude of sins!"
<b><u>Creature comforts</u></b>	This expression refers to modern conveniences (such as hot water water or central heating) that make life comfortable and pleasant. "I need my <b>creature comforts</b> . I don't know how I'd survive without without air-conditioning in this climate!"
<b><u>A cut above</u></b>	Someone or something which is <b>a cut above</b> the others is better or of higher quality. "The articles in this magazine are a cut above the others."
<b><u>Cut and dried</u></b>	To refer to a situation, a problem or a solution as <b>cut and dried</b> means that it is considered clear and straightforward with no likely likely complications. "When the new manager arrived, he didn't find the situation as cut cut and dried as he had expected."

<b><u>Dead as a dodo</u></b>	To say that something is <b>(as) dead as a dodo</b> means that it is without doubt dead or obsolete, or has gone out of fashion. (The dodo is a bird that is now extinct.) "The floppy disk is an invention that is now (as) dead as a dodo."
<b><u>Dead as a doornail</u></b>	This expression is used to stress that a something is unquestionably dead. "They've started fighting again, so the peace agreement is now dead as a doornail."
<b><u>Dog and pony show</u></b>	A <b>dog and pony show</b> is a marketing event or presentation which has plenty of style but not much content.
<b><u>Fait accompli</u></b>	This French term refers to something that has been done and cannot be changed. "He used his savings to buy a motorbike and then presented his parents with a <b>fait accompli</b> ."
<b><u>Fall between two stools</u></b>	If something <b>falls between two stools</b> , it is neither totally one thing nor another, and is therefore unsatisfactory. "The book didn't sell because it fell between two stools; it appealed neither to historians nor to the general public."
<b><u>Few and far between</u></b>	Items, places or events which are <b>few and far between</b> are rarely found or do not happen very often. "Restaurants in this part of the country are few and far between."
<b><u>First water</u></b>	Something that is <b>of the first water</b> is of the finest or most exceptional quality (like being compared to a diamond). "The violinist gave a performance that was of the first water."
<b><u>Fit the bill</u></b>	If someone or something <b>fits the bill</b> , they are exactly right for a particular situation. "They wanted a quiet place for the week-end and the country inn just fitted the bill."
<b><u>Fit for purpose</u></b>	Something that is suitable for a particular function and is fully operational is said to be <b>fit for purpose</b> . "The mayor promised that the new leisure centre would be fit for



	purpose."
<b><u>Flag of convenience</u></b>	If a ship, boat or yacht sails under a <b>flag of convenience</b> , it is registered in a foreign country in order to avoid regulations and taxes and reduce operating costs.
<b><u>For the birds</u></b>	If you think something is <b>for the birds</b> , you consider it to be uninteresting, useless, or not to be taken seriously. "As far as I'm concerned, his theory is <b>for the birds!</b> "
<b><u>A free-for-all</u></b>	This term refers to an uncontrolled situation such as a discussion, argument or event where everyone present can do or say what they like. "It started as a serious debate but turned into a <b>free-for-all.</b> "
<b><u>A Freudian slip</u></b>	This refers to a mistake made by a speaker which is considered to reveal their true thoughts or feelings. "So you got the job - I'm so sad - sorry, I mean glad!"
<b><u>Gizmo</u></b>	The term <b>gizmo</b> refers to a gadget or any small technological item which is unusual or novel, and for which the proper term is unknown or forgotten.
<b><u>Gutter press</u></b>	This term refers to newspapers that print a lot of sensational stories about people's private lives. "Of course the gutter press was quick to print a sensational version of the incident! "
<b><u>Go downhill</u></b>	When something <b>goes downhill</b> it deteriorates or gets worse little by little. "The restaurant has been going downhill since the arrival of the new owner."
<b><u>Go to rack and ruin</u></b>	If something <b>goes to rack and ruin</b> , it deteriorates or falls into serious decline until it reaches a state of complete destruction. "When the factory closed down, the building was left to go to

	rack and ruin."
<b><u>Hard to swallow</u></b>	When something is difficult to accept or believe, it is <b>hard to swallow</b> . She invented an excuse that the teacher found hard to swallow.
<b>(go to) <u>Hell</u> in a handcart</b>	If someone or something is <b>going to hell in a handcart</b> , it is in a bad state and continues to deteriorate. "This used to be a nice place to live but now the area is going to hell in a handcart."
<b><u>Here</u> today, gone tomorrow</b>	This expression is used to refer to something which appears and disappears very quickly, or does not last very long. "The shops in this area change very often - <b>here today, gone tomorrow!</b> "
<b><u>Hive</u> of activity (also: a beehive)</b>	A place where there are lots of things happening, and everyone is very busy, is called a <b>hive of activity</b> . "When I went to offer my help, the kitchen was already a hive of activity."
<b><u>Hollow</u> victory</b>	A victory obtained in unsatisfactory conditions, which as a result seems worthless or without significance for the winner, is called a <b>hollow victory</b> . "Won in the absence of the major ski champions, his gold medal was a hollow victory."
<b><u>Household</u> name/word</b>	When the name of someone or something becomes very familiar because it is so often used, it is called a <b>household name or word</b> . "The product was so successful that its name became a household word in no time."
<b><u>Hustle</u> and bustle</b>	This expression is used to refer to busy energetic activity in an atmosphere of general excitement. "I prefer to live in the country. I hate the hustle and bustle of city life."
<b><u>Idiot</u> box</b>	Some people consider television to lack educational value and refer to it as the <b>idiot box</b> . "He spends all his free time in front of the idiot box."

<p><b><u>In inverted commas</u></b></p>	<p>When describing something, if you use a word which you say is "<b>in inverted commas</b>", you indicate that the word is not quite true or appropriate.</p> <p>"We were served a "meal", in inverted commas, but we were too hungry to complain."</p>
<p><b><u>In keeping with</u></b></p>	<p>If something is <b>in keeping with</b> for example a style or tradition, it is suitable or appropriate in a particular situation.</p> <p>"We exchange presents at Christmas in keeping with tradition."</p>
<p><b><u>Industrial-strength</u></b></p>	<p>This is a humorous way of referring to something which is very strong, powerful or concentrated.</p> <p>"I've got an industrial-strength headache this morning!"</p>
<p><b><u>Just the ticket</u></b></p>	<p>If something is <b>just the ticket</b>, it is exactly right, or just what you need.</p> <p>"I'm not hungry enough for a meal. A bowl of soup would be just the ticket!"</p>
<p><b><u>Last word</u></b></p>	<p>Something described as <b>the last word</b> is the most recent or most fashionable in its category.</p> <p>"Steve's new computer is the last word in technology."</p>
<p><b><u>Less is more</u></b></p>	<p>This expression, used particularly in architecture and design, conveys the idea that things that are simple in style and smaller in size are better.</p> <p>"Simplicity is fashionable today. <b>Less is more.</b>"</p>
<p><b><u>Looks/seems good on paper</u></b></p>	<p>To say that an idea, plan or scheme seems good <b>on paper</b> means that it looks good in theory or in writing but may not work when put into practice.</p> <p>"His plan looks good on paper, but I'm not convinced it will work."</p>
<p><b><u>Light years ahead</u></b></p>	<p>If someone or something is <b>light years ahead</b>, they are far ahead in terms of development or progress.</p> <p>"We've got to invest more in research - our competitors are light years ahead!"</p>
<p><b><u>Live up to one's/its reputation</u></b></p>	<p>If someone or something <b>lives up to its reputation</b>, it's as good, or as bad, as people say.</p> <p>"The guesthouse lived up to its reputation; the owners were as friendly</p>

	and hospitable as we had been told."
<b><u>Middle of nowhere</u></b>	If a place is <b>in the middle of nowhere</b> , it is in a remote area, far from towns, villages or houses. "The campsite was in the middle of nowhere so I couldn't send you a postcard."
<b><u>Middle of the road (MOR)</u></b>	This expression refers to anything moderate, unadventurous or inoffensive, that avoids extremes and appeals to the majority of people. "He's a successful middle-of-the-road entertainer. My mother wouldn't miss a show!"
<b>Smack dab in the <u>middle</u></b>	If something is <b>smack dab in the middle</b> , it's right in the centre. "I couldn't hide the stain on my shirt. It was smack dab in the middle."
<b>In <u>mint</u> condition</b>	Something that is <b>in mint condition</b> is in such perfect condition that it looks new or as good as new. "The car is 10 years old but according to Tom it's in mint condition."
<b><u>Mixed</u> blessing</b>	Something pleasant which also has disadvantages is called a <b>mixed blessing</b> . "He inherited an 18th century mansion, but the maintenance costs make it a mixed blessing."
<b><u>More than meets the eye</u></b>	When something (or someone) is more complicated, difficult or interesting than it appears, it is said that there is <b>more than meets the eye</b> . "He said he simply sold his shares, but I think there's more to it than meets the eye."
<b><u>Name</u> (written) on it</b>	If something <b>has someone's name (written) on it</b> , it is intended for that person or is ideally suited to them. "That dress would be perfect for you - it's got your name on it!"
<b><u>Next best thing</u></b>	If you can't have exactly what you want, the <b>next best thing</b> is the best alternative possible. "The camera I wanted was far too expensive so I opted for a

	cheaper one that was the next best thing."
<b><u>No holds barred</u></b>	This expression, which derives from wrestling, is used to describe something done with no restraints, limits or rules of conduct. "It's a live talk show with <b>no holds barred</b> , which is not to everyone's taste."
<b><u>Not a patch on someone</u></b>	If someone or something is <b>not a patch on</b> an other, they are not nearly as good. "His second conference wasn't a patch on the first one."
<b><u>Not in the same league</u></b>	If something is <b>not in the same league</b> , it is of a much lower standard than something else. "He had a good voice but he wasn't in the same league as Pavarotti "
<b><u>Not up to scratch</u></b>	If something or somebody is <b>not up to scratch</b> , they are not as good as they should be. "The after sales service is really not up to scratch."
<b><u>A notch above</u></b>	Something that is <b>a notch above</b> something else is a little better in every way "His rendering of the song was a notch above the others."
<b><u>Odds and ends</u></b>	<b>Odds and ends</b> are small articles, or bits and pieces of all sorts, usually of little value. "I keep all my odds and ends in this drawer."
<b><u>On the map</u></b>	If a place becomes very well known, it is put <b>on the map</b> . "The president's visit really put the restaurant on the map."
<b><u>Over the top (OTT)</u></b>	Something which is <b>over the top</b> is totally excessive or not suitable for the occasion. "Her dramatic speech was way over the top."
<b><u>Part and parcel</u></b>	If something is <b>part and parcel</b> of an experience, it is a key component or a necessary part that cannot be avoided "I'm an event manager. Travelling is part and parcel of my job."
<b><u>Picture is worth a thousand words</u></b>	This expression means that a picture can give just as much information as a large amount of descriptive text. "Look at the picture of the crash! <b>A picture is worth a thousand words</b> isn't it?"

<p><b><u>Pie in the sky</u></b></p>	<p>If an idea, wish or promise is "<b>pie in the sky</b>", it is completely unrealistic or unlikely to be achieved.          "The promise of low-cost housing for everyone turned out to be pie in the sky."</p>
<p><b><u>The pits</u></b></p>	<p>If something is referred to as <b>the pits</b>, it is considered to be absolutely the worst.          "That magazine really is the pits!"</p>
<p><b>A <u>recipe</u> for disaster</b></p>	<p>If you refer to a plan or an idea as <b>a recipe for disaster</b>, you think it is likely to produce bad results.          "Our two families together for Christmas? Sounds like a recipe for disaster!"</p>
<p><b><u>Red light district</u></b></p>	<p>This term refers to an area of a town or city where there is a concentration of sex shops, prostitution, strip clubs, etc.          "A photograph of the politician taken in a <b>red-light district</b> caused a scandal."</p>
<p><b><u>Right up your alley</u></b></p>	<p>If something is <b>right up your alley</b>, it is the sort of thing you like or have knowledge about.          "You like cooking, don't you? This book will be right up your alley!"</p>
<p><b><u>Rough and ready</u></b></p>	<p>Something which is <b>rough and ready</b> is adequate but rather rudimentary or unrefined.          "The accommodation is rough and ready but the scenery is fantastic!"</p>
<p><b><u>Run-of-the-mill</u></b></p>	<p>Something described as <b>run-of-the-mill</b> is considered ordinary or uneventful.          "I've got nothing extraordinary to tell; it was a run-of-the-mill sales meeting."</p>
<p><b><u>Second to none</u></b></p>	<p>To say that something is <b>second to none</b> means that it is excellent - better than everything else.          "The service was perfect and the food was second to none."</p>

<b><u>Seen better days</u></b>	If something <b>has seen better days</b> , it has aged visibly in comparison to when it was new. "My much-travelled suitcase has seen better days!"
<b><u>Set in stone</u></b>	When something is <b>set in stone</b> , it is permanent and cannot be changed in any way. "The agenda isn't set in stone; we can add an item if need be."
<b><u>Simplicity itself</u></b>	Something that is <b>simplicity itself</b> is extremely easy to do. "Using the tool is simplicity itself; just turn it on and the instructions appear."
<b><u>Small potatoes</u></b>	Something that is <b>small potatoes</b> is considered unimportant or insignificant. "Her first publication was considered small potatoes but her new book has lead to a change of opinion."
<b><u>Snail mail</u></b>	This term refers to the standard system of mail delivery, or postal service, considered very slow compared to electronic mail. "More and more people are using e-mail rather than traditional delivery services, <b>snail mail</b> ."
<b><u>Stand the test of time</u></b>	If something <b>stands the test of time</b> , people continue to find it valuable or useful after many years. "The teaching method has stood the test of time. It is still used in schools today."
<b><u>Stick out a mile</u></b>	If something <b>sticks out a mile</b> , it is very obvious or very easy to see. "You can see she's had a facelift - it sticks out a mile!"
<b><u>Stink to high heaven</u></b>	If something has a very strong unpleasant smell, it <b>stinks to high heaven</b> . "Take off those socks - they stink to high heaven!"
<b><u>Streets ahead</u></b>	If a person or organization is <b>streets ahead</b> of another, they are much better or more advanced. "In measures to preserve the planet, the Scandinavians are streets ahead of us."

<p><b><u>Sublime to ridiculous</u></b></p>	<p>If something goes <b>from the sublime to the ridiculous</b>, it deteriorates in quality from serious or admirable to absurd or unimportant. "An opera followed by a Mr Muscle contest is going from the sublime to the ridiculous!"</p>
<p><b><u>There's nothing to it</u></b></p>	<p>This expression is used to say that something is very simple or easy to do. "I'll show you how to make pancakes. <b>There's nothing to it!</b>"</p>
<p><b><u>Tick all the right boxes</u></b></p>	<p>If something <b>ticks all the right boxes</b>, it is perfect for you because it meets all your criteria or requirements. "We're in luck! We visited an apartment today that ticks all the right boxes."</p>
<p><b><u>Top notch</u></b></p>	<p>To say that something is <b>top notch</b> means that it is of the highest possible quality or standard. "The hotel was wonderful and the service was top notch."</p>
<p><b><u>Tough as old boots</u></b></p>	<p>If something, especially meat, is <b>(as) tough as old boots</b>, it is hard to cut and difficult to chew. (Can also refer to a person who is strong physically or in character.) "We were served a steak as tough as old boots."</p>
<p><b><u>Up/down one's alley</u></b></p>	<p>If something is (right) <b>up or down one's alley</b>, it is exactly the sort of thing that will suit their tastes or abilities. "Alex loves reading, so the job in the bookshop is right up his alley."</p>
<p><b><u>Up-to-the-minute</u></b></p>	<p>To refer to something as <b>up-to-the-minute</b> means that it is the very latest or most recent version available. "The internet is the best place to find up-to-the-minute news."</p>
<p><b><u>Worth one's/its weight in gold</u></b></p>	<p>Someone or something that is <b>worth its weight in gold</b> is considered to be extremely helpful or useful and therefore of great value. "We couldn't run the farm without Tom. He's worth his weight in gold."</p>



as blind as a bat	Someone whose vision is very poor, or who is unable to see anything, is (as) blind as a bat. "Without his glasses the old man is as blind as a bat."
as broad as it's long    as broad as it's long	This expression means that it makes no real difference which alternative is chosen. "Take the high-speed train, or fly and take a taxi? It's as broad as it's long."
as different as chalk and cheese	Two people who are as different as chalk and cheese are completely different from each other.
as dull as ditchwater	To refer to something as being as dull as ditchwater means that it is very boring. "The film was a dull at ditchwater. I nearly fell asleep."
as fit as a fiddle	A person who is as fit as a fiddle is in an excellent state of health or physical condition. "My grandfather is still fit as a fiddle at the age of 90."
as fresh as a daisy	Someone who is as fresh as a daisy is lively and attractive, in a clean and fresh way. "I met Molly the other day. She looked as fresh as a daisy!"
as full as a tick	If someone is as full as a tick, they have eaten or drunk too much. "The little boy ate biscuits and drank lemonade until he was as full as a tick."
as good as gold	A child who is as good as gold is obedient and well-behaved. "Your children are always as good as gold when I look after them."
as happy as a flea in a doghouse	If someone is as happy as a flea in a doghouse, they are very happy and contented. "Since she moved to a smaller apartment, my mother is (as) happy as a flea in a doghouse."
as happy as Larry	If you are as happy as Larry, you are very happy indeed. "My dad's as happy as Larry at the week-end when we all arrive home."
as keen as mustard	If someone is as keen as mustard, they are very eager, enthusiastic or motivated. "We should ask Emily to join the team. She's as keen as

	mustard."
as mad as a hatter	To say that someone is as mad as a hatter means that they are very strange or insane. "The old lady next door is as mad as a hatter. She says the strangest things!
as much use as a handbrake on a canoe	This expression refers to something which is completely useless or serves no purpose. "With no electricity, a refrigerator would be as much use as a handbrake on a canoe. "
as proud as a peacock	A person who is as proud as a peacock is extremely proud. "When his son won first prize, Bill was as proud as a peacock."
as quick as a dog can lick a dish	If you do something surprisingly fast, or suddenly, you do it as quick as a dog can lick a dish. "He packed his bag as quick as a dog can lick a dish."
as sharp as a tack	A person who is as sharp as a tack is able to think quickly and learn very fast. "You won't have to explain it to him twice. He's as sharp as a tack."

<b><u>as</u> stubborn as a mule</b>	If someone is <b>as stubborn as a mule</b> , they are very obstinate and unwilling to listen to reason or change their mind. "His friends advised him to accept the offer, but you know Jack - he's as stubborn as a mule!"
<b><u>(as) ugly as sin</u></b>	<u>This expression is used to refer to people or things that are considered to be very unattractive.</u> <u>"Have you seen the new neighbour's dog? It's as ugly as sin!"</u>
<b><u>as useful as a chocolate teapot</u></b>	<u>Something which is of no practical use at all is <b>about as useful as a chocolate teapot.</b></u> <u>"When there are no roads, a car is about as useful as a chocolate teapot.</u>
<b><u>like the back of one's hand</u></b>	<u>If you know something <b>like the back of your hand</b>, you are very familiar with it and know it in detail.</u> <u>"Of course I won't get lost. I know London like the back of my hand."</u>
<b><u>like a bat out of hell</u></b>	<u>If something moves <b>like a bat out of hell</b>, it moves very quickly.</u> <u>"He grabbed the envelope and ran like a bat out of hell."</u>
<b><u>like a bear with a sore head</u></b>	<u>If someone is behaving <b>like a bear with a sore head</b>, they are very irritable and bad-tempered.</u> <u>"When his team lost the match, Brad was like a bear with a sore head."</u>
<b><u>like bringing a knife to a gunfight</u></b>	<u>To say that an action was <b>like bringing a knife to a gunfight</b> means that there was a total lack of preparation.</u> <u>"Asking an inexperienced lawyer to defend such a difficult case was like bringing a knife to a gunfight."</u>
<b><u>(sound) like a broken record.</u></b>	<u>Someone who says the same thing again and again is said to <b>sound like a broken record.</b></u> <u>"Dad! Stop telling me to be careful when I drive. You sound like a broken record!"</u>

<u>like the cat that ate the canary</u>	<p>If, after an achievement or success, a person appears very self-satisfied or pleased with themselves, you can say that they <b>look like the cat that ate the canary.</b></p> <p>"When the boss complimented him on his work, Steve looked like the cat that ate the canary."</p>
<u>like a cat on hot bricks</u>	<p>A person who is <b>like a cat on hot bricks</b> is very nervous or restless.</p> <p>"The week before the results were published, she was like a cat on hot bricks."</p>
<u>like herding cats</u>	<p>This expression refers to the difficulty of coordinating a situation which involves people who all want to act independently.</p> <p>"Organizing an outing for a group of people from different countries is <b>like herding cats!</b>"</p>
<u>like a scalded cat</u>	<p>If someone or something moves <b>like a scalded cat</b>, they move very fast, usually because they are frightened or shocked.</p> <p>"As soon as he saw the policeman, he ran off like a scalded cat."</p>
<u>like something the cat dragged in</u>	<p>If you compare a person or thing to <b>something the cat dragged in</b> you think they look dirty, untidy or generally unappealing.</p> <p>"My teenage son often looks like something the cat dragged in."</p>
<u>like cat and dog</u>	<p>Two people who fight or argue <b>like cat and dog</b> frequently have violent arguments, even though they are fond of each other.</p> <p>"They fight like cat and dog but they're still together after 30 years"</p>
<u>like clockwork</u>	<p>To say that someone or something goes, runs or behaves <b>like clockwork</b> means that everything happens exactly as expected.</p> <p>"Meals are always served on time. In their home everything runs like clockwork."</p>
<u>like death warmed up</u>	<p>If you look <b>like death warmed up</b>, you look very ill or tired.</p> <p>"My boss told me to go home. He said I looked like death warmed up."</p>
<u>like a deer/rabbit caught in the headlights</u>	<p>When you are so surprised that you are momentarily confused and unable to react quickly, you are <b>like a deer (or a rabbit) caught in the headlights.</b></p> <p>"Surprised by the journalist's question, he was like a deer caught in the headlights."</p>
<u>like greased lightning</u>	<p>If something moves <b>like greased lightning</b>, it moves extremely fast.</p> <p>"As soon the owner appeared, he ran like greased lightning."</p>
<u>like herding cats</u>	<p>This expression refers to the difficulty of coordinating a situation which involves people who all want to act independently.</p> <p>"Organizing an outing for a group of people from different countries is <b>like herding cats.</b>"</p>
<u>like kicking dead whales down the beach.</u>	<p>Expression used (especially in computing) to refer to a particularly slow and difficult process.</p> <p>"Getting him to adopt the new method is <b>like kicking dead whales down the beach.</b>"</p>
<u>out like a light</u>	<p>If a person goes <b>out like a light</b>, they are so tired that they fall asleep very quickly.</p> <p>"As soon as his head touched the pillow, he was out like a light."</p>
<u>like a million dollars</u>	<p>If you look/feel <b>like a million dollars</b>, you look/feel extremely good.</p> <p>"With a tan and a new hairstyle, she looked like a million dollars."</p>
<u>like a moth to a flame</u>	<p>To say that a person is attracted to someone or something <b>like a moth to a flame</b> means that the attraction is so</p>

	<p><u>strong they cannot resist.</u></p> <p><u>"He's drawn to the casino like a moth to a flame.</u></p>
<u>like nailing jelly to the wall</u>	<p><u>To say that something is <b>like nailing jelly to the wall</b>,</u></p> <p><u>you mean that it is extremely difficult to do, if not impossible.</u></p> <p><u>"Keeping track of his movements is like nailing jelly to the wall.</u></p>
<u>like pulling teeth</u>	<p><u>Something that is <b>like pulling teeth</b> is extremely difficult to</u></p> <p><u>obtain, especially if trying to extract information from someone.</u></p> <p><u>"Getting him to talk about his job was like pulling teeth!"</u></p>
<u>like a red flag/rag to a bull</u>	<p><u>To say that a statement or action is <b>like a red flag to a bull</b></u></p> <p><u>means that it is sure to make someone very angry or upset.</u></p> <p><u>"Don't mention Tom's promotion to Mike. It would be like a red flag to a bull!"</u></p>
<u>like a shot</u>	<p><u>If you do something <b>like a shot</b>, you do it very quickly, without any</u></p> <p><u>hesitation.</u></p> <p><u>"If I won a lot of money on the lotto, I'd leave my job like a shot!"</u></p>
<u>a brain like a sieve</u>	<p><u>Someone who has a brain <b>like a sieve</b> has a very</u></p> <p><u>bad memory and forgets things easily.</u></p> <p><u>"Oh, I forgot to buy bread -</u></p> <p><u>I've got a brain like a sieve these days!"</u></p>
<u>like something the cat dragged in</u>	<p><u>If you compare a person or thing to <b>something the cat dragged</b></u></p> <p><u>you think they look dirty, untidy or generally unappealing.</u></p> <p><u>"My teenage son often looks like something the cat dragged in."</u></p>
<u>like a sore thumb</u>	<p><u>If something <b>sticks out like a sore thumb</b>, it is very obvious</u></p> <p><u>or visible in an unpleasant way.</u></p> <p><u>"The modern building sticks out like a sore thumb among the old houses."</u></p>
<u>like taking candy from a baby</u>	<p><u>To say that something is <b>like taking candy from a baby</b></u></p> <p><u>means that it is very easy to do.</u></p> <p><u>"Don't worry - you'll manage. It'll be like taking candy from a baby!"</u></p>
<u>like taking sand to the beach</u>	<p><u>Doing something that is unnecessary or of no use at all is said to be</u></p> <p><u><b>like taking sand to the beach.</b></u></p> <p><u>"Bringing a cake to Judy's party is like taking sand to the beach; she always uses a caterer."</u></p>
<u>like talking to a brick wall</u>	<p><u>To say that a conversation with someone is <b>like talking to a brick</b></u></p> <p><u><b>wall</b> means that communication is impossible because there is no</u></p> <p><u>reaction or response.</u></p> <p><u>"I tried to discuss the problem with him but it was like talking to a brick wall."</u></p>
<u>like there's no tomorrow.</u> (also: as if there were no tomorrow)	<p><u>If someone does something <b>like there's no tomorrow</b>, they do it</u></p> <p><u>fast and eagerly, and regardless of the future, as if this could be</u></p> <p><u>their last opportunity to do it.</u></p> <p><u>"I don't understand him; he's spending money like there's no tomorrow."</u></p>
<u>like a thief in the night</u>	<p><u>Someone who acts <b>like a thief in the night</b> does something</u></p> <p><u>secretly or in an unexpected manner.</u></p> <p><u>"He left the company like a thief in the night, without telling his colleagues or saying goodbye."</u></p>
<u>like a ton of bricks</u>	<p><u>If somebody <b>comes down on you like a ton of bricks</b>,</u></p> <p><u>they criticize you severely because you have done something</u></p> <p><u>wrong.</u></p> <p><u>"If you don't follow his instructions carefully, he'll come down on you like a ton of bricks!"</u></p>
<u>like turkeys voting for Christmas</u>	<p><u>This expression is used to say that a particular option is</u></p> <p><u>unlikely to be chosen because it would not be in the interest of</u></p> <p><u>the people concerned.</u></p>

	<p>(In many countries people eat turkey at Christmas.)  "Expecting them to accept a decrease in salary would be <b>like turkeys voting for Christmas!</b>"</p>
<u>like two peas in a pod</u>	<p>To say that two people are <b>like two peas in a pod</b> means that they are very similar in appearance.  "It wasn't difficult to identify the brothers - they were like two peas in a pod!"</p>
<u>like water off a duck's back</u>	<p>To say that something, such as criticism or advice, is <b>like water off a duck's back</b> means that it has no effect at all.  "He's warned of the dangers of smoking but it's like water off a duck's back."</p>
<u>(like putting) lipstick on a pig</u>	<p>This expression means that trying to 'dress up' something unappealing or ugly, in a vain attempt to make it look better, is like putting <b>lipstick on a pig</b>.  "Flowers will not improve that ugly old bridge; every one agrees it's lipstick on a pig."</p>
<u>cut from the same cloth</u>	<p>If two people are <b>cut from the same cloth</b>, they are very similar in character or behaviour.  "Although the brothers look alike, they are not cut from the same cloth. They each have their own personality."</p>
<u>much of a muchness</u>	<p>This expression means 'very similar' or 'almost alike'  "It's difficult to choose between the two hotels - they're <b>much of a muchness</b> really."</p>
<u>not a patch on (something)</u>	<p>If someone or something is <b>not a patch on</b> another, they are not nearly as good.  "His second conference wasn't a patch on the first one."</p>
<u>not in the same league</u>	<p>If something is <b>not in the same league</b>, it is of a much lower standard than something else.  "He had a good voice but he wasn't in the same league as Pavarotti."</p>
<u>not up to par</u>	<p>If something is <b>not up to par</b>, it does not meet the required standard.  "He didn't get the job because his English wasn't up to par."</p>
<u>a world of difference</u>	<p>When comparing two things or situations, the expression <b>a world of difference</b> means that there is a vast difference between them.  "A swimming pool would make a world of difference in this hot climate."</p>
<u>worlds apart</u>	<p>When two people are very different, they are said to be <b>worlds apart</b>.  "As regards our political opinions, we're worlds apart."</p>
<b>Above and beyond the call of duty</b>	<p>If a person does something which is above and beyond the call of duty, they show a greater degree of courage or effort than is usually required or expected in their job.  "The fire-fighter received a medal for his action which went above and beyond the call of duty"</p>
<u>Back-room boys</u>	<p>This term refers to people who do important work but have no contact with the public.  "Back-room boys don't always receive the credit they deserve for their work."</p>
<u>Brain drain</u>	<p>The departure of highly qualified people (scientists, engineers, etc.) for other countries, where they have better opportunities and usually better pay, is called the brain drain.</p>
<u>Busman's holiday</u>	<p>A busman's holiday is when you spend your spare time or your holidays doing the same sort of activity as you do in your job.  "My husband's a chef, so for him time off with the family is often a busman's holiday!"</p>
<u>Call it quits</u>	<p>When people temporarily stop doing something or put an end to an activity, they call it quits.</p>

	"OK. We're all exhausted, so let's call it quits for today."
<u>The cream of the crop</u>	This expression is used to refer to the best people or things in a particular group. "As usual, the cream of the crop of this year's graduates were offered the best jobs."
<u>Dead wood</u>	The term dead wood refers to people or things which are no longer considered useful or necessary. "The new manager wants to reduce costs by cutting out the dead wood."
<u>On the dole</u>	A person who receives financial assistance from the government when they are unemployed is on the dole. "Their father is on the dole so the family is living on a tight budget."
<u>Dream ticket</u>	If you refer to two people as a dream ticket, you think they would work well together and be successful. "Clinton and Obama teaming up for the general election would be a dream ticket for many Democrats."
<u>Duty bound</u>	If you are duty bound to do something, you are required to do it as part of your obligations. Teachers are duty bound to report a pupil's absence from school.
<u>Earn while you learn</u>	This expression refers to the possibility of earning a salary while in training. "Become an apprentice and get paid while in training. Earn while you learn!"
<u>Firing line</u>	Someone who is in the firing line is in a position to be criticized because of their responsibilities or the position they hold. "The managing director of the bank is in the firing line since the fraud was discovered."
<u>Get the axe/be given the axe</u>	If someone <b>gets the axe</b> , they lose their job. "When a company is restructured, senior staff are often the first to get the axe."
<u>Golden handcuffs</u>	The term <b>golden handcuffs</b> refers to a large sum of money or a generous financial arrangement granted to an executive as an incentive to stay in their job, or to ensure long-term cooperation after their departure.
<u>Golden handshake</u>	A <b>golden handshake</b> is a generous sum of money given to a person when they leave a company or retire (sometimes given to encourage early retirement).
<u>Golden parachute</u>	A <b>golden parachute</b> is a clause in an executive's employment contract stating that the executive will receive certain large benefits if their employment is terminated.
<u>Glass ceiling</u>	This term refers to a discriminatory barrier perceived by women and minorities that prevents them from rising to positions of power or responsibility "Claire knew she would never break through the glass ceiling and rise to a senior management position."
<u>Hang up one's boots</u>	When a sports player <b>hangs up their boots</b> , they stop playing and retire. This expression is often used to refer to retirement in general. "Dad says he's going to hang up his boots at the end of the year."
<u>Number cruncher</u>	This is a humorous way of referring to someone who is an accountant or who is very good at working with numbers and calculations. "She's a <b>number cruncher</b> who perfectly understands the

	<u>organization's financial situation."</u>
<u>Learn the ropes</u>	<u>If you <b>learn the ropes</b>, you learn how to do a particular job correctly.</u> <u>"He's bright. It won't take him long to learn the ropes."</u>
<u>Paid peanuts</u>	<u>If you are <b>paid peanuts</b>, you have a very low salary.</u> <u>"Anne has a very interesting job but she's paid peanuts. Her salary is very low. "</u>
<u>Play second fiddle</u>	<u>If you <b>play second fiddle</b> to somebody, you accept to be second in importance to that person, or have a lower position.</u>
<u>Plum job</u>	<u>A desirable position which is well-paid and considered relatively easy is called <b>a plum job</b>.</u> <u>"Ideally he'd like to find himself a plum job in New York."</u>
<u>Pound the pavement</u>	<u>Someone who <b>pounds the pavement</b>, walks the streets or goes from company to company, usually in search of employment.</u> <u>You also pound the pavement in an effort to raise funds or gain support for a cause.</u> <u>"Charlie is out there pounding the pavement since he lost his job."</u>
<u>Put out to pasture</u>	<u>To say that someone has been <b>put out to pasture</b> means that they have been forced to retire or give up their responsibilities.</u> <u>"He's in good health and feels it's too early to be put out to pasture. "</u>
<u>Be sacked/get the sack</u>	<u>If someone <b>gets the sack</b>, they lose their job, usually because they have done something wrong.</u> <u>"Charlie got the sack when his boss caught him stealing."</u>
<u>Separate the sheep from the goats</u>	<u>If you <b>separate the sheep from the goats</b>, you examine a group of people and decide which are good and which are not so good.</u> <u>"Examining job applications is the first stage in separating the sheep from the goats."</u>
<u>Shape up or ship out</u>	<u>This expression is used to warn someone that if they do not improve, they will have to leave their job.</u> <u>"When Tom started neglecting the customers, he was told to <b>shape up or ship out</b>."</u>
<u>Show somebody the ropes</u>	<u>If you show <b>someone the ropes</b>, you teach or explain to them how to do a particular job.</u> <u>"The manager is busy showing the ropes to two new trainees."</u>
<u>Another string to your bow two strings to your bow</u>	<u>If you have <b>another string to your bow</b>, you have another skill or possible course of action if what you are doing now is unsuccessful.</u> <u>"As well as her excellent qualifications, she's got another string to her bow to help her find a job. She speaks fluent Chinese."</u>
<u>Tricks of the trade</u>	<u>This expression refers to a clever or expert way of doing things, especially in a job.</u> <u>"He's a tough negotiator; he knows all the <b>tricks of the trade</b>."</u>



<u>Waiting in the wings</u>	<p>If someone is <b>waiting in the wings</b>, they are waiting for an opportunity to take action, especially to replace someone else in their job or position.</p> <p>"There are many young actors waiting in the wings, ready to show their talent."</p>
<u>Walking papers</u>	<p>If you are given your <b>walking papers</b>, your contract or a relationship is ended.</p> <p>"After causing a diplomatic incident, Carter got his walking papers."</p>
<u>Work to rule</u>	<p>During a conflict, when employees decide to do only the minimum amount of work required by company rules, and refuse any overtime etc., they <b>work to rule</b>.</p> <p>"In protest against the new measures, the employees decided to work to rule."</p>
<u>Worth one's salt</u>	<p>This expression is used to say that a person who does their job well would or would not do certain things.</p> <p>"Any inspector <b>worth his salt</b> would have checked the papers carefully."</p>
<u>Xerox subsidy</u>	<p>This term refers to the habit of using the photocopier at work for personal use.</p> <p>"A certain percentage of photocopies are in fact <b>xerox subsidies</b>."</p>
<u>Bare one's heart (or soul)</u>	<p>If you <b>bare your heart or soul to someone</b>, you reveal your innermost thoughts and feelings to them.</p> <p>"John couldn't keep things to himself any longer. He decided to bare his soul to his best friend."</p>
<u>Don't beat around the bush</u>	<p>This expression is used to tell somebody to say what they have to say, clearly and directly, even if it's unpleasant.</p>
<u>Call a spade a spade</u>	<p>A person who <b>calls a spade a spade</b> speaks openly and truthfully about something, especially difficult matters.</p> <p>"What I like about the new manager is that he calls a spade a spade - it makes things so much easier for everyone."</p>
<u>Put/lay one's cards on the table</u>	<p>If you <b>put your cards on the table</b>, you speak honestly and openly about your feelings and intentions.</p> <p>"Let's clear the air and put our cards on the table."</p>
<u>Clear the air</u>	<p>If you decide to <b>clear the air</b>, you try to remove the causes of fear, worry or suspicion by talking about them openly.</p> <p>"The atmosphere had become so unpleasant that he decided it was time to clear the air."</p>



<b><u>Come clean.</u></b>	To <b>come clean</b> about something means to tell the truth. "The suspect eventually decided to come clean and admit what he did."
<b><u>Economical with the truth</u></b>	To say that a person is <b>economical with the truth</b> means that, without actually lying, they omit important facts or give incomplete information. "The politician was accused of being economical with the truth."
<b><u>Hidden agenda</u></b>	If a person or organization has a <b>hidden agenda</b> , they have hidden interests or ulterior motives. "I can guarantee that we have no hidden agenda. Our intentions have always been clear."
<b><u>Home truths</u></b>	If you tell somebody some <b>home truths</b> , you tell them some unpleasant facts about themselves which are often difficult to accept. "David needs to be told a few home truths, whether he likes it or not!"
<b><u>In vino veritas</u></b>	This expression, which in Latin means " <i>in wine there is truth</i> ", is a way of saying that wine makes people less inhibited and leads them to speak more freely and reveal their true feelings. "After a few drinks he told the whole story - <b>in vino veritas!</b> "
<b><u>Make no bones about something</u></b>	If you <b>make no bones about something</b> , you don't hesitate to say something in a frank and open way. "I made no bones about it. I told him his offer was unacceptable."
<b><u>(Not) mince one's words</u></b>	Someone who does <b>not mince their words</b> expresses their ideas, opinions or thoughts very clearly, even if they offend others by doing so. "Come on John. Tell us what you really think - and don't mince your words."
<b><u>On the level</u></b>	If you say that somebody is <b>on the level</b> , you are referring to a truthful and honest person. "Tell me straight : Is he on the level or not?"
<b><u>Open the kimono</u></b>	If a person or organization <b>opens the kimono</b> , they reveal something previously hidden. "It's time to open the kimono and explain that we cannot meet

	the deadline.
<b><u>Pull no punches</u></b>	When someone <b>pulls no punches</b> , they speak openly and honestly, holding nothing back. "The doctor pulled no punches. He explained in detail the risks of the operation.
<b><u>Put words in somebody's mouth</u></b>	If you claim, wrongly, that someone has said something, or suggest what they should say, you are <b>putting words in their mouth</b> . "You're putting words in my mouth. I did <i>not</i> say I saw Mr. Brown; I said I saw his car!"
<b><u>Say a mouthful</u></b>	If you make an important, perceptive or lengthy remark, you <b>say a mouthful</b> . "The customer said a mouthful when he gave the main reason for his dissatisfaction."
<b><u>Smoke and mirrors</u></b>	An attempt to conceal or distort the truth (like a magician) in order to confuse people is called <b>smoke and mirrors</b> . "The outgoing president used smoke and mirrors to make the situation look better."
<b><u>Unvarnished truth</u></b>	If you present someone with the plain facts, without trying to embellish or soften the reality, you give them the <b>unvarnished truth</b> . "OK, tell me how the accident happened, and give me the unvarnished truth."
<b><u>Words of one syllable</u></b>	If you explain something <b>in words of one syllable</b> , you use very simple language. "No so fast! Tell me in words of one syllable."
<b><u>With bells on</u></b>	If you go somewhere with bells on, you are delighted and eager to go there. "Of course I'll be there - with bells on!"

<b>Blow away the cobwebs</b>	<p>If something blows away the cobwebs, it makes you feel more lively and refreshes your ideas.</p> <p>"Let's get out of the house. A walk on the beach will blow away the cobwebs!"</p>
<b>Chill out</b>	<p>When people chill out, often after a period of heavy work or nervous tension, they do something that helps them to calm down and relax for a while.</p> <p>"After a week of exams, the students needed to go and chill out."</p>
<b>In one's element</b>	<p>When you are in your element, you are doing something that you do well and you are enjoying yourself.</p> <p>"My mother, who loves gardening, is in her element working at the garden centre."</p>
<b>Feast one's eyes on something</b>	<p>If you feast your eyes on something, you are delighted and gratified by what you see.</p> <p>"As he drove along the coast, he feasted his eyes on the beautiful scenery."</p>
<b>Footloose and fancy-free</b>	<p>A person who is footloose and fancy-free has few responsibilities or commitments of any kind and feels free to do as they please.</p> <p>"John will never get married. He says he prefers to be footloose and fancy-free."</p>
<b>In full swing</b>	<p>When something, such as an event, gets into full swing, it is at its busiest or liveliest time.</p> <p>"When we got back to the office, the Christmas party was in full swing."</p>
<b>Full of the joys of spring</b>	<p>If you are full of the joys of spring, you are happy, enthusiastic and full of energy.</p> <p>"Barbara is full of the joys of spring at the moment! Has she got a new boyfriend?"</p>
<b>Happy-go-lucky</b>	<p>If you are a happy-go-lucky person, you are cheerful and carefree all the time.</p> <p>"He's a happy-go-lucky sort of guy - always in good humour."</p>
<b>Have a ball</b>	<p>If you have a ball, you enjoy yourself very much.</p> <p>"The party was great. We had a ball."</p>

<b>Have the time of your life</b>	If you have the time of your life, you enjoy yourself immensely. "The kids had the time of their lives at Disneyland."
<b>Have a whale of a time</b>	When people have a whale of a time, they enjoy themselves very much. "We had a whale of a time at the party last night."
<b>The honeymoon is over</b>	To say that the honeymoon is over means that the initial period of friendship and cooperation between people, groups or organizations has ended. "He was elected only six months ago but the honeymoon is already over."
<b>Let one's hair down.</b>	If you suggest that someone should let their hair down, you are telling them to relax and enjoy themselves. "Come on! We' re not at work now. You can let your hair down!"
<b>Life and soul of the party</b>	The life and soul of the party is the most lively and amusing person present at an event. "I'm so glad we invited Caroline. She was the life and soul of the party!"
<b>Live the life of Riley</b>	If you live the life of Riley, you have a comfortable and enjoyable life, without having to work too hard. "He married a millionaire, and since then he's been living the life of Riley."
<b>Make a big thing (of something)</b>	If you attach a lot of importance to something, or make it a special occasion, you make a big thing of it. "It's Jack's birthday but he doesn't want to make a big thing of it, so please don't mention it."
<b>More fun than a barrel of monkeys</b>	If something is very amusing or enjoyable, you can say it is more fun than a barrel of monkeys. "The TV quiz was more fun than a barrel of monkeys."
<b>Paint the town red</b>	If you paint the town red, you go out and enjoy a lively evening in bars, night-clubs, etc. "To celebrate the victory, the team's supporters painted the town red."
<b>The party is over</b>	To say that the party is over means that a period of happiness, freedom, enjoyment etc. has come to an end, and life is going to return to normal.

	"I had a wonderful time here but the party's over and I must get back to work."
<b>Pull somebody's leg</b>	If you pull somebody's leg, you tease them by telling them something that is not true. "Of course I'm not going to buy a sports car. I was just pulling your leg!"
<b>Pull the other one (it's got bells on)</b>	After hearing an unlikely story, this expression is used jokingly to tell the speaker that you are not going to believe what they say next. "You have a date with George Clooney? Yeah - now pull the other one!"
<b>Punch line</b>	The punch line is the funny sentence that ends a joke or an amusing story. "When my dad tells jokes, he never gets the punch line right!"
<b>Ring out the old year and ring in the new</b>	This expression means to announce and celebrate the end of one year and the beginning of the next.
<b>A social butterfly</b>	This term refers to a person who has a lot of friends and acquaintances and likes to flit from one social event to another. "Julie is constantly out and about; she's a real social butterfly."
<b>Sow one's wild oats</b>	A person, usually a man, who sows their wild oats goes through a period of carefree pleasure-seeking while they are young. "He was advised to sow his wild oats before he got married."
<b>Take it easy</b>	When you relax, or do things at a comfortable pace, you take it easy. "It's nice to slow down at the week-end and take it easy."
<b>Tickle the ivories</b>	This is a humorous way of talking about playing the piano. "My grandfather loves playing the piano; he tickles the ivories whenever he gets the chance."
<b>Wet the baby's head</b>	This expression means to have to drink to celebrate the birth of a baby. "When his first child was born, Tom invited his colleagues to a local bar to wet the baby's head."

<b>The world is your oyster</b>	This expression means that you are free and able to enjoy the pleasures and opportunities that life has to offer. "She left college feeling that the world was her oyster."
<b>On cloud nine</b>	A person who is on cloud nine is very happy because something wonderful has happened. "When the boss announced my promotion, I was on cloud nine!"
<b>Like a dog with two tails</b>	If somebody is like a dog with two tails, they are extremely happy. "When Paul won the first prize, he was like a dog with two tails."
<b>Down in the dumps</b>	Someone who is down in the dumps is depressed or feeling gloomy. "Alex has been down in the dumps since he failed his exam."
<b>Down in the mouth</b>	When someone is down in the mouth, they look unhappy, discouraged or depressed. "You look a bit down in the mouth. What's the matter?"
<b>Face like a wet weekend</b>	If someone has a face like a wet weekend, they are wearing a sad expression and look miserable. "What's wrong with Pete? He's got a face like a wet weekend."
<b>Fool's paradise</b>	If someone is living in a fool's paradise, they are in a state of contentment that will not last because their happiness is based on illusion or false hope. "Lisa is living in a fool's paradise if she thinks her boss is going to marry her."
<b>Full of the joys of spring</b>	If you are full of the joys of spring, you are happy, enthusiastic and full of energy. "Barbara is full of the joys of spring at the moment! Has she got a new boyfriend?"
<b>Grin from ear to ear</b>	If somebody is grinning from ear to ear, they look very satisfied and happy. "When we saw Paul grinning from ear to ear, we knew he had passed the exam."
<b>Happy camper</b>	To refer to someone as a 'happy camper' means that they are generally content or satisfied with what is happening in their lives and have no cause for complaint. "With his new job and his new car, Andy is one happy camper!"

<b>Happy as a flea in a doghouse</b>	<p>If someone is (as) happy as a flea in a doghouse, they are very happy and contented.</p> <p>"Since she moved to a smaller apartment, my mother is (as) happy as a flea in a doghouse."</p>
<b>(As) happy as Larry</b>	<p>If you are (as) happy as Larry, you are very happy indeed.</p> <p>"My dad's as happy as Larry at the week-end when we all arrive home."</p>
<b>Happy-go-lucky</b>	<p>If you are a happy-go-lucky person, you are cheerful and carefree all the time.</p> <p>"He's a happy-go-lucky sort of guy - always in good humour."</p>
<b>Your heart sinks</b>	<p>If your heart sinks, you feel very unhappy and despondent</p> <p>"My heart sank when I saw the amount of work waiting for me."</p>
<b>Jump for joy</b>	<p>When people jump for joy, they express their happiness through excited movements and gestures.</p> <p>"The player jumped for joy when he scored the winning goal."</p>
<b>Life is just a bowl of cherries!</b>	<p>This expression means that life is pleasant and uncomplicated.</p> <p>"Now that he's retired, my grandfather often says "life is just a bowl of cherries".</p>
<b>A lump in your throat</b>	<p>If you have a lump in your throat, you have a tight feeling in your throat because of a strong emotion such as sadness or gratitude.</p> <p>"The speech was so touching that I had a lump in my throat."</p>
<b>Music to your ears</b>	<p>To say that something is music to your ears, means that the information you receive makes you feel very happy.</p>
<b>Never looked back</b>	<p>If you say that you have never looked back, you mean that after an event which changed your life for the better, you continue to be happy with the situation.</p> <p>"Since the day she decided to work from home, she has never looked back."</p>
<b>Over the moon</b>	<p>If you are over the moon, you are absolutely delighted.</p> <p>"We were all over the moon when we heard the good news."</p>
<b>Go overboard</b>	<p>To go overboard means to be too excited or enthusiastic about something.</p>

<a href="#"><u>Paint the town red</u></a>	<p>If you paint the town red, you go out and enjoy a lively evening in bars, night-clubs, etc.</p> <p>"To celebrate the victory, the team's supporters painted the town red."</p>
<b>As pleased (or as proud) as punch</b>	<p>Someone who is as pleased (or as proud) as punch is delighted or feels very satisfied about something.</p> <p>"Danny was as proud as punch when he won the tennis match."</p>
<b>In raptures</b>	<p>If you are in raptures about something, you are delighted or very enthusiastic.</p> <p>"Julie is in raptures about her new apartment."</p>
<b>Snug as a bug in a rug.</b>	<p>This is a humorous way of saying that you are warm and comfortable.</p> <p>"Wrapped up in a blanket on the sofa, she looked as snug as a bug in a rug."</p>
<b>Stars in one's eyes</b>	<p>If someone has stars in their eyes, they are looking extremely happy.</p> <p>"She had stars in her eyes when she saw the car she had won."</p>
<b>In stitches</b>	<p>When people are in stitches, they are laughing a lot.</p> <p>"The story was so funny, everyone was in stitches."</p>
<b>Thrilled to bits</b>	<p>If someone is thrilled to bits, they are extremely pleased about something.</p> <p>"Julie was thrilled to bits when her project was selected."</p>
<b>Tickled pink.</b>	<p>If you say you are tickled pink, you are very pleased about something.</p>
<b>Time of your life</b>	<p>If you have the time of your life, you enjoy yourself very much.</p> <p>"The kids had the time of their lives at Disneyland."</p>
<b>Be/feel on top of the world</b>	<p>If you are or you feel on top of the world, you are extremely happy because everything is going well for you.</p> <p>"It's been such a good year for Mary that she feels on top of the world."</p>
<b>Walk on air</b>	<p>When you are happy and excited because of a pleasant event that makes you feel as if you are floating, you are walking on air.</p> <p>"Sophie has been walking on air since her painting won the first prize."</p>



<b>Whatever floats your boat</b>	<p>This expression means that although you don't quite agree with the other person, it's their choice and you think they should do whatever makes them happy.</p> <p>"You're going to spend your honeymoon in Alaska?"</p> <p>Well, whatever floats your boat!"</p>
<b>in bad shape</b>	<p>A person who is in bad shape is in poor physical condition.</p> <p>"I really am in bad shape. I need to get some exercise."</p>
<b>get yourself back into shape</b>	<p>To get yourself back into shape, you need to take exercise in order to become fit and healthy again.</p> <p>"Se decided she'd have to get back into shape before looking for a new job."</p>
<b>bag of bones</b>	<p>To say that someone is a bag of bones means that they are extremely thin.</p> <p>"When he came home from the war he was a bag of bones."</p>
<b>full of beans</b>	<p>A person who is full of beans is lively, active and healthy.</p> <p>"You'd never guess his age. He's still full of beans!"</p>
<b>black out</b>	<p>If you black out, you lose consciousness.</p> <p>"When Tony saw the needle, he blacked out."</p>
<b>as blind as a bat</b>	<p>Someone whose vision is very poor, or who is unable to see anything, is (as) blind as a bat.</p> <p>"Without his glasses the old man is as blind as a bat."</p>
<b>blue around the gills (also green or pale around the gills)</b>	<p>If a person looks blue around the gills, they look unwell or sick.</p> <p>"You should sit down. You look a bit blue around the gills."</p>
<b>feel blue</b>	<p>To feel blue means to have feelings of deep sadness or depression.</p> <p>"My old neighbour has been feeling blue since her dog died."</p>
<b>kick the bucket</b>	<p>To kick the bucket is a light-hearted way of talking about death.</p> <p>"He will inherit when his grandfather kicks the bucket."</p>
<b>cast iron stomach</b>	<p>If you can eat all sorts of food and drink what you like, without any indigestion, discomfort or bad effects, it can be said that you have a cast iron stomach.</p> <p>"I don't know how you can eat that spicy food. You must have a</p>

	cast iron stomach!"
<b>clean bill of health</b>	If a person has a clean bill of health, they have a report or certificate declaring that their health is satisfactory.
<b>be off colour</b>	If you are off colour, you are looking or feeling ill. "You look a bit off colour. Are you feeling all right?"
<b>dead as a doornail</b>	This expression is used to stress that a person or thing is unquestionably dead. "As soon as the golf ball hit the rabbit, he was dead as a doornail."
<b>dice with death</b>	If you put your life at risk by doing something very dangerous, you dice with death. "Going mountain-climbing alone is dicing with death."
<b>die with one's boots on</b>	A person who dies with their boots on dies while still leading an active life. "He says he'll never retire. He'd rather die with his boots on!"
<b>my dogs are barking</b>	When a person says that their dogs are barking they mean that their feet are hurting. "I've been shopping all day. My dogs are barking."
<b>drop like flies</b>	If people drop like flies, they fall ill or die in large numbers. "There's an epidemic of flu at the moment. Senior citizens are dropping like flies."
<b>hit the dust</b>	The expression hit the dust is a humorous way of referring to death. "You can have my computer when I hit the dust!"
<b>back on one's feet</b>	If you are back on your feet, after an illness or an accident, you are physically healthy again.
<b>as fit as a fiddle</b>	A person who is as fit as a fiddle is in an excellent state of health or physical condition. "My grandfather is still fit as a fiddle at the age of 90."
<b>a frog in one's throat</b>	A person who has a frog in their throat is unable to speak clearly because their throat is sore, or because they want to cough.

<b>hair of the dog that bit you</b>	<p>This expression means that you use as a remedy a small amount of what made you ill, for example a drink of alcohol when recovering from drinking too much.</p> <p>"Here, have a drop of this. It's a little hair of the dog that bit you!"</p>
<b>hale and hearty</b>	<p>Someone, especially an old person, who is hale and hearty is in excellent health</p> <p>"My grandmother is still hale and hearty at the age of ninety."</p>
<b>a hangover</b>	<p>To have a hangover means to suffer from the unpleasant after-effects of drinking too much alcohol.</p>
<b>hard of hearing</b>	<p>If you are hard of hearing, you can't hear very well. "You'll have to speak louder to Mr. Jones. He's a bit hard of hearing."</p>
<b>keep body and soul together</b>	<p>If someone is able to keep body and soul together, they manage to survive.</p> <p>"He was unemployed and homeless, but he somehow managed to keep body and soul together."</p>
<b>land of the living</b>	<p>This is a humorous way of saying that someone is still alive.</p> <p>"Hi there! It's good to see you're still in the land of the living!"</p>
<b>be on one's last legs</b>	<p>If you are on your last legs, you are in a very weak condition or about to die.</p>
<b>like death warmed up</b>	<p>If you look or feel like death warmed up, you look or feel very ill or tired.</p> <p>"My boss told me to go home. He said I looked like death warmed up."</p>
<b>living on borrowed time</b>	<p>This expression refers to a period of time after an illness or accident which could have caused death.</p> <p>"After heart surgery, some patients say they're living on borrowed time."</p>
<b>look the picture of health</b>	<p>To look the picture of health means to look completely or extremely healthy.</p> <p>"Nice to see you again Mr. Brown. I must say you look the picture of health."</p>

<b>meet your maker</b>	<p>This expression is used to say (often humorously) that someone has died.</p> <p>"Poor old Mr. Potter has gone to meet his maker."</p>
<b>on the mend</b>	<p>Someone who is on the mend is getting better after an illness.</p> <p>"My grandmother has not been very well this last while but she's on the mend now."</p>
<b>new lease of life</b>	<p>A person who has a new lease of life has a chance to live longer or with greater enjoyment or satisfaction.</p> <p>"Moving closer to his children has given him a new lease of life."</p>
<b>go nuts</b>	<p>To say that a person has gone nuts means that they have become completely foolish, eccentric or mad.</p>
<b>go under the knife</b>	<p>If a person goes under the knife, they have surgery.</p> <p>"I'm not worried about the anaesthetic. I've been under the knife several times."</p>
<b>off colour</b>	<p>If you are off colour, you look or feel ill.</p> <p>"What's the matter with you Tom? You look a bit off colour today."</p>
<b>on the mend</b>	<p>If someone or something is on the mend, they are improving after an illness or a difficult period.</p> <p>"My mother caught the 'flu but she's on the mend now."</p>
<b>one foot in the grave</b>	<p>A person who is either very old or very ill and close to death is said to have one foot in the grave.</p> <p>"It's no use talking to the owner. The poor man has got one foot in the grave."</p>
<b>one's number is up</b>	<p>To say that one's number is up means that a person is either in serious difficulty and something bad is going to happen, or the time has come when they will die.</p> <p>"When he had a second heart attack, we thought his number was up!"</p>

<b>out of sorts</b>	<p>If someone is out of sorts, they are upset and irritable and not feeling well.</p> <p>"The baby is out of sorts today. Perhaps he's cutting a tooth."</p>
<b>have pins and needles</b>	<p>To have pins and needles is to have a tingling sensation in a part of the body, for example an arm or a leg, when it has been in the same position for a long time.</p>
<b>in the pink of health</b>	<p>If you are in the pink of health, you are in excellent physical condition or extremely healthy.</p> <p>"Caroline looked in the pink of health after her holiday."</p>
<b>pop one's clogs</b>	<p>This is a euphemistic way of saying that a person is dead.</p> <p>"Nobody lives in that house since old Sam popped his clogs."</p>
<b>in the prime of one's life</b>	<p>A time in one's life when a person is the most successful or in their best physical condition is called the prime of one's life.</p> <p>"At the age of 75, the singer is not exactly in the prime of his life!"</p>
<b>pull through</b>	<p>If you pull through, you recover from a serious illness.</p> <p>"My grandmother got pneumonia but she pulled through."</p>
<b>pushing up the daisies</b>	<p>If you say of someone that they are pushing up the daisies, you mean that they are dead.</p> <p>"Old Johnny Barnes? He's been pushing up the daisies for over 10 years!"</p>
<b>racked with pain</b>	<p>When someone is suffering from severe pain, they are racked with pain.</p> <p>"The soldier was so badly injured that he was racked with pain."</p>
<b>ready to drop</b>	<p>Someone who is ready to drop, is nearly too exhausted to stay standing.</p> <p>"I've been shopping all day with Judy. I'm ready to drop!"</p>
<b>recharge your batteries</b>	<p>When you recharge your batteries, you take a break from a tiring or stressful activity in order to relax and recover your energy.</p> <p>"Sam is completely over-worked. He needs a holiday to recharge his batteries."</p>
<b>right as rain</b>	<p>If someone is (as) right as rain, they are in excellent health or condition.</p> <p>"I called to see my grandmother, thinking she was ill, but she was (as) right as rain!"</p>

<b>run down</b>	A person who is run down is in poor physical condition. "He's completely run down from lack of proper food."
<b>spare-part surgery</b>	This term refers to surgery in which a diseased or non-functioning organ of a person is replaced with a transplanted or artificial organ.
<b>spare tyre</b>	If a person has a spare tyre, they have a roll of flesh around the waist. "I'd better go on a diet - I'm getting a spare tyre!"
<b>take a turn for the worse</b>	If a person who is ill takes a turn for the worse, their illness becomes more serious. "I'm afraid the news is not good. The patient has taken a turn for the worse."
<b>touch-and-go</b>	If something is touch-and-go, the outcome or result is uncertain. "Dave's life is out of danger now, but it was touch-and-go after the operation."
<b>under the weather</b>	If you are under the weather, you are not feeling very well. "I'm not going to the party. I'm a bit under the weather today."
<b>up and about</b>	If someone is up and about, they are out of bed or have recovered after an illness. "She was kept in hospital for a week but she's up and about again."
<b>vim and vigour</b>	If you are full of vim and vigour, you have lots of vitality, energy and enthusiasm. "After a relaxing holiday, my parents came back full of vim and vigour."
<b>Beat around the bush</b>	If, in a discussion, you beat around the bush, you have difficulty in saying clearly what you want to say.
<b>Blow hot and cold</b>	If you blow hot and cold about something, you constantly change your opinion about it. "The boss keeps blowing hot and cold about the marketing campaign - one day he finds it excellent, the next day he wants to make

	changes."
<b>Chop and change</b>	If you chop and change, you constantly change your opinion, plans or methods and often cause confusion. "Don't chop and change all the time - just make up your mind!"
<b>Cough up</b>	If you have to cough up something, such as money or information, you give it reluctantly or unwillingly. "He refused to say who attacked him until his father made him cough up the names."
<b>Drag one's feet</b>	To say that a person is dragging their feet means that they are unnecessarily delaying making a decision about something that is important to you.
<b>Get cold feet</b>	If you get cold feet about something, you begin to hesitate about doing it; you are no longer sure whether you want to do it or not.
<b>On the fence</b>	When faced with a choice, a person who is on the fence has not yet reached a decision. "The candidates have such similar ideas that many electors are still on the fence."
<b>Hem and haw</b>	When someone hems and haws, they are very evasive and avoid giving a clear answer. "Bobby hemmed and hawed when his parents asked him where he had spent the night."
<b>The jury is still out</b>	To say that the jury is still out means that something is under consideration but no decision has been reached yet "The jury is still out on the location of the new station."
<b>Prod someone into doing something</b>	If you prod someone into doing something, you make a slow or hesitant person do something that they are reluctant to do. "She was ideal for the job, but I had to prod her into applying for the position."
<b>Put out feelers</b>	If a person or organization puts out feelers, they cautiously check the views of others. "The politician put out feelers to test public reaction to his future proposals."

<p><b>In a quandary</b></p>	<p>If you are in a quandary about something, you find it difficult to decide what to do.          "The job they offer is less interesting but the salary is better. I'm in a quandary about what to do."</p>
<p><b>Shilly-shally</b></p>	<p>If you shilly-shally, you hesitate a lot about something and have difficulty reaching a decision.          "Come on! Don't shilly-shally - just make up your mind!"</p>
<p><b>In two minds</b></p>	<p>If you are in two minds about something, you have difficulty deciding what to do.          "I'm in two minds about whether or not to accept the offer."</p>
<p><b>Toing and froing</b></p>	<p>Someone who is toing and froing is either repeatedly going from one place to another and coming back, or is constantly changing their mind about something.          "After months of toing and froing, a compromise was reached between the two parties."</p>
<p><b>Up in the air</b></p>	<p>If something, such as a plan or a decision, is up in the air, it has not been decided or settled yet.          "I can't give you a definite answer yet; the project is still up in the air."</p>
<p><b>Above board</b></p>	<p>If a situation or business is described as above board, it is open, honest and legal.          "There are no secret negotiations. Our dealings have always been above board."</p>
<p><b>Barefaced liar</b></p>	<p>Someone who lies easily, with a total lack of shame, is called a barefaced liar.          "That barefaced liar stole my watch and said he'd found it!"</p>
<p><b>Bend the truth</b></p>	<p>If you bend the truth, you say something that is not entirely true.          "OK, I bent the truth a bit; I told him it was my natural colour, but I didn't say that my hairdresser helped me to keep it natural!"</p>
<p><b>The benefit of the doubt</b></p>	<p>If you give somebody the benefit of the doubt, you choose to believe that the person is innocent, honest or telling the truth, because there is no evidence to the contrary.          "Although he found it hard to believe Tom's explanation, the</p>



	<p>teacher decided to give him the benefit of the doubt."</p>
<b>Black market</b>	<p>The black market refers to the illegal buying and selling of goods or currencies.</p>
<b>Break every rule in the book.</b>	<p>If you behave in a completely unacceptable way, you break every rule in the book. "Our competitors obtained the contract by breaking every rule in the book."</p>
<b>In cahoots with someone</b>	<p>If one person is in cahoots with another, they are working in close partnership, usually conspiring to do something dishonest. "There was a rumour that the Mayor was in cahoots with a chain of supermarkets."</p>
<b>Put/lay your cards on the table</b>	<p>If you put your cards on the table, you speak honestly and openly about your feelings and intentions. "Let's clear the air and put our cards on the table."</p>
<b>Catch someone red-handed</b>	<p>If a person is caught red-handed, they are caught while they are doing something wrong or illegal. "The boy was caught red-handed stealing a CD in a shop."</p>
<b>Cook the books</b>	<p>A person who cooks the books is one who changes the facts or figures in their financial accounts, often in order to steal money. "The actor discovered after a while that his agent was cooking the books."</p>
<b>Crooked as a dog's hind leg</b>	<p>To say that someone is as crooked as a dog's hind leg means that they are very dishonest indeed. "He can't be trusted - he's as crooked as a dog's hind leg."</p>
<b>Daylight robbery</b>	<p>The term 'daylight robbery' is used when the price of something is thought to be much too high. "\$10 for an orange juice? That's daylight robbery!"</p>
<b>Economical with the truth</b>	<p>To say that a person is economical with the truth means that, without actually lying, they omit important facts or give incomplete information.</p>

	"The politician was accused of being economical with the truth."
<b>Face value</b>	<p>If you take something at its face value, you assume that it is genuinely what it appears to be.</p> <p>"The car seems to be in good condition, but don't take it at its face value; get a mechanic to check it out."</p>
<b>Fair and square</b>	<p>If something is obtained or won fair and square, it is done in an honest and open manner, the rules are respected and there is no cheating or lying.</p> <p>"Peter won the competition fair and square - there was no doubt about the result."</p>
<b>Fall off the back of a lorry</b>	<p>If you buy goods that have fallen off the back of a lorry, they are stolen goods.</p> <p>"Judging by the price of that camera, it must have fallen off the back of a lorry!"</p>
<b>False pretences</b>	<p>If you obtain something under false pretences, you deceive others by lying about your identity, qualifications, financial or social position, in order to obtain what you want..</p> <p>"She obtained the interview under false pretences."</p>
<b>Feather one's nest</b>	<p>To say of someone that they are feathering their nest means that they are taking advantage of their position in order to obtain money so as to have a comfortable life.</p>
<b>Five-finger discount</b>	<p>If somebody gets a five-finger discount, they take something without paying. In other words, they steal.</p> <p>"How could he afford that watch?" "Who knows - perhaps with a five-finger discount!"</p>
<b>Fly-by-night</b>	<p>A 'fly-by-night' person, business or venture is considered untrustworthy because they operate briefly and disappear overnight.</p> <p>"I bought it in one of those fly-by-night stores and now I can't exchange it. The place has closed down."</p>

<p><b>Funny business</b></p>	<p>An activity which is conducted in a deceitful, dishonest or unethical manner is called funny business.</p> <p>"I've got suspicions about that association. I think they're up to some funny business."</p>
<p><b>Grease somebody's palm</b></p>	<p>If you accuse someone of greasing somebody's palm, you are accusing them of giving money to someone in order to gain an unfair advantage, or to obtain something they want.</p> <p>"In some countries, it is common practice to grease government officials' palms."</p>
<p><b>Hand in glove</b></p>	<p>Two or more people who are in collusion, or work in close association, are said to be hand in glove.</p> <p>"After the match, it was discovered that he was hand in glove with the referee."</p>
<p><b>Ill-gotten gains</b></p>	<p>Money, profit or benefits that are made in a dishonest or illegal manner are called ill-gotten gains.</p> <p>"He won money by cheating and is now enjoying his ill-gotten gains."</p>
<p><b>Lead somebody up the garden path</b></p>	<p>If someone leads you up the garden path, they deceive you by making you believe something which is not true.</p> <p>"I still haven't got a promotion. I think my boss is leading me up the garden path!"</p>
<p><b>Lie through your teeth</b></p>	<p>If you lie through your teeth, you lie openly and brazenly, knowing that what you are saying is completely false.</p> <p>"I saw him breaking the window. If he denies it, he's lying through his teeth."</p>
<p><b>Live a lie</b></p>	<p>If you spend your life hiding something important about yourself, or inventing something which is not true, you live a lie.</p> <p>"To hide his humble origins, he told his wife he had no family and spent his life living a lie."</p>
<p><b>Money laundering</b></p>	<p>When people launder money, they manage to conceal the source of illegally-obtained money so that it is believed to be legitimate.</p> <p>"Certain countries have been accused of facilitating money</p>

	laundering."
<b>Monkey business</b>	An activity which is organized in a deceitful or dishonest way is called monkey business. "The results announced seem suspicious - I think there's some monkey business going on!"
<b>Oldest trick in the book</b>	A well-known and much-used trick, which is still effective today, is called the oldest trick in the book. "He made a noise to attract my attention while his accomplice stole my wallet. It's the oldest trick in the book!"
<b>On the level</b>	If you say that somebody is on the level, you are referring to a truthful and honest person. "Tell me straight : Is he on the level or not?"
<b>Pack of lies</b>	A large number of untruthful statements is referred to as a pack of lies. "The story about her unhappy childhood turned out to be a pack of lies."
<b>Pad the bill</b>	If someone pads the bill, they add false items to a bill or invoice in order to increase the total amount. "Check the invoice carefully before paying - he tends to pad the bill!"
<b>Play games (with someone)</b>	If you are not completely honest, or behave in a way that is insincere, evasive or intentionally misleading, you are playing games with someone. "Look, stop playing games with us. Just tell us if you're interested in the project or not."
<b>Play by the rules</b>	If you play by the rules, you behave in a fair and honest way with people. "You can trust him, don't worry. He always plays by the rules."
<b>Pull a fast one</b>	To pull a fast one means to gain an advantage over someone by deceiving them. "The street vendor pulled a fast one on Tom. He sold him a big bunch of roses, but wrapped a smaller bunch while Tom was taking out his

	wallet."
<b>Rip-off</b>	To say that something is a rip-off means that it costs much more than it should. "\$10 for a hamburger? That's a rip-off!"
<b>Scales fall from your eyes</b>	When the scales fall from your eyes, you finally understand the truth about something. "It was only when my neighbour was arrested for theft that the scales fell from my eyes and I realized where his money came from."
<b>Sharp practice</b>	Trying to achieve something by using underhand, deceitful or dishonourable means that are barely within the law or bordering on dishonesty is called sharp practice. "The company is under investigation for sharp practice so it's better to avoid dealing with them."
<b>Shoulder surfing</b>	The practice of looking over somebody's shoulder when they are using a computer, cash dispenser or other electronic device in order to obtain personal information (identification, account number, password, etc.) is called shoulder-surfing.
<b>Siphon something off</b>	If someone siphons something off, they transfer something from one place to another, often illegally. "It was discovered that he had siphoned off money from the business into an account in a tax haven."
<b>A smokescreen</b>	A smokescreen is an action or tactic intended to conceal or divert attention from your real intentions or activities. "His travel business was just a smokescreen for his political activities."
<b>Smoking gun</b>	A smoking gun is a piece of evidence or the indisputable sign of someone's guilt. "The fingerprints the thief left on the door-handle was the smoking gun that enabled the police to arrest him."

<p><b>Sow the seeds of suspicion</b></p>	<p>If someone's behaviour, or something they say, sows the seeds of suspicion, it leads others to suspect that they are guilty.          "The fact that the boy spent a lot of money after the burglary sowed the seeds of suspicion in the neighbours' minds."</p>
<p><b>Spin a yarn</b></p>	<p>If you spin a yarn, you tell a story, usually a long improbable one, with distorted truths.          "He failed the exam and spun a yarn about the exam papers being stolen."</p>
<p><b>Sticky fingers</b></p>	<p>Someone who has sticky fingers has a tendency to steal.          "Items have been disappearing from the stock recently. Do any of the employees have sticky fingers?"</p>
<p><b>Straight as an arrow</b></p>	<p>Someone who is as straight as an arrow is a morally upright person who is extremely honest.          "You can leave the keys with Andy. He's as straight as an arrow."</p>
<p><b>Stretch the truth</b></p>	<p>When you stretch the truth you exaggerate the facts or say things that are not exactly true.          Some candidates are tempted to stretch the truth about their skills or work experience.</p>
<p><b>Take someone for a ride</b></p>	<p>If you are taken for a ride, you are deceived or cheated by someone.          "When my father was persuaded to invest in the new casino, he was really taken for a ride. He lost all his money."</p>
<p><b>Taken to the cleaners</b></p>	<p>If somebody is taken to the cleaners, they lose a lot of money in an unfair way, usually by being robbed or cheated.          "When the company Tom had invested in went bankrupt, he realized he'd been taken to the cleaners."</p>
<p><b>A tall story</b></p>	<p>A tall story is a statement or story which is difficult to believe because it sounds unlikely.          "What he said about a stolen invention sounds like a tall story to me."</p>
<p><b>Throw dust in somebody's eyes</b></p>	<p>If you throw dust in somebody's eyes, you prevent them from seeing the truth by misleading them.          "He threw dust in the old lady's eyes by pretending to be a police officer,</p>

	then stole her jewellery."
<b>Champagne taste on a beer budget</b>	Someone who likes expensive things that they cannot afford has <b>champagne taste on a beer budget.</b> Eva borrows money to buy expensive designer clothes- champagne taste on a beer budget!
<b><u>Cheek by jowl</u></b>	<u>When people are <b>cheek by jowl</b>, they are crammed uncomfortably close together</u> <u>"The refugees are living cheek by jowl in a temporary camp."</u>
<b><u>Keep body and soul together</u></b>	<u>If someone is able to <b>keep body and soul together</b>, they manage to survive.</u> <u>"He was unemployed and homeless, but he somehow managed to keep body and soul together."</u>
<b><u>Keep up appearances</u></b>	<u>A person who <b>keeps up appearances</b> maintains an outward show of prosperity or well-being in order to hide their difficulties from others.</u> <u>"He continued to keep up appearances even when business was bad."</u>
<b><u>Keep up with the Joneses</u></b>	<u>To say that somebody is trying to <b>keep up with the Joneses</b> means that they are trying to have the same possessions or social achievements as someone else.</u> <u>"First the Browns moved their children to an expensive school.</u> <u>Now the Smiths have done the same. It's silly how some people feel they have to keep up with the Joneses!"</u>
<b><u>Keep the wolf from the door</u></b>	<u>In order to <b>keep the wolf from the door</b>, you need to have enough money to buy food and other essentials.</u> <u>"My grandparents earned barely enough to keep the wolf from the door."</u>

<p><b><u>Live beyond one's means</u></b></p>	<p>If someone <b><u>lives beyond their means</u></b>, they spend more money than they earn or can afford.</p> <p>"The cost of living was so much higher in New York that he was soon living beyond his means."</p>	
<p><b><u>Live in clover</u></b></p>	<p>Someone who <b><u>lives in clover</u></b> has enough money to lead a very comfortable life.</p> <p>"I dream of making an enormous amount of money and living the rest of my life in clover!"</p>	
<p><b><u>Live from hand to mouth</u></b></p>	<p>If you live <b><u>from hand to mouth</u></b>, you don't have enough money to save. Whatever you earn is spent on food and other essentials.</p> <p>"Most families in that poor area live from hand to mouth."</p>	
<p><b><u>Live high off the hog</u></b></p>	<p>Someone who <b><u>lives high off the hog</u></b> has a lot of money and a very comfortable lifestyle.</p> <p>"Now he's wealthy and living high off the hog."</p>	
<p><b><u>Live in an ivory tower.</u></b></p>	<p>A person who <b><u>lives in an ivory tower</u></b> has a lifestyle which preserves them from the problems and difficulties experienced by others.</p> <p>"You're completely out of touch - it's time to come out of your ivory tower and see what's going on!"</p>	
<p><b><u>Live on the breadline</u></b></p>	<p>People who live <b><u>on the breadline</u></b> have a very low income or barely enough money to survive.</p> <p>"Due to the recent crisis, there are more people on the breadline than ever before."</p>	
<p><b><u>Live out of a suitcase</u></b></p>	<p>Someone who <b><u>lives out of a suitcase</u></b> travels a lot, moving from place to place, and is therefore restricted to the contents of their suitcase.</p>	



	<p><u>"Sarah's new job involves so much travelling that she lives out of a suitcase most of the time."</u></p>	
<u><b>Live the life of Riley</b></u>	<p><u>If you <b>live the life of Riley</b>, you have a comfortable and enjoyable life, without having to work too hard.</u></p> <p><u>"He married a millionaire, and since then he's been living the life of Riley."</u></p>	
<u><b>Make the best of things</b></u>	<p><u>If you <b>make the best of things</b>, you accept the situation and do what you can in spite of the difficulties or disadvantages.</u></p> <p><u>"The apartment was badly located, but the rent was low, so they decided to make the best of things."</u></p>	
<u><b>Make ends meet</b></u>	<p><u>To <b>make ends meet</b> means to have enough money to live on.</u></p> <p><u>"Many young people today are finding it difficult to make ends meet."</u></p>	
<u><b>New lease of life</b></u>	<p><u>A person who has a <b>new lease of life</b> has a chance to live longer or with greater enjoyment or satisfaction.</u></p> <p><u>"Moving closer to his children has given him a new lease of life."</u></p>	
<u><b>School of hard knocks</b></u>	<p><u>Someone who goes through the <b>school of hard knocks</b> learns through the positive and negative experiences of life rather than through a formal classroom education.</u></p> <p><u>"He never went to college but the school of hard knocks made him a shrewd businessman."</u></p>	
<u><b>Seamy side of life</b></u>	<p><u>This expression refers to the most unpleasant, disreputable or sordid aspects of life that we normally do not see (just as the stitched seams of clothes are generally not seen).</u></p> <p><u>"Social workers really see the <b>seamy side of life</b>."</u></p>	

<p><u>See the error of your ways</u></p>	<p><u>When someone sees the error of their ways, they understand that what they are doing is wrong and accept to change their behaviour.</u></p> <p><u>"He talked to a counsellor who tried to make him see the error of his ways."</u></p>	
<p><u>On one's uppers</u></p>	<p><u>Someone who is on their uppers has very little money or not enough to cover their needs.</u></p> <p><u>"Because he was clearly on his uppers when he was hired, he was given an advance in salary."</u></p>	
<p><u>Weal and woe</u></p>	<p><u>This expression refers to the good and bad times, joys and sorrows, or prosperity and misfortune.</u></p> <p><u>"We all get our share of weal and woe in life."</u></p>	

<p><u>Bear something in mind</u></p>	<p>If someone asks you to <b>bear something in mind</b>, they are telling you to remember it because it is important.</p> <p>"You must bear in mind that the cost of living is higher in New York."</p>
<p><u>Brain like a sieve</u></p>	<p>Someone who has a <b>brain like a sieve</b> has a very bad memory and forgets things easily.</p> <p>"Oh, I forgot to buy bread - I've got a brain like a sieve these days!"</p>
<p><u>Have something on the brain</u></p>	<p>If you have something <b>on the brain</b>, you think about it constantly.</p> <p>"Stop talking about golf. You've got golf on the brain!"</p>
<p><u>In one ear and out the other</u></p>	<p>To say that information <b>goes in one ear and out the other</b> means that it is immediately forgotten or ignored.</p> <p>"I keep telling him about the risks but it goes in one ear and out the other. He never listens to anyone!"</p>
<p><u>Jog someone's memory</u></p>	<p>When you help somebody to remember something they have forgotten, you <b>jog their memory</b>.</p> <p>"You don't remember who was with us that day? Here's a photograph"</p>

	to jog your memory."
<b><u>Lose</u> your train of thought</b>	If you forget what you were saying, for example after a disturbance or interruption, you <b>lose your train of thought</b> . "Where was I? I'm afraid I've lost my train of thought!"
<b>Trip down <u>memory</u> lane</b>	If you take a <b>trip (stroll or walk) down memory lane</b> , you remember pleasant things that happened in the past. "Every Christmas is a trip down memory for the family when our parents take out the photograph albums."
<b>In one's <u>mind's</u> eye</b>	If you can visualise something, or see an image of it in your mind, you see it <b>in your mind's eye</b> . "I can see the village in my mind's eye but I can't remember the name."
<b>Have something down <u>pat</u></b>	If you memorize or practice something until you know it perfectly or have it exactly right, you <b>have it down pat</b> . "I rehearsed my presentation until I had it down pat."
<b><u>Rake</u> over the ashes</b>	When people <b>rake over the ashes</b> , they discuss an unpleasant event which took place in the past. "My grandfather's business went bankrupt years ago but he still rakes over the ashes from time to time."
<b><u>Refresh</u> someone's memory</b>	If you <b>refresh someone's memory</b> , you remind them of facts they seem to have forgotten. "Let me refresh your memory - you've already missed three classes this term."
<b><u>Ring</u> a bell</b>	If something <b>rings a bell</b> , it sounds familiar, but you don't remember the exact details. "John Bentley? The name rings a bell but I don't remember him."
<b><u>Senior</u> moment</b>	A momentary lapse of memory, especially in older people, or an absent-minded action such as putting the cereals in the fridge, is humorously referred to as <b>having a senior moment</b> . "I found the phone in the cupboard. I must have had a senior moment!"

<p><b>It <u>slipped</u> my mind.</b></p>	<p>If something has <b>slipped your mind</b>, you have forgotten about it.          "Oh dear! It had slipped my mind that the banks were closed today."</p>
<p>Go up a blind alley</p>	<p>If you go up a blind alley, you follow a course of action which first seemed promising but leads in the wrong direction or nowhere.          "The revelations promised by the suspect lead the police up a blind alley."</p>
<p>Eat crow/eat humble pie</p>	<p>If you eat crow (or humble pie), you have to admit that you were wrong about something and apologize.          "He had no option but to eat crow and admit that his analysis was wrong."</p>
<p>Eat one's words</p>	<p>If you eat your words, you have to admit that what you said before was wrong.          "After predicting disastrous results, he had to eat his words with the success of the new product."</p>
<p>Freudian slip</p>	<p>This refers to a mistake made by a speaker which is considered to reveal their true thoughts or feelings.          "So you got the job - I'm so sad - sorry, I mean glad!"</p>
<p>Himalayan blunder</p>	<p>If you stupidly make a very serious mistake or error, you commit a          Himalayan blunder.          "Apparently he lost his job because of a Himalayan blunder."</p>
<p>See the error of your ways</p>	<p>When someone sees the error of their ways, they understand that          what they are doing is wrong and accept to change their behaviour.          "He talked to a counsellor who tried to make him see the error of his          ways."</p>
<p>Swallow one's pride</p>	<p>If you swallow your pride, you accept something humiliating or embarrassing, for example having to admit that you are wrong,          or          that you have less knowledge than you thought.          "When Jill failed the exam, she had to swallow her pride and repeat          the course."</p>
<p>Swallow one's words</p>	<p>If you swallow your words, you admit that you said something wrong.</p>

	<p>"He said I'd never get the job, but he had to swallow his words when I was appointed."</p>
Trial and error	<p>Attempting to achieve a satisfactory result by testing and eliminating various methods until the best one is found is called trial and error.</p> <p>"Some of the best cooks learn by trial and error."</p>
Back the wrong horse	<p>If you back or bet on the wrong horse, for example the loser in a contest, match or election, you support the wrong person.</p> <p>"When I voted for him, I was convinced he would win, but I backed the wrong horse!"</p>
Bark up the wrong tree	<p>A person who is barking up the wrong tree is doing the wrong thing, because their beliefs or ideas are incorrect or mistaken.</p> <p>"The police are barking up the wrong tree if they think Johnny stole the car. He can't drive!"</p>
Wide of the mark	<p>If something is (or falls) wide of the mark, it is incorrect or inadequate, or it is not what is required or expected.</p> <p>"The price offered was wide of the mark - it was sold for ten times more!"</p>
Back-of-the-envelope calculation	<p>This expression refers to quick approximate calculation done informally, as on the back of an envelope.</p> <p>"I don't need the exact amount. Just give me a back-of-the-envelope calculation."</p>
Bet your bottom dollar	<p>If you bet your bottom dollar on something, you are absolutely certain of it.</p> <p>"Jack is very punctual. You can bet your bottom dollar he'll be here at 9 o'clock on the dot."</p>
Tighten your belt.	<p>If you need to tighten your belt, you must spend your money carefully.</p> <p>"Another bill? I'll have to tighten my belt this month!"</p>
Born with a silver spoon in one's mouth	<p>A person who is born with a silver spoon in their mouth is born into a very rich family.</p> <p>"She never has to worry about money; she was born with a silver spoon in her mouth."</p>
On the breadline	<p>People who live on the breadline have a very low income or</p>

	<p>barely enough money to survive. "Due to the recent crisis, there are more people on the breadline than ever before."</p>
Burn your fingers	<p>If you burn your fingers (or get your fingers burnt), you suffer financially as a result of foolish behaviour. "Jack got his fingers burnt playing on the stock market."</p>
A cash cow	<p>A product or service which is a regular source of income for a company is called a cash cow. "His latest invention turned out to be a real cash cow."</p>
Cash in your chips	<p>If you cash in your chips, you sell something, especially shares, either because you need the money or because you think the value is going to fall. "Andy cashed in his chips as soon as business started to slow down."</p>
Chicken feed	<p>An amount of money considered small or unimportant is called chicken feed. "I got a job during the holidays but the pay was chicken feed."</p>
Other side of the coin	<p>When you want to mention a different or contradictory aspect of a situation, you refer to the other side of the coin. "The house is lovely and spacious, but the other side of the coin is that it is far from shops and schools."</p>
Cost an arm and a leg.	<p>If something costs an arm and a leg, it is very expensive! "The house cost us an arm and a leg, but we have no regrets."</p>
Cost the earth.	<p>If something costs the earth, it is very expensive indeed. "She wears designer clothes that must cost the earth!"</p>
Cut one's losses	<p>If you end or withdraw from something that is already failing, in order to reduce the loss of money, time or effort invested in it, you cut your losses. "The project is heading for failure. Let's cut our losses before it's too late."</p>
Deep pockets	<p>A person or organization who has deep pockets has a lot of</p>

	<p>money.          "Andy's business is not doing well at the moment. He says he needs a friend with deep pockets."</p>
Down payment	<p>When someone makes a down payment, they pay a part of the total amount agreed when signing a purchase deal or contract.          "Emma and Paul are excited. They put a down payment on their first house yesterday."</p>
Go Dutch	<p>To go Dutch with somebody means to share the cost of something, such as a meal or a concert.          "Young people today tend to go Dutch when they go out together."</p>
Eat /dip into one's savings	<p>If you eat or dip into your savings, you spend part of the money you have put aside for future use.          "I had to dip into my savings to have the car repaired."</p>
Feather your nest	<p>To say of someone that they are feathering their nest is to say that they are taking advantage of their position in order to obtain money so as to have a comfortable life.</p>
Feed the kitty	<p>If you feed the kitty, you contribute to a collection of money called a "kitty" in order to help a good cause.          Come on - every little helps. You can afford to feed the kitty for a good cause!</p>
Feel the pinch	<p>When someone feels the pinch, they begin to suffer from a lack of money.          "With the drop in tourism, hotels and restaurants are beginning to feel the pinch."</p>
Gnomes of Zurich	<p>This is a disparaging term for Swiss bankers who control a lot of money, are said to be uninterested in the provenance of funds and protect their clients' anonymity.          "The gnomes of Zurich refuse to cooperate with the investigating</p>

	officials."
Golden handcuffs	The term golden handcuffs refers to a large sum of money or a generous financial arrangement granted to an executive as an incentive to stay in their job, or to ensure long-term cooperation after their departure.
Golden handshake	A golden handshake is a generous sum of money given to a person when they leave a company or retire (sometimes given to encourage early retirement).
Gravy train	If someone is on the gravy train, they have found an easy way to make money, one that requires little effort and is without risk. "Since the village has become fashionable he charges for every photograph taken of his house - he's on the gravy train!"
Hard up	If you are hard up, you have very little money. "We were so hard up we had to sleep in the car."
Hit (or strike) pay dirt	If you hit or strike pay dirt, you are lucky and suddenly find yourself in a successful money-making situation. "Charlie finally hit pay dirt with his latest invention."
On the house	Something which is "on the house" is offered free of charge, usually in a bar or restaurant. "The new owner offered us a drink on the house."
Ill-gotten gains	Money, profit or benefits that are made in a dishonest or illegal manner are called ill-gotten gains. "He won money by cheating and is now enjoying his ill-gotten gains."
Itching (or itchy) palm	Someone who has an itching palm is greedy for money, for example tips or commission (as if putting money in the palm of their hand would ease the itch). "He's said to have an itching palm - he does nothing without payment!"
Keep your head above water.	To keep one's head above water means to try to survive by staying out of debt, for example a small business.
Keep the wolf from the door	In order to keep the wolf from the door, you need to have enough money to buy food and other essentials. "My grandparents earned barely enough to keep the wolf from



	the door."
Kickback	<p>This expression refers to money paid illegally for favourable treatment.</p> <p>"The property developers were accused of giving kickbacks to the local authorities."</p>
Laugh all the way to the bank	<p>A person who makes a lot of money easily, especially through someone else's stupidity, is said to laugh all the way to the bank.</p> <p>"If we don't succeed in renewing the contract, our competitors will be laughing all the way to the bank"</p>
Licence to print money	<p>This expression refers to an officially authorized activity which enables people to make a lot of money without much effort.</p> <p>"The contract to supply computers to schools was a licence to print money."</p>
Live beyond one's means	<p>If someone lives beyond their means, they spend more money than they earn or can afford.</p> <p>"The cost of living was so much higher in New York that he was soon living beyond his means."</p>
Loan shark	<p>A loan shark is an unauthorised person who lends money at extremely high interest rates to people who are unable to obtain a loan from the bank.</p> <p>"The young immigrant was beaten because he was late paying back money to a loan shark."</p>
Lose your shirt	<p>If you lose your shirt, you lose all your money or possessions, especially as a result of speculation or gambling.</p> <p>"He lost his shirt when the bank went bankrupt."</p>
Make a killing	<p>If you say that someone has made a killing you mean that they have had great financial success</p> <p>"He made a killing on the stock market."</p>
Make ends meet.	<p>To make ends meet means to have enough money to live on.</p> <p>"It's hard to make ends meet on such a low salary."</p>
Make a mint	<p>If someone makes a mint, they make a large amount of money.</p> <p>They made a mint selling hamburgers outside the football stadium.</p>

Look/feel like a million dollars	<p>If you look/feel like a million dollars, you look/feel extremely good.</p> <p>"With a tan and a new hairstyle, she looked like a million dollars."</p>
Made of money	<p>A person who is made of money is very rich and can buy whatever they want.</p> <p>"Hey! I can't afford that much! I'm not made of money!"</p>
Money burns a hole in your pocket	<p>To say that money burns a hole in somebody's pocket means that they are eager to spend it quickly or extravagantly.</p> <p>"As soon as she's paid she goes shopping. Money burns a hole in her pocket!"</p>
Money laundering	<p>When people launder money, they manage to conceal the source of illegally-obtained money so that it is believed to be legitimate.</p> <p>"Certain countries have been accused of facilitating money laundering."</p>
Money to burn	<p>People who have money to burn have so much money that they can spend it on anything they want.</p>
Money doesn't grow on trees	<p>To say that money doesn't grow on trees means that it is not plentiful or easily obtained.</p> <p>"Be careful how you spend your money David. It doesn't grow on trees you know!"</p>
Money for old rope	<p>This expression refers to money earned from a task that requires very little effort.</p> <p>"Getting paid for watering the garden is money for old rope!"</p>
Money spinner	<p>If an activity is a money spinner, it is a very successful way of making money.</p> <p>"Washing cars was quite a money spinner when I was a student."</p>
Money talks	<p>Money talks means that people with a lot of money have power and influence.</p>
More money than sense	<p>If you have more money than sense, you have a lot of money which you waste by spending it in a foolish manner.</p> <p>"He celebrated the birth of the baby by buying a sports car. He's got more money than sense!"</p>

Not for love or money	<p>If you say that you cannot or will not do something for love or money,</p> <p>you mean that you cannot or will not do it under any circumstances.</p> <p>"I would not try bungee jumping for love or money!"</p>
Put money where your mouth is	<p>To put money where your mouth is means to give financial support</p> <p>to activities or causes that you believe are right.</p>
Rake in the money	<p>If you rake in the money, you make money in large quantities.</p> <p>"Bob's business is so successful, he's raking in the money."</p>
See the colour of somebody's money	<p>If you want to see the colour of somebody's money, you want to make sure that the person in question has enough money to pay you</p> <p>before you accept to do something.</p> <p>"I want to see the colour of his money before shipping the goods."</p>
Throw good money after bad	<p>Someone who spends additional money on something that was already considered a bad investment is said to throw good money</p> <p>after bad.</p> <p>"Buying a second-hand computer and then spending money to have it repaired is throwing good money after bad!"</p>
Throw money at something	<p>If you throw money at something, you try to solve a problem by spending money on it, without using any other methods.</p> <p>"The refugee problem cannot be solved just by throwing money at it."</p>
Money's worth	<p>If you get your money's worth, you receive good value for the amount</p> <p>of money you spend.</p> <p>"We bought a travel pass to use the public transport system and we really got our money's worth."</p>
Nest egg	<p>If you have a nest egg, you have a reserve of money which you put</p> <p>aside for future needs.</p> <p>"Our parents consider the money from the sale of their house as a nest egg for their old age."</p>
Out of your own pocket	<p>If you pay for something out of your own pocket, you cover the</p>

	<p>cost with your own money. "Breakfast is included but you must pay for lunch out of your own pocket."</p>
Be paid peanuts	<p>If you are paid peanuts, you have a very low salary. "Anne has a very interesting job but she's paid peanuts. Her salary is very low. "</p>
In for a penny, in for a pound	<p>This expression means that once you start doing something, you might just as well do it wholeheartedly and not stop at half-measures. "Joe finally accepted to be on the committee, then he accepted to be the chairman - "in for a penny, in for a pound" he said!"</p>
The penny drops	<p>When a person has difficulty understanding or realizing something, and then the penny drops, they finally understand. "The teasing continued for some time until the penny dropped and he realized it was a joke!"</p>
A penny for your thoughts	<p>This phrase is used to ask someone what they are thinking about. "You look pensive. A penny for your thoughts."</p>
Turn up like a bad penny	<p>If someone turns up like a bad penny, they appear at a place or event where they are not welcome or not wanted. "I try to avoid Jane, but wherever I go she turns up like a bad penny."</p>
Pick up the tab	<p>If you pick up the tab, you pay the bill or pay the cost of something. "There was a celebration lunch for the group and Bill picked up the tab."</p>
Play the market	<p>If you play the market, you buy stocks and shares in the hope of making a profit when you sell them. "It's always tempting to play the market, but it's more risky at the present time."</p>
Price oneself out of the market	<p>If you price yourself out of the market, you charge such a high price for your goods or services that nobody buys them. "He was so eager to make money that he priced himself out of the market."</p>

From rags to riches	<p>If you go from rags to riches, you start off being very poor and become very rich and successful</p> <p>"By renovating old houses in the right places, he went from rags to riches."</p>
Rake in the money	<p>If you rake in the money, you make money in large quantities.</p> <p>"Bob's business is so successful, he's raking in the money."</p>
Rob Peter to pay Paul	<p>If a person robs Peter to pay Paul, they pay one debt with money borrowed from somewhere else, thus creating another debt.</p> <p>"David borrowed money from a friend to cover his overdraft; a typical case of robbing Peter to pay Paul!"</p>
Saddled with debt	<p>If you are saddled with debt, the amount of money that you owe is a financial burden.</p> <p>"Be careful. If you buy a house that is too expensive, you could be saddled with debt for many years."</p>
Scrimp and save	<p>If you scrimp and save, you spend as little as possible over a certain period of time in order to save money.</p> <p>"The parents scrimped and saved for years so that their children would have a college education."</p>
See the colour of somebody's money	<p>If you want to see the colour of somebody's money, you want to make sure that the person in question has enough money to pay you before you accept to do something.</p> <p>"I want to see the colour of his money before shipping the goods."</p>
Set you back	<p>The sum of money something sets you back is the amount it costs you.</p> <p>"Changing the heating system would set us back about \$5 000."</p>
On a shoestring	<p>If you do something on a shoestring, you do it with very little money.</p> <p>"When I was a student I lived on a shoestring."</p>
(Put) skin in the game	<p>If you put skin in the game, you show your confidence in a company by making a considerable investment or financial commitment.</p> <p>"I got good news today. Apparently a serious investor is willing to put skin in the game."</p>
Slice/share of the cake (or pie)	<p>When people feel entitled to a share of the benefits or profits,</p>

	<p>they want a (larger) slice of the cake. "Since profits are higher this year, the workers feel they deserve a bigger slice of the cake."</p>
Slush fund	<p>This term refers to an account or fund in politics or business where money is set aside for various unofficial purposes, often unethical or even illegal. "A large commission taken from the slush fund ensured the success of the negotiations."</p>
Splash out	<p>If you splash out on something, you spend a lot of money on it. "Sarah's parents really splashed out on her wedding."</p>
It's a steal!	<p>If you find something you want to buy for a very low price, much lower than what it is worth, you can say "It's a steal!" "He's selling it for \$10? At that price it's a steal!"</p>
Sting someone for something	<p>If you sting someone for an amount of money, you make them pay for something, usually in a deceitful manner. "Not only was the lunch boring but I was stung for 25\$."</p>
Suit every pocket	<p>This term refers to the amount of money you are able to spend or the price you can afford. "The store offers a wide range of computers at prices to suit every pocket."</p>
On one's uppers	<p>Someone who is on their uppers has very little money or not enough to cover their needs. "Because he was clearly on his uppers when he was hired, he was given an advance in salary."</p>
Why buy a cow when you can get milk for free?	<p>This expression refers to not paying for something that you can obtain for free. (Sometimes used to refer to a decision not to marry when you can have the benefits of marriage without any commitment.) Rent is high so Bobby is still living with his parents. He says:</p>

	"Why buy a cow when you can get milk for free?"
All told	All told means the final number when everything has been counted. "The number of visitors to the exhibition, all told, was 2543."
In dribs and drabs	If something comes in dribs and drabs, it arrives little by little, in small amounts or numbers. "Instead of the crowd that was expected, people arrived in dribs and drabs."
Have one over the eight	If a person has had one over the eight, they are slightly drunk. "Don't listen to him. You can see he's had one over eight!"
At the eleventh hour	If something happens at the eleventh hour, it happens when it is almost too late, or at the last possible moment. "Our team won after they scored a goal at the eleventh hour."
Fifth wheel	This expression refers to a person who finds themselves in a situation where their presence is unnecessary and as a result they feel useless. "Everyone seemed to have a specific role except me. I felt like a fifth wheel."
First and foremost	This expression is used to state what you consider to be more important than anything else. "First and foremost I want to thank our hosts for their wonderful reception."
First water	Something that is of the first water is of the finest or most exceptional quality (like being compared to a diamond). "The violinist gave a performance that was of the first water."
First-hand/firsthand/at first hand	If you experience something yourself directly, without any intermediary, you experience it (at) first hand. "Getting to see the performance (at) first hand is much better than watching it on television."
Five o'clock shadow	This expression refers to a patch of stubble on the face of a man who hasn't shaved for at least a day. "He looked tired and had a five o'clock shadow."
Have (or get) forty winks	If you have forty winks, you have a short sleep or rest, generally during the day.

	"Dad likes to have forty winks after a game of golf."
On all fours	<p>If you are on all fours, you are down on your hands and knees.</p> <p>"When I arrived, he was on all fours playing with his grandchildren."</p>
Give or take (an amount or quantity)	<p>This term is used when expressing an amount or estimate that is not exactly right. It means 'plus or minus', 'more or less', 'approximately'.</p> <p>"The town is about 100 miles from here, give or take a few miles."</p>
Half the battle	<p>This expression refers to a significant part of the effort or work needed to achieve something.</p> <p>"We've already obtained a loan for the project - that's half the battle."</p>
Half an eye	<p>If you have or keep half an eye on something, you watch something without giving it your full attention.</p> <p>"She kept half an eye on the tv screen while she was preparing dinner."</p>
A chance in a million	<p>A chance in a million is a very small chance or no chance at all that something will happen.</p> <p>"I was told that without a good level of English I had a chance in a million of getting the job."</p>
Look/feel like a million dollars	<p>If you look/feel like a million dollars, you look/feel extremely good.</p> <p>"With a tan and a new hairstyle, she looked like a million dollars."</p>
Never in a million years	<p>This expression means "absolutely never"</p> <p>"I will never in a million years understand why Anne married Bob."</p>
Nine-day wonder	<p>An event which is a nine-day wonder causes interest, surprise or excitement for a short time, but it doesn't last.</p> <p>"His sudden departure was a nine-day wonder but he was soon forgotten."</p>
Nine times out of ten	<p>When something happens nine times out of ten, it almost always happens.</p> <p>"The public transport system is very bad. Trains arrive late nine times out of ten."</p>



Be on cloud nine	<p>A person who is on cloud nine is very happy because something wonderful has happened.</p> <p>"When the boss announced my promotion, I was on cloud nine!"</p>
Dressed up to the nines	<p>To describe someone as dressed up to the nines means that they are wearing very smart or glamorous clothes.</p> <p>"Caroline must be going to a party - she's dressed up to the nines!"</p>
Talk nineteen to the dozen	<p>If someone talks nineteen to the dozen, they speak very quickly.</p> <p>"He was talking nineteen to the dozen so I didn't catch the whole story!"</p>
Number cruncher	<p>This is a humorous way of referring to someone who is an accountant or who is very good at working with numbers and calculations.</p> <p>"She's a number cruncher who perfectly understands the organization's financial situation."</p>
Safety in numbers	<p>This expression means that being part of a group makes people feel more secure and more confident when taking action.</p> <p>"None of the group went sightseeing alone, knowing that there was safety in numbers."</p>
One fell swoop	<p>If something is accomplished at one fell swoop, it is done in a single action, usually rapidly and ruthlessly.</p> <p>"The three houses were demolished at one fell swoop."</p>
One foot in the grave	<p>A person who is either very old or very ill and close to death is said to have one foot in the grave.</p> <p>"It's no use talking to the owner. The poor man has got one foot in the grave."</p>
One good turn deserves another	<p>This expression means that if someone helps you, it is natural and right to help them in return.</p> <p>"We helped Alex and Sara when they moved into their new house, just as they helped us last year; one good turn deserves another."</p>

One hand washes the other... (... and together they wash the face.)	This expression means that when people cooperate and work well together, there is a better chance of achieving results.
One-horse town	A place referred to as a one-horse town is a small, boring town where nothing much ever happens. "I wish my grandparents didn't live in that one-horse town. It's such a boring place!"
One over the eight.	If a person has had one over the eight, they are slightly drunk "Don't listen to him. You can see he's had one over eight!"
One step ahead	When you are one step ahead of someone else, you manage to achieve something faster than they do, or you have a slight advantage over them. "The company is successful because they're always one step ahead of their competitors."
One-track mind	If you have a one-track mind, you have a tendency to think about only one subject. "That boy has got a one-track mind; all he thinks about is football!"
One too many	Someone who has had one too many has drunk too much alcohol. "I think Tony's had one too many - he's talking rubbish!"
One's number is up	To say that one's number is up means that a person is either in serious difficulty and something bad is going to happen, or the time has come when they will die. "The police have located the escaped prisoner so it looks as if his number is up!"
One-upmanship	This term refers to the art of gaining and keeping the advantage over other people. "He is a successful man, but his one-upmanship has left him with few friends."
Look out for number one	If you take care of yourself first and look after your own interests rather than those of other people, you look out for number one. "Andy's father told him that looking out for number one should be his first priority."

Second to none	<p>To say that something is second to none means that it is excellent - better than everything else.</p> <p>"The service was perfect and the food was second to none."</p>
Be in seventh heaven	<p>If you are in seventh heaven, you are extremely happy.</p> <p>"Every time she wins a match she's in seventh heaven!"</p>
Six of one and half a dozen of the other	<p>This expression means that there's no real difference between two choices; both are equally good or equally bad.</p>
At sixes and sevens	<p>If someone is at sixes and sevens, they are in a state of confusion or not very well organized.</p>
A thousand times	<p>This expresses exasperation at having to constantly repeat the same thing.</p> <p>"I've told you a thousand times to wipe your feet before coming in!"</p>
Catch twenty two	<p>A catch 22 situation refers to a frustrating situation where you need to do one thing before doing a second, and you cannot do the second before doing the first.</p> <p>"I can't get a job without a work permit, and I can't get a work permit without a job. It's a catch 22 situation!"</p>
Two of a kind	<p>People who are two of a kind are similar in character, attitude or tastes.</p> <p>"Pete and Tom are two of a kind. They enjoy sports and are both very competitive."</p>
Lesser of two evils	<p>If you choose the lesser of two evils, you opt for the less unpleasant of two poor options.</p> <p>"I didn't want to go. Choosing the train instead of driving was the lesser of two evils; at least I could relax on the way."</p>
That makes two of us!	<p>This expression is used to indicate agreement with what the other speaker has just said.</p> <p>"I found his speech rather boring." "That makes two of us "</p>
There are no two ways about it	<p>To say that there are no two ways about it means that there is only one suitable way of dealing with something.</p>

	<p>"There's no two ways about it. You can't accept the money, so you must give it back."</p>
Two can play at that game.	<p>This expression is used to tell someone that you can behave towards them in the same unpleasant way that they have been behaving towards you.</p>
Two's company ... (three's a crowd)	<p>This is said of two people, particularly lovers, who would prefer to be alone together than to have someone else with them.          "Would you like to come to the cinema with us?"          "I'd rather not, thanks. Two's company..."</p>
Two left feet	<p>If you have two left feet, you are clumsy or awkward in your movements.          "I'm not a great dancer. I'm afraid I've got two left feet!"</p>
In two minds	<p>If you are in two minds about something, you have difficulty deciding what to do.          "I'm in two minds about whether or not to accept the offer."</p>
Two peas in a pod	<p>To say that two people are like two peas in a pod means that they are very similar in appearance.          "It wasn't difficult to identify the brothers - they were like two peas in a pod!"</p>
Two shakes (of a lamb's tail)	<p>To do something in two shakes (of a lamb's tail) means to do it very quickly or in a moment.          "It'll be ready in two shakes (of a lamb's tail)."</p>
It takes two to tango	<p>You say this when you think that a difficult situation or argument cannot be the fault of one person alone          "OK, we've heard Jack's side of the story - but it takes two to tango!"</p>
Put two and two together	<p>To put two and two together means to guess the truth about a situation based on what you see or the information that you have.          "When she saw Tom and Julie holding hands, she had no difficulty putting two and two together!"</p>
Zero in on something	<p>If you zero in on something, you focus all your attention on that particular thing.          "The boss immediately zeroed in on the sales figures."</p>

Achilles' heel	<p>This expression refers to a vulnerable area or weak spot in an otherwise strong situation that could cause one's downfall or failure.</p> <p>"He's extremely intelligent, but his inability to speak in public is his Achilles' heel."</p>
Set (the) alarm bells ringing/ alarm bells start to ring	<p>If something sets the alarm bells ringing, it makes you begin to worry because it shows that there may be a problem.</p> <p>"Alarm bells started to ring when my old neighbour didn't open his shutters all day and didn't answer the phone."</p>
Asking for trouble	<p>Someone who is asking for trouble is behaving stupidly and is likely to have problems.</p> <p>"Driving fast on these roads is really asking for trouble!"</p>
Have your back to the wall	<p>If you have your back to the wall, you are in serious difficulty.</p> <p>"With his back to the wall, the supplier had to accept the deal."</p>
Ball and chain	<p>This term refers to a burden or problem that ties you down and prevents you from doing what you want. It can also refer to one's spouse.</p> <p>"Our holiday home has become a ball and chain - it's too much work!"</p>
Bane of one's life	<p>To say that something is the bane of your life means that it is the cause of your problems or your unhappiness.</p> <p>"The heating system is always breaking down. It's the bane of my life!"</p>
Break the back of the beast	<p>If someone breaks the back of the beast, they succeed in overcoming a major difficulty.</p> <p>"After hours of effort, the technicians finally broke the back of the beast and turned the electricity back on again."</p>
Bite off more than you can chew	<p>If you bite off more than you can chew, you try to do something that is too difficult for you, or more than you can manage.</p> <p>"As soon as I started to translate the report, I realized that I had bitten off more than I could chew."</p>
On the blink	<p>If a machine is on the blink, it is not working properly and needs servicing or repair.</p> <p>"What a nuisance! The photocopier is on the blink again."</p>

Can of worms	<p>To describe a situation as a can of worms means that it is complicated, unpleasant and difficult to deal with.</p> <p>"The discovery of the transfer of funds turned out to be a real can of worms."</p>
Can't for the life of me	<p>This expression can be used to say that it is impossible for you to do something, no matter how hard you try.</p> <p>"I can't for the life of me remember the title of the book."</p>
Carry the can (for someone else)	<p>If you carry the can for another person, you accept blame or take responsibility for something that goes wrong, even if it is not your fault or only partly.</p> <p>"The author didn't turn up for the interview and his agent had to carry the can."</p>
Catch-as-catch-can	<p>This expression means that you try to get something in any way possible</p> <p>"It's difficult to get much sleep with the new baby - it's catch-as-catch-can these days!"</p>
Catch 22	<p>A catch 22 situation refers to a frustrating situation where you cannot do one thing without doing a second, and you cannot do the second before doing the first.</p> <p>"I can't get a job without a work permit, and I can't get a work permit without a job. It's a catch 22 situation!"</p>
Chill wind of something	<p>If you face or feel the chill wind of something, you are beginning to encounter the problems or trouble it causes.</p> <p>"Many building companies are facing the chill wind of the recession."</p>
Clear the way	<p>If you clear the way, you allow something to happen by removing what was preventing it.</p> <p>"Opening universities to women cleared the way for them to have a career and participate actively in today's society."</p>
Cloud on the horizon	<p>A problem or difficulty that is predictable, or seems likely to arise in the future, is called a cloud on the horizon.</p> <p>"They are happily married and for the moment there appear to be</p>

	no clouds on the horizon."
Come to head	<p>If a problem or difficult situation comes to a head, it reaches a point where action has to be taken.</p> <p>"The problem came to a head yesterday when rioting broke out in the streets."</p>
Come out in the wash	<p>This expression is used to tell someone not to worry about a mistake or problem because it won't have any serious effect and everything will work out all right.</p> <p>"Yes, he was furious when it happened - but don't worry - it'll all come out in the wash."</p>
Cross to bear	<p>A person who has a cross to bear has a serious problem or heavy responsibility that they must accept because they cannot change it.</p> <p>"Alzheimer's is a cross to bear for the whole family."</p>
Cross that bridge when we get to it	<p>This is another way of saying "we will deal with that problem when it occurs and not worry about it before".</p> <p>"What will happen if we can't repay the loan?"</p> <p>"We'll cross that bridge when we come to it."</p>
Crux of the matter	<p>The main point or the most vital element of a discussion or argument is called the crux of the matter.</p> <p>"The crux of the matter is that he's too old to live alone in that big house."</p>
Dig one's own grave	<p>A person who digs their own grave does something which causes their own downfall.</p> <p>"If you drop out of college now, with such high unemployment, you'll be digging your own grave!"</p>
Do someone's dirty work.	<p>To do someone's dirty work means to do the unpleasant or difficult work that the other person does not want to do.</p> <p>"His assistant does all the dirty work for him and he gets all the credit."</p>
Dodge a bullet	<p>If you dodge a bullet, you narrowly avoid a very serious problem or</p>

	<p>a disaster.</p> <p>"I dodged a bullet when I missed the plane. It crashed just after take-off."</p>
Elephant in the room	<p>A problem that no one wants to discuss, but is so obvious that it cannot be ignored, is called an elephant in the room.</p> <p>"Let's face it - his work is unsatisfactory.</p> <p>That's the elephant in the room that we need to discuss."</p>
The fat hits the fire/ the fat's in the fire	<p>When trouble breaks out or a situation deteriorates as a result of something said or done, it is said that the fat hits the fire.</p> <p>"The situation was already tense, but the fat hit the fire when Larry was accused of cheating."</p>
Fine tuning	<p>Small changes to something to improve it or make it work better are called fine tuning.</p> <p>"We are still fine tuning our new website and appreciate your patience."</p>
Get to the bottom of something	<p>If you get to the bottom of a problem or mystery, you solve it by finding out the true cause of it.</p> <p>"We have a problem of goods disappearing during transport. Hopefully the investigation will get to the bottom of it."</p>
Go haywire	<p>If something goes haywire, it becomes disorganized or goes out of control.</p> <p>"The photocopier has gone completely haywire. It's only printing half of each page!"</p>
Go pear-shaped	<p>If plan or project goes pear-shaped, it either goes wrong or it produces an undesirable result.</p> <p>"Jane organized a treasure hunt in the park for the kids but it all went pear-shaped and everyone was disappointed.."</p>
Go/put through the mill	<p>If you go (or are put) through the mill, you experience a very difficult period, or are exposed to rough treatment.</p> <p>"When I was an intern, I was put through the mill. Nothing went unnoticed."</p>
When the going gets tough ...	<p>This expression means that when faced with a difficult or dangerous situation, strong people take action in order to solve the problem.</p> <p>"Tom has a positive attitude. He often says "when the going gets tough, the tough get going".</p>



Gone with the wind	<p>If something has gone with the wind, it has disappeared forever.</p> <p>"I lost everything during the crisis. My savings are gone with the wind!"</p>
Grasp (or clutch) at straws	<p>If you are in a desperate situation and you grasp or clutch at straws,</p> <p>you try any method, even if it has little chance of success, in an attempt to find a solution.</p> <p>"In his search for a cure, he turned to a faith healer, knowing that he was grasping at straws."</p>
Hang (someone) out to dry	<p>When you abandon someone who is in difficulty, without giving any assistance or support, you hang them out to dry.</p> <p>"You'll get no help from Jack. He'll hang you out to dry if your plan fails."</p>
Come hell or high water	<p>To say that you will do something come hell or high water means that you will do it in spite of difficulties involved.</p> <p>"Come hell or high water, I've got to be on time for the interview."</p>
High and dry	<p>If you are left high and dry, you find yourself in a difficult situation without help or resources</p> <p>"When her husband walked out on her, Amanda was left high and dry with two kids to raise."</p>
If it ain't broke don't fix it!	<p>This expression means that if a system or method works well, you shouldn't change it.</p> <p>"We're not changing our alarm system. As the saying goes: if it ain't broke, don't fix it!"</p>
In dire straits	<p>If a person or organization is in dire straits, they are in a very difficult situation.</p> <p>"The loss of major contracts has put the company in dire straits."</p>
In the lurch	<p>If you leave someone in the lurch, you leave them in a difficult or embarrassing situation.</p> <p>"When Paul missed the last bus, he was left in the lurch."</p>
In a quandary	<p>If you are in a quandary about something, you find it difficult to decide</p>

	<p>what to do.</p> <p>"The job they offer is less interesting but the salary is better. I'm in a quandary about what to do."</p>
In over your head	<p>If you are in over your head, you are involved in something that is too difficult for you to handle.</p> <p>"I accepted to organize the festival, but I quickly realized that I was in over my head."</p>
Juggle frogs	<p>A person who is juggling frogs is trying to deal with many different tasks at the same time and finding the situation difficult.</p> <p>"I've got so many things to do at the moment, I feel like I'm juggling frogs."</p>
Last thing on one's mind	<p>If you say that something is the last thing on your mind, you mean that it is not an important matter at all, especially when you have more serious problems to consider.</p> <p>"I'm so busy that food is the last thing on my mind."</p>
Last resort	<p>If you say that you would do something as a last resort, it is the last thing you would do if you were desperate and all other courses of action had failed.</p> <p>"I still haven't found a hotel for tonight; I can always sleep in the car as a last resort!"</p>
Left hanging in the air (or in mid-air)	<p>If a problem or issue is left hanging in the air, no decision has been taken so it remains without a solution.</p> <p>"No solution was proposed during the meeting so the question was left hanging in the air."</p>
Let sleeping dogs lie.	<p>If you tell somebody to let sleeping dogs lie, you are asking them not to interfere with a situation because they could cause problems.</p>
Light at the end of the tunnel	<p>If you see light at the end of the tunnel, you see signs of hope for the future after a long period of difficulty.</p> <p>"Sales dropped heavily last year but we're beginning to see light</p>

	at the end of the tunnel."
Like it or lump it!	<p>If you tell someone to like it or lump it, you mean that they will have to accept something even if they don't like it, because the situation is not going to change.</p> <p>"We're spending a week this summer with your grandparents - like it or lump it!"</p>
Like pulling teeth	<p>Something that is like pulling teeth is extremely difficult to obtain, especially if trying to extract information from someone.</p> <p>"Getting him to talk about his job was like pulling teeth!"</p>
A millstone around your neck	<p>Something described as a millstone around your neck refers to a problem or responsibility that becomes a burden and a source of worry.</p> <p>"The money he borrowed became a millstone around his neck"</p>
To be murder	<p>To say that something is murder means that it is very difficult or uncomfortable</p> <p>The journey home through the storm was absolute murder.</p>
Needs must (when the devil drives)	<p>This expression means that you are sometimes forced by circumstances to do something that you do not want to do.</p> <p>"I'd rather stay with you than attend the conference, but needs must...!"</p>
A needle in a haystack	<p>To refer to something as a needle in a haystack means that it is very difficult or impossible to find.</p> <p>"Finding a pub in Dublin without knowing its name is like looking for a needle in a haystack!"</p>
There are no two ways about it	<p>To say that there are no two ways about it means that there is only one suitable way of dealing with something.</p> <p>"There's no two ways about it. You can't accept the money, so you must give it back."</p>
One's number is up	<p>To say that one's number is up means that a person is either in serious difficulty and something bad is going to happen, or the time has come when they will die.</p> <p>"The police have located the escaped prisoner so it looks as if his number is up!"</p>

Out of whack	<p>If something is out of whack, it is not working properly or not in good order.</p> <p>"The dishwasher is making a funny noise. Something must be out of whack."</p>
Ostrich strategy/politics	<p>This term refers to the phenomenon of ignoring or evading an obvious problem in the hope that it will resolve itself or disappear.</p> <p>"Adopting an ostrich strategy will only make matters worse - we've got to find a solution!"</p>
Other side of the coin	<p>When you want to mention a different or contradictory aspect of a situation, you refer to the other side of the coin.</p> <p>"The house is lovely and spacious, but the other side of the coin is that it is far from shops and schools."</p>
Paper over the cracks	<p>To say that someone is papering over the cracks means that they are concealing a problem rather than dealing with it effectively.</p> <p>"The measures taken to reduce unemployment are just paper over the cracks."</p>
See (or put) things in their right perspective	<p>When people see or put things in their right perspective, they see the relative importance of each element of a situation, without exaggerating any aspect.</p> <p>"If Tom could see things in their right perspective, the situation would be less stressful for him."</p>
In a pickle	<p>If you are in a pickle, you are in a difficult situation and need help.</p> <p>"My car won't start and the trains are on strike today - I'm in a real pickle!"</p>
Pocket of resistance	<p>This term refers to a small group of people who resist change or disagree with a proposal.</p> <p>"The new boss wants to introduce job-sharing, but there's a pocket of resistance in the sales department."</p>
(no) quick fix	<p>To say that there is no quick fix to a problem means that there is no</p>

	<p>simple solution.</p> <p>"There is no quick fix for unemployment; major reforms are necessary."</p>
Old dog for a hard road	<p>This expression means that experience is invaluable when one is faced with a difficult task.</p> <p>"The case calls for an experienced lawyer, an old dog for a hard road."</p>
Out of sync	<p>If two movements or actions are out of sync, they are uncoordinated and are not taking place at the same time or at the same speed.</p> <p>"The traffic lights are out of sync and causing a lot of confusion."</p>
Pass the buck	<p>If you say that someone is passing the buck, you are accusing them of not taking responsibility for a problem and letting others deal with it instead.</p> <p>"Whenever a customer comes to complain, she always finds a way of looking busy. Talk about passing the buck!"</p>
Pillar to post	<p>If a person, usually someone in difficulty, goes from pillar to post, they move constantly from place to place.</p> <p>"When the factory closed down, Billy moved from pillar to post in search of a new job."</p>
Pour cold water on something	<p>If you pour cold water on someone's plans, opinions or ideas, you discourage them by showing little enthusiasm or expressing your misgivings.</p> <p>"The committee threw cold water on the idea of accepting new members."</p>
Pull the plug (on something)	<p>If you pull the plug on something, you put an end to it or provide no more support for it.</p> <p>"There were so few enrolments that the school decided to pull the plug on the yoga class."</p>
Put on a brave face	<p>When confronted with difficulties, if you put on a brave face, you try to look cheerful and pretend that the situation is not as bad as it is.</p> <p>"Even at the worst of times she put on a brave face."</p>
Saved by the bell	<p>If you are saved by the bell, something happens at the last</p>

	<p>minute to rescue you from a difficult situation. "Saved by the bell! A friend arrived just when I realized I had no money for the parking metre!"</p>
Put a spanner in the works	<p>To put a spanner in the works means to cause problems and prevent something from happening as planned. (In the US, the word 'wrench' or 'monkey wrench' is used instead of 'spanner')</p>
Scrape the bottom of the barrel	<p>If you scrape the bottom of the barrel, you use the worst or the least satisfactory ideas, things or people because you have no choice. "When they started to recruit, they had to scrape the bottom of the barrel because the best people had already found jobs elsewhere."</p>
Scratch the surface	<p>When you only scratch the surface of a problem or subject, you deal with only a small part of it. "Some countries are only scratching the surface of their environment problems."</p>
Where the shoe pinches	<p>When people talk about 'where the shoe pinches', they are referring to an area that is often the source of problems or difficulties. "She thinks the public transport system works perfectly, but she'll soon find out where the shoe pinches!"</p>
Sign your own death warrant	<p>If you do something that causes your own downfall, or prevents you from being successful, you sign your own death warrant. "When he decided to drop out of college, he signed his own death warrant."</p>
Smooth the path/way	<p>Someone or something that smoothes the path for something, makes progress easier or enables it to happen. "Speaking the language smoothed the path for negotiations."</p>
Spiral out of control	<p>When difficulties or costs spiral out of control, they get worse or increase continuously, creating a situation that becomes difficult to manage.</p>

	<p>"Some items were expensive but we were careful not to let the costs spiral out of control."</p> <p>If you let somebody stew in their own juice, you leave them to worry about the consequences of their own actions.</p> <p>"Jack spent last night in prison for starting a fight - let him just stew in his own juice!"</p>
Stew in your own juice	
On a sticky wicket	<p>If you find yourself on a sticky wicket, you are in a situation that is difficult to deal with.</p> <p>"They've refused to sign the contract so we're on a sticky wicket now!"</p>
Stir up a hornet's nest	<p>If you stir up a hornet's nest, you do something which causes a commotion and provokes criticism and anger.</p> <p>"His letter to the Board stirred up a real hornet's nest."</p>
Stop the rot	<p>When you prevent a situation from deteriorating, especially in politics or business, you stop the rot.</p> <p>"There was so much conflict in the office that a new manager was appointed to stop the rot."</p>
Stumbling block	<p>This term refers to a problem or obstacle which prevents you from achieving something.</p> <p>"My father adapted quite well but the language was always a stumbling block for my mother."</p>
Take the bull by the horns	<p>To take the bull by the horns means that a person decides to act decisively in order to deal with a difficult situation or problem.</p>
Take the easy way out	<p>If you take the easy way out, you choose the easiest way to deal with a difficult situation, even if it's not the best solution.</p> <p>"The weather conditions were so bad that Mary took the easy way out and cancelled her appointment."</p>
Take your mind off (something)	<p>If an activity takes your mind off something that you are worrying about, it helps you to stop thinking about it for a while.</p> <p>"Sarah was worried about the result of the test so Tom took her to</p>

	<p>the cinema to take her mind off it."</p> <p>If you take the rough with the smooth, you accept what is unpleasant or difficult as well as what is pleasant or easy.</p> <p>"Life isn't always easy; you have to learn to take the rough with the smooth."</p>
Take the rough with the smooth	
Tar baby	<p>This term refers to a sticky situation or problem for which it is virtually impossible to find a solution.</p> <p>He was advised not to get involved in the controversy which was considered a 'tar-baby' issue.</p>
Teething problems	<p>The difficulties encountered during the initial stages of an activity or project are called teething problems.</p> <p>We had some teething problems when we first opened the bookshop, but now everything is OK.</p>
A thorny issue	<p>If you are faced with a thorny issue, you have to deal with a difficult or unpleasant problem.</p> <p>"Copyright and content duplication are thorny issues these days."</p>
Throw money at something	<p>If you throw money at something, you try to solve a problem by spending money on it, without using any other methods.</p> <p>"The refugee problem cannot be solved just by throwing money at it."</p>
Tide (someone) over	<p>If you tide someone over, you support or sustain them through a difficult period for a certain length of time.</p> <p>"With this weather it's impossible to get to the shops, but we have enough food to tide us over until next week."</p>
Tight spot	<p>Someone who is in a tight spot is in a very difficult situation.</p> <p>"The recent strike has put the airline company in a tight spot."</p>
Tip of the iceberg	<p>The tip of the iceberg is the part that is known of a problem or situation which is thought to be much more serious.</p> <p>"Journalists say that the report on corruption only examines the tip of the iceberg."</p>
Trilemma	<p>This term is used for a situation which is even more difficult than</p>



	<p>a dilemma, because a choice must be made between three options that seem equally undesirable</p> <p>If someone is left to twist in the wind, they are left to face a difficult situation without any assistance or support.</p> <p>"He walked out of the press conference and left the public relations officer to twist in the wind."</p>
Twist in the wind	
Unmitigated disaster	<p>To refer to something as an unmitigated disaster means that it is a total catastrophe or a complete failure.</p> <p>"The organization of the tournament was an unmitigated disaster."</p>
Uphill battle	<p>A person faced with an uphill battle has to struggle against very unfavourable circumstances.</p> <p>"After the terrible accident, his recovery was an uphill battle all the way."</p>
Upset the applecart	<p>To upset (or to overturn) the applecart means to spoil a satisfactory plan or situation</p> <p>"I hope Julie doesn't attend the meeting - she could upset the applecart!"</p>
Vicious circle	<p>When the solution to a problem creates a similar problem to the original, or makes it worse, so that the process starts all over again, the situation is called a vicious circle.</p> <p>"I borrowed money to reimburse Paul. Now I've got to reimburse the bank, with interest. It's a vicious circle."</p>
Wave a dead chicken	<p>When faced with a serious problem, if you take steps that you know in advance will be futile, but will show that you made an effort, you wave a dead chicken.</p> <p>"The TV set was permanently damaged, but the technician decided to wave a dead chicken to satisfy the old lady before announcing the bad news."</p>

The wheels fall off	<p>When a situation gets out of control and everything starts to go wrong, the wheels fall off.</p> <p>"The wheels fell off her career when she started taking drugs and cancelling concerts."</p>
Without a hitch	<p>If something happens without a hitch, it takes place exactly as planned, without any difficulties.</p> <p>"The ceremony went off without a hitch, to our great relief!"</p>
Vote with one's feet	<p>If you vote with your feet, you show your dislike or disapproval of something by leaving.</p> <p>"If the conference is boring, people will probably vote with their feet."</p>
Have your work cut out	<p>If you have to face a difficult task or deal with a challenging situation,</p> <p>you have your work cut out for you.</p> <p>"I've got a month to reorganize the accounts department. I have my work cut out for me!"</p>
Yoke around one's neck	<p>An obligation, commitment or restraint that becomes an oppressive burden is called a yoke around one's neck.</p> <p>"When John lost his job, the repayments on the house became a yoke around his neck."</p>
Baton down the hatches	<p>When you baton down the hatches, you prepare yourself for trouble</p> <p>or a forthcoming difficult period, like a ship preparing for a storm.</p> <p>"Here comes that trouble-making guy. Baton down the hatches!"</p>
Calculated risk	<p>A calculated risk is a risk taken with full knowledge of the dangers involved.</p> <p>"The company took a calculated risk when they hired Sean straight out of college."</p>
Throw caution to the wind	<p>If someone throws caution to the wind, they stop caring about the possible dangers and start taking risks.</p> <p>"The weather was so good, he threw caution to the wind and went sailing alone."</p>
The coast is clear	<p>To say that the coast is clear means that there is no danger in sight,</p> <p>or that nobody can see you.</p>

Cry wolf	<p>"OK. The dog has gone inside. The coast is clear."</p> <p>To cry wolf is to call for help when you are not really in danger. As a result, nobody believes you when you really need help.</p> <p>"There's Mary screaming again! Does she really have a problem or is she just crying wolf again?"</p>
Dice with death	<p>If you put your life at risk by doing something very dangerous, you dice with death.</p> <p>"Going mountain-climbing alone is dicing with death."</p>
Eyes in the back of one's head	<p>To say that someone has eyes in the back of their head means that they are very observant and notice everything happening around them.</p> <p>"You need eyes in the back of your head to look after young children."</p>
False move	<p>In a dangerous or risky situation, if you make a false move, you do something which may have unpleasant consequences.</p> <p>"He is under close surveillance. If he makes one false move he'll be arrested."</p>
Fraught with danger	<p>An activity or situation that is fraught with danger is full of risks or serious difficulties.</p> <p>"His journey across the mountains was fraught with danger."</p>
By a hair's breadth	<p>If you avoid or miss something by a hair's breadth, you only just manage to escape from a danger.</p> <p>"A slate fell off the roof and missed the child by a hair's breadth."</p>
Hang on for dear life	<p>If you hang on for dear life, you grip something firmly so as not to fall.</p> <p>"Andy took his mother on the back of his motorbike where she hung on for dear life!"</p>
Keep your back covered	<p>If you do something in case a problem arises later for which you might be blamed, you keep your back covered.</p> <p>"You'd better make a copy of that letter to keep your back covered."</p>
Live to tell the tale	<p>Someone who lives to tell the tale survives a terrible experience.</p> <p>"Only two members of the expedition lived to tell the tale."</p>

Look before you leap	<p>This is something you say when advising someone to think carefully about the possible problems before doing something.</p> <p>"Don't decide too quickly. Look before you leap!"</p>
A no-go area	<p>A no-go area is an area, particularly in a city, where it is dangerous to go.</p> <p>"Tourists have been advised to avoid parts of the city which have become no-go areas."</p>
Play with fire	<p>People who take unnecessary risks or behave in a dangerous way are playing with fire.</p> <p>"Driving alone on isolated roads is playing with fire."</p>
Put your head on the block	<p>If you put yourself in a situation where you risk losing reputation or your job if things go wrong, you put your head on the block.</p> <p>"Jenny asked me to recommend her son for the job but I'm not prepared to put my head on the block for someone I hardly know."</p>
Ride (something) out	<p>If you manage to survive a dangerous or very unpleasant situation, you ride it out.</p> <p>"His business was hit by the recession but he managed to ride it out."</p>
Risk life and limb	<p>If you risk life and limb, you are in danger of death or serious injury.</p> <p>"The roads are icy today; you'll risk life and limb if you go by car."</p>
In safe hands	<p>If something is in safe (or good) hands, it is being looked after by a reliable person or organization, and is therefore at no risk.</p> <p>"I'll look after Jamie while you go shopping. Don't worry - he'll be in safe hands."</p>
On the safe side	<p>If you do something to be on the safe side, you want to avoid taking any risks.</p> <p>"I think I locked the door, but I'll check again to be on the safe side."</p>
Safety in numbers	<p>This expression means that being part of a group makes people feel more secure and more confident when taking action.</p> <p>"None of the group went sightseeing alone, knowing that there</p>

	<p>was safety in numbers."</p>
Sail close to the wind	<p>If you sail close to the wind, you do something dangerous or act just within the limits of what is legal or acceptable. "He seems to invest his money well although he often sails close to the wind."</p>
Save one's neck/skin	<p>If you manage to escape from serious danger or trouble, you save your neck (or your skin). "He saved his neck by jumping off the bridge just before it collapsed."</p>
At stake	<p>Someone who has a lot at stake is in a risky situation, with a lot to be won or lost. "He was nervous about signing the agreement because there was a lot at stake."</p>
Take one's life in one's hands	<p>To say that someone is taking their life in their hands means that they are taking the risk of being killed. "If you drive home on this icy road, you'll be taking your life in your hands."</p>
Out of harm's way	<p>If you put something out of harm's way, you put it in a safe place where it won't get damaged. "I'm going to put this glass bowl out of harm's way so that it doesn't get broken."</p>
Watch one's step	<p>If you tell someone to watch their step, you are advising them to be careful how they behave or speak in order to avoid getting into trouble. "There is zero tolerance in this school for bad behaviour so watch your step! "</p>
Wrapped up in cotton wool	<p>To say that someone is wrapped up in cotton wool means that they are over-protected from dangers and risks. "Their children are kept wrapped up in cotton wool."</p>
Behind closed doors	<p>If something takes place behind closed doors, it is done privately, with no observers or intruders. "The matter was discussed behind closed doors."</p>
Bite your tongue.	<p>If you bite your tongue, you try not to say what you really think or feel.</p>

	"It was difficult for me not to react; I had to bite my tongue."
Hold your tongue	If you hold your tongue, you stay silent and say nothing. "The party was supposed to be a surprise but unfortunately the little boy couldn't hold his tongue."
Let the cat out of the bag.	If you let the cat out of the bag, you reveal a secret, often not intentionally. "When the child told her grandmother about the plans for her birthday, she let the cat out of the bag. It was supposed to be a secret!"
Cover your tracks	If you cover your tracks, you conceal or destroy evidence of what you have done or where you have been. "Charlie was sorry he hadn't covered his tracks better when his wife discovered he had been unfaithful."
In the dark	If someone is kept or left in the dark about something, they are not informed about it . "The personnel were kept in the dark about the merger until the last minute."
Turn a blind eye	If you turn a blind eye to something, you pretend not to notice what someone is doing. "The old man turns a blind eye when he sees children taking apples from his garden."
Fly on the wall	This expression is used to describe a person who watches a situation without being noticed. "I'd like to be a fly on the wall when the management discusses my project."
Give the game away	If you give the game away, you reveal a secret or a plan, often unintentionally. "He hoped nobody in the hotel would recognize him, but an employee gave the game away."
Good walls make good	This expression means that respecting one another's privacy

neighbours	helps create a good relationship between neighbours.
A dark horse	If you refer to a person as a dark horse, you mean that they are secretive, or that little is known about them.
Keep something under one's hat	To keep something under one's hat means to keep a secret. "My boss has promised me a promotion, but it's not official yet, so keep it under your hat."
Keep the lid on something	If you keep the lid on something, you hide it or control it to prevent people from finding out about it. "The company tried to keep a lid on the negotiations but word got out to the Press."
Keep a low profile	A person who keeps a low profile tries not to attract public attention. "The inventor is a discreet man who keeps a low profile."
Keep something under wraps	If something is kept under wraps, it is held secret and not revealed to anyone. "The plan was kept under wraps until the contract was officially signed."
Like a thief in the night	Someone who acts like a thief in the night does something secretly or in an unexpected manner. "He left the company like a thief in the night, without telling his colleagues or saying goodbye."
Lips are sealed	If you say that your lips are sealed, you promise not to reveal a secret. "I promise I won't tell anyone. My lips are sealed!"
Mum's the word	To say "Mum's the word" means that the subject or plan is a secret and must not be revealed. "We're organizing a surprise event on New Year's Eve so "Mum's the word" - OK?"
Off the record	If you say something off the record, you do not want anyone to repeat it publicly. "My comment was made off the record, and shouldn't have been published"
Open secret	A fact that is supposed to be a secret but is actually widely known

	is called an open secret. "It's an open secret that Paul and Julie are living together."
(as) quiet as a mouse	When someone is as quiet as a mouse, they make no noise at all. "The burglar was as quiet as a mouse as he moved around the house."
On the QT	If something is done on the QT, it is done quietly or discreetly. "They got married on the QT last summer and told nobody."
Sweep something under the rug.	If you sweep something under the rug (or carpet), you try to hide it or ignore it because it is embarrassing.
On the sly	If you do something on the sly you do it secretly or furtively. "He made such quick progress that the others suspected him of having private lessons on the sly."
Spill the beans	If you spill the beans, you reveal a secret or talk about something private. "Come on! Spill the beans! What did he say?"
Truth will out	This expression means that despite efforts to conceal the facts, the truth cannot be hidden forever. "I don't know if the police gave the full details, but inevitably 'truth will out'."

<b><u>At the drop of a hat</u></b>	If you do something <b>at the drop of a hat</b> , you do it immediately and without hesitation "I've got great friends. They're ready to help out at the drop of a hat."
<b><u>At one fell swoop</u></b>	<b><u>If something is accomplished at one fell swoop, it is done in a single action, usually rapidly and ruthlessly.</u></b> "The three houses were demolished at one fell swoop."
<b><u>Beat someone to the draw</u></b>	<b><u>If you beat someone to the draw you react more quickly and manage to do something before they do.</u></b> "Ross was determined to be the first to arrive and beat the other competitors to the draw."
<b><u>Before you know it/ before you know where you are</u></b>	<b><u>If something takes place so suddenly that you don't have time to become aware of it, it happens before you know it or before you know where you are.</u></b> "The doorbell rang, and before we knew it, a surprise birthday party was under way!"
<b><u>Fast and furious</u></b>	<b><u>If an activity is fast and furious, it is done quickly and with a lot of energy.</u></b> "Eager to win the race, the competitors came fast and furious."



	<u>around the bend."</u>
<u>Get a move on</u>	<p>If someone tells you to <b>get a move on</b>, they are asking you to hurry up.</p> <p>"You'd better get a move on or you'll miss the bus!"</p>
<u>Go hell for leather</u>	<p>If you <b>go hell for leather</b>, you go somewhere or do something very fast.</p> <p>"I saw Tom going hell for leather towards the station."</p>
<u>In the blink of an eye</u>	<p>If something happens <b>in the blink of an eye</b>, it happens nearly instantaneously, with hardly enough time to notice it.</p> <p>"The pickpocket disappeared in the blink of an eye."</p>
<u>In/by leaps and bounds</u>	<p>If you do something <b>in/by leaps and bounds</b>, you make rapid or spectacular progress or growth.</p> <p>"The number of subscribers to the review has grown in leaps and bounds."</p>
<u>In two shakes (of a lamb's tail)</u>	<p>To do something <b>in two shakes (of a lamb's tail)</b> means to do it very quickly or in a moment.</p> <p>"It'll be ready in two shakes (of a lamb's tail)."</p>
<u>Jump the gun</u>	<p>If you <b>jump the gun</b>, you do something too soon or take premature action based on incomplete information.</p> <p>"He ordered a new car before the job was confirmed - now that's jumping the gun!"</p>
<u>Light years ahead</u>	<p>If someone or something is <b>light years ahead</b>, they are far ahead in terms of development or progress.</p> <p>"We've got to invest more in research - our competitors are light years ahead!"</p>
<u>Like a bat out of hell</u>	<p>If something moves <b>like a bat out of hell</b>, it moves very quickly.</p> <p>"He grabbed the envelope and ran like a bat out of hell."</p>
<u>Like greased lightning</u>	<p>If something moves <b>like greased lightning</b>, it moves extremely fast.</p> <p>"As soon the owner appeared, the boy ran like greased lightning."</p>
<u>Like a shot</u>	<p>If you do something <b>like a shot</b>, you do it very quickly, without any hesitation.</p> <p>"If I won a lot of money on the lotto, I'd leave my job like a shot!"</p>
<u>Like wildfire</u>	<p>If something such as news, rumours or gossip spreads <b>like wildfire</b>, it becomes widely known very fast.</p> <p>"As soon as the nomination was announced, the news spread</p>

	like wildfire."
<u>Make it snappy!</u>	If someone tells you to <b>make it snappy</b> , they are asking you very sharply to hurry up or to be quick about something. "Fetch me a bandage and make it snappy!"
<u>Nineteen to the dozen</u>	If someone <b>talks nineteen to the dozen</b> , they speak very quickly. "He was talking nineteen to the dozen so I didn't catch the whole story!"
<u>(Put the) pedal to the metal</u>	When you <b>put the pedal to the metal</b> , you accelerate or make something go faster. "If we put the pedal to the metal we could get this finished in time."
<u>Quick as a dog can lick a dish</u>	If you do something surprisingly fast, or suddenly, you do it <b>as quick as a dog can lick a dish</b> . "He packed his bag as quick as a dog can lick a dish."
<u>Race against time</u>	If someone is in a <b>race against time</b> , they have to work very quickly in order to do or finish something before a certain time. "It was a race against time to get everything ready for the inauguration."
<u>Snail's pace</u>	If something moves <b>at a snail's pace</b> , it goes very slowly. "The old man was driving the car at a snail's pace."
<u>Snap decision</u>	A quick decision based on an impulse, without taking time to weigh the consequences, is called a <b>snap decision</b> . "Completely overworked, he suddenly turned off his computer and made a snap decision to go swimming."
<u>Step on the gas</u>	If someone tells you to <b>step on the gas</b> they are encouraging you to accelerate or hurry up in order to get something done quickly. "We'd better step on the gas and get these figures printed. The meeting starts in half an hour."
<u>Throw something together</u>	If you <b>throw something together</b> , you make or produce something quickly and without effort. "Why don't you stay for dinner - I'll throw something together!"
<b>Be on the ball</b>	If you are <b>on the ball</b> , you are aware of what is happening and are able to react to the situation quickly. "We need someone who's really on the ball to head the fundraising campaign."
<b>Have a ball</b>	A person who is <b>having a ball</b> is having a good time, or enjoying themselves.

<b>The <u>ball</u> is in your court</b>	If <b>the ball is in your court</b> , it is your turn to speak or act next.
<b>Start the <u>ball</u> rolling</b>	If you <b>start the ball rolling</b> , you start an activity in which other people will join. "Let's start the ball rolling by calling on our first speaker."
<b>That's the way the <u>ball</u> bounces</b>	Things don't always work out as planned, and there's nothing we can do about it - that's life! "He didn't get the prize he expected, but never mind - <b>that's the way the ball bounces.</b> "
<b>Whole new <u>ball</u> game</b>	To refer to something as a <b>whole new ball game</b> means that it is a completely different situation due to a new set of circumstances. "Email and text messaging have made communication a whole new ball game."
<b><u>Fishing</u> expedition</b>	If someone is on a <b>fishing expedition</b> , they are trying to obtain information in any way possible. "The lunch invitation was clearly a fishing expedition to obtain information about his private life."
<b>At this stage of the <u>game</u></b>	This expression refers to the current point reached in a process, activity or developing situation. "At this stage of the game I think any further intervention would be unwise. Let's wait and see how things develop."
<b><u>Get</u> into full swing</b>	When something, such as an event, <b>gets into full swing</b> , it is at its busiest or liveliest time.
<b><u>Get</u> into the swing of things</b>	If you <b>get into the swing of</b> something, you become involved in it or get used to it and begin to enjoy it.
<b><u>Go</u> overboard</b>	If you <b>go overboard</b> , you are over-enthusiastic about something and do too much or behave in an excessive way. "We need to prepare the dining room for Christmas, but don't go overboard with the decorations!"
<b><u>Give</u> the game away</b>	If you <b>give the game away</b> , you reveal a secret or a plan, often unintentionally.

<p><b><u>Hang up one's boots</u></b></p>	<p>When a sports player <b>hangs up their boots</b>, they stop playing and retire. This expression is often used to refer to retirement in general. "Dad says he's going to hang up his boots at the end of the year."</p>
<p><b><u>Learn the ropes</u></b></p>	<p>If you learn the ropes, you learn how to a particular job correctly. "He's bright. It won't take him long to learn the ropes."</p>
<p><b><u>Make the cut</u></b></p>	<p>If you <b>make the cut</b>, you reach a required standard or succeed in passing from one round of a competition to another. "After intensive training, Sarah made the cut and joined the team."</p>
<p><b><u>Paddle one's own canoe</u></b></p>	<p>If you <b>paddle your own canoe</b>, you do what you want to do without help or interference from anyone. His parents thought it was time for Tom to paddle his own canoe.</p>
<p><b><u>Play the game</u></b></p>	<p>If you <b>play the game</b>, you accept to do things according to the rules laid down by others. Not all website owners play the game. Some download content from others without permission</p>
<p><b><u>Play games (with someone)</u></b></p>	<p>If you are not completely honest, or behave in a way that is insincere, evasive or intentionally misleading, you are <b>playing games</b> with someone. "Look, stop playing games with us. Just tell us if you're interested in the project or not."</p>
<p><b><u>Race against time</u></b></p>	<p>If someone is in <b>a race against time</b>, they have to work very quickly in order to do or finish something before a certain time. "It was a race against time to get everything ready for the presentation."</p>
<p><b><u>Ride (something) out</u></b></p>	<p>If you manage to survive a dangerous or very unpleasant situation, you <b>ride it out</b>. "His business was hit by the recession but he managed to ride it out."</p>

<b><u>Riding high</u></b>	<p>Someone who is <b>riding high</b> is enjoying a period of success or popularity.</p> <p>"He's been riding high since the success of his last film."</p>
<b><u>Sail through something</u></b>	<p>If you <b>sail through</b> something, for example a test or an exam, you succeed in doing it without difficulty.</p> <p>"He's very clever. He sailed through all his exams."</p>
<b><u>Skating on thin ice</u></b>	<p>If you are <b>skating on thin ice</b>, you are doing or saying something that could cause disagreement or trouble.</p> <p>"Don't mention that subject during the negotiations or you could be skating on thin ice."</p>
<b><u>Swim against the tide</u></b>	<p>A person who is doing or saying the opposite to most other people is said to be <b>swimming against the tide</b>.</p> <p>"Perhaps it's because she always swims against the tide that her books are so successful."</p>
<b><u>Take someone for a ride</u></b>	<p>If you are <b>taken for a ride</b>, you are deceived or cheated by someone.</p> <p>"When my father was persuaded to invest in the new casino, he was really taken for a ride."</p>
<b><u>Take the wind out of someone's sails</u></b>	<p>If you <b>take the wind out of someone's sails</b>, you make them feel less confident, by doing or saying something that they do not expect.</p> <p>"After Sarah's presentation, her boss made some negative remarks that took the wind out of her sails."</p>
<b><u>Two can play at that game</u></b>	<p>This expression is used to tell someone that you can behave towards them in the same unpleasant way that they have been behaving towards you.</p>
<b><u>A waiting game</u></b>	<p>A person who plays a <b>waiting game</b> delays taking any action or making any decisions because they prefer to wait and see how things develop, usually in the hope that this will put them in a stronger position.</p>
<b><u>Ace a test</u></b>	<p>If you obtain a very high score or an excellent result, you <b>ace a test or exam</b>.</p> <p>"Maria's parents said she could go to the party if she aced her</p>

	English test."
<b>Hold all the <u>aces</u></b>	A person who <b>holds all the aces</b> is in a very strong position because they have more advantages than anyone else. "Given the high unemployment figures in some countries, employers hold all the aces."
<b><u>Also-ran</u></b>	This term refers to an unsuccessful competitor whose performance is so much poorer than the winner's that it appears insignificant. "He entered the contest hoping that he wouldn't end up as an ' <b>also-ran</b> '."
<b><u>Back to square one</u></b>	To say that someone is <b>back to square one</b> , means that they have not succeeded in what they were trying to do, and so they have to start again. "When the plans were refused, it was back to square one for the architect."
<b>In the <u>bag</u></b>	If you think something is <b>in the bag</b> , you are almost certain it will be achieved. "An hour before the polling stations closed, victory seemed in the bag for the Conservative candidate."
<b>(up a) <u>blind alley</u></b>	If you go <b>up a blind alley</b> , you follow an ineffective course of action which leads nowhere or produces no results. "The revelations promised by the suspect lead the police up a blind alley."
<b><u>Blockbuster</u></b>	Something that is outstanding, impressive or particularly successful, such as a film or a book, is called <b>a blockbuster</b> . "The TV series was a blockbuster."
<b><u>Blow up in someone's face</u></b>	When working on a plan or project, if it suddenly goes wrong or fails, it <b>blows up in your face</b> . "The trip was difficult to organize, but it blew up in his face when the airline company went on strike."

<p><b><u>Bottom</u> fell out</b></p>	<p>When something causes a plan, project or venture to collapse or fail, the <b>bottom falls out</b> of it. "When heavy rain was announced, the bottom fell out of their plans for a beach party."</p>
<p><b><u>Bring</u> the house down</b></p>	<p>If you <b>bring the house down</b>, you give a very successful performance. "If he sings like that on Saturday, he'll bring the house down."</p>
<p>The <u>cake</u>/the game is not worth the candle</p>	<p>To say that <b>the cake (or the game) is not worth the candle</b> means that the advantages to be gained from doing something are not worth the effort involved. "He recorded an album but sold very few copies; the cake wasn't worth the candle!"</p>
<p><b><u>Chance</u> one's arm</b></p>	<p>If you <b>chance your arm</b>, you decide to do something even though there is little hope of success. "Tony knew there was little hope of getting into Harvard but he decided to chance his arm anyway."</p>
<p><b><u>Chance</u>/take a chance on something</b></p>	<p>If you <b>take a chance on something</b>, you take action in the hope of success even though you know that the result may be negative. "I may not be able to get through the traffic but I'll take a chance on it."</p>
<p><b>Have had one's <u>chips</u></b></p>	<p>To say that someone <b>has had their chips</b> means that they have completely failed in what they set out to achieve. "After the second set, it looked as though Agassi had had his chips."</p>
<p><b><u>Close</u> but no cigar</b></p>	<p>This expression refers to an effort to do something which was a good attempt but not quite good enough to succeed. "The ball touched the goal post - <b>close but no cigar!</b>"</p>
<p><b><u>Come</u> to grief</b></p>	<p>If someone or something <b>comes to grief</b>, they have an accident, are destroyed or end in failure. "Their plans for a golf course came to grief when it was decided to build a motorway."</p>

<p><b><u>Come into one's own</u></b></p>	<p>When you <b>come into your own</b>, you receive the credit or recognition you deserve.          "It's when there's an important presentation that Sarah really comes into her own."</p>
<p><b><u>Come up in the world</u></b></p>	<p>A person who has <b>come up in the world</b> is richer than before and has a higher social status.          "My old school friend has bought an apartment overlooking Central Park.          She has certainly come up in the world!"</p>
<p><b><u>Come up roses</u></b></p>	<p>If things <b>come up roses</b>, the end result is successful or positive, even if there were difficult times.          "After several disappointments, everything seems to be coming up roses for the tennis player this year."</p>
<p><b><u>Come/turn up trumps</u></b></p>	<p>To say that someone has <b>come up trumps</b> means that they have achieved unexpectedly good results.          "Against all expectations, our team came up trumps in the cup final."</p>
<p><b><u>Cook somebody's goose</u></b></p>	<p>To <b>cook somebody's goose</b> means to spoil that person's chance of success.          "When the burglar saw the police car arriving, he realized his goose was cooked."</p>
<p><b><u>On course (for something)</u></b></p>	<p>If someone is <b>on course</b> for something, they are likely to achieve it.          "Our team is on course for a victory in the national championship."</p>
<p><b><u>The cream of the crop</u></b></p>	<p>This expression is used to refer to the best people or things in a particular group.          "As usual, <b>the cream of the crop</b> of this year's graduates were offered the best jobs."</p>
<p><b><u>Cream rises to the top</u></b></p>	<p>This expression means that someone or something exceptionally good will eventually attract attention, or stand out from the rest, just as <b>cream rises to the top</b> in coffee or tea .</p>



	<p>"I knew you'd succeed. As the saying goes, "cream rises to the top!"</p>
<p><b>On the <u>crest</u> of a wave</b></p>	<p>If you are <b>on the crest of a wave</b>, you are very successful in what you are doing.</p> <p>"Our company is going from success to success. We're on the crest of a wave right now."</p>
<p><b><u>Cut</u> one's losses</b></p>	<p>If you end or withdraw from something that is already failing, in order to reduce the loss of money, time or effort invested in it, you <b>cut your losses</b>.</p> <p>"The project is heading for failure. Let's cut our losses before it's too late."</p>
<p><b><u>Cut</u> one's own throat</b></p>	<p>If you <b>cut your own throat</b>, you do something that will be the cause of your own failure or ruin your chances in the future.</p> <p>"Tony has already missed a lot of classes. He's cutting his own throat."</p>
<p><b><u>Dead</u> cert</b></p>	<p>Something that is certain to happen or to be achieved is a <b>dead cert</b>.</p> <p>"After such praise, his appointment as captain of the team is a dead cert."</p>
<p><b><u>Dead</u> duck</b></p>	<p>This expression refers to a project or scheme which has been abandoned or is certain to fail.</p> <p>"The new cinema is going to be a <b>dead duck</b> because it's too far away from the town centre."</p>
<p><b><u>Dead</u> in the water</b></p>	<p>A plan or project that is <b>dead in the water</b> is at a standstill or has ceased to function and is unlikely to be reactivated in the future.</p> <p>"Because of the crisis, the planned housing development is now dead in the water."</p>
<p><b><u>Dead</u> loss</b></p>	<p>Someone or something described as a <b>dead loss</b> is absolutely useless or a complete failure.</p> <p>"When it comes to gardening, my brother is a dead loss."</p>
<p><b>The <u>dice</u> are loaded</b></p>	<p>If everything seems to work to your disadvantage and you are not likely to succeed, you can say that <b>the dice are loaded against</b></p>

	<p><b>you.</b></p> <p>"I applied for the job, but being a woman, and over forty, the dice were loaded against me."</p>
<b><u>Disaster written all over it</u></b>	<p>If something, such as a plan or idea, has <b>disaster written all over it</b>, it is thought to be heading for complete failure or will cause a lot of trouble.</p> <p>"Mary's idea of a holiday with her in-laws has disaster written all over it!"</p>
<b>All <u>downhill</u>/downhill all the way</b>	<p>If something is <b>all downhill</b> or <b>downhill all the way</b>, it is very easy compared to the difficulties encountered beforehand.</p> <p>"The hardest part for the burglars was turning off the alarm system. After that it was all downhill."</p>
<b>Go <u>downhill</u></b>	<p>When something <b>goes downhill</b> it deteriorates or gets worse little by little.</p> <p>"The restaurant has been going downhill since the arrival of the new owner."</p>
<b><u>Draw a blank</u></b>	<p>If someone <b>draws a blank</b>, they obtain no response or result in return for their efforts.</p> <p>"I tried to find the name of the donor but I drew a blank."</p>
<b><u>Every dog has its day</u></b>	<p>This expression means that everyone can be successful at something at some time in their life.</p> <p>"I didn't win this time, but I'll be lucky one day. <b>Every dog has its day!</b>"</p>
<b><u>Fall at the first hurdle</u></b>	<p>If you <b>fall at the first hurdle</b>, you fail to overcome the first difficulty encountered.</p> <p>"Scott fell at the first hurdle. He didn't study enough and failed his first exam."</p>
<b><u>Fall from grace</u></b>	<p>To say that someone has <b>fallen from grace</b> means that they have done something wrong, immoral or unacceptable, and as a result have lost their good reputation.</p>

	"The Finance Minister fell from grace as a result of a sex scandal."
<b><u>Fall on one's sword</u></b>	If you <b>fall on your sword</b> , you take responsibility for, or accept the consequences of an unsuccessful or wrong action. "The organizer of the referendum resigned when the poor results were announced. It was said that he 'fell on his sword'."
<b><u>A feather in one's cap</u></b>	To describe someone's achievement as a <b>feather in their cap</b> means that it is something they can be proud of. "The overwhelming victory of the team was a feather in the cap for the new manager."
<b><u>Fight a losing battle</u></b>	If someone is <b>fighting a losing battle</b> , they are trying to do something even when there is little chance of succeeding. "The headmaster is fighting a losing battle trying to ban mobile phones at school."
<b><u>A flash in the pan</u></b>	If you refer to somebody's success as a <b>flash in the pan</b> , your mean that it is not likely to be repeated "The manager hoped that the team's unexpected success was not a flash in the pan."
<b><u>It will never fly</u></b>	To say that something <b>will never fly</b> means that it will not be successful. "He's got incredible ideas, but none that will ever fly!"
<b><u>Flying colours</u></b>	To achieve something <b>with flying colours</b> means to do it very successfully. "My daughter passed the entrance exam with flying colours. I'm so proud of her!"
<b><u>Flying start</u></b>	If something gets off to the <b>flying start</b> , it is immediately successful. "Sales of the book got off to a flying start and exceeded our expectations."
<b><u>Fool's errand</u></b>	If you go <b>on a fool's errand</b> , you try to do something which is useless, unnecessary or has no chance of success.

	"I realized it was a fool's errand to look for a bank in such an isolated region."
<b>A <u>foot</u> in the door</b>	If you say that someone has a <b>foot in the door</b> , you mean that they have a small but successful start in something and will possibly do well in the future. "With today's unemployment, it's difficult to get a foot in the door in any profession."
<b>Get a <u>foothold</u></b>	If you <b>get a foothold</b> somewhere, you secure a position for yourself in a business, profession or organisation. "The contract got the firm a foothold in the local administration."
<b><u>Front</u> runner</b>	In a contest, race or election, the <b>front runner</b> is the person who seems most likely to succeed or win. "Who are the front runners in the coming elections?"
<b><u>Get</u> the better of you</b>	If someone or something <b>gets the better of you</b> , they defeat you "She went on a diet but it didn't last long - her love of chocolate got the better of her!"
<b><u>Go</u> to the dogs</b>	To say that a company, organization or country is <b>going to the dogs</b> means that it is becoming less successful or efficient than before. "Some think the company will go to the dogs if it is nationalized."
<b><u>Go</u> great guns</b>	If someone or something is <b>going great guns</b> , they are doing very well. "Fred's night club is going great guns. It's becoming hard to get in!."
<b><u>Go</u> (off/over) with a bang</b>	If something, such as an event or a performance, <b>goes (off or over) with a bang</b> , it is very successful. "The party she organized went off with a bang - everyone enjoyed it."
<b><u>Go</u> up in smoke</b>	If a plan or project <b>goes up in smoke</b> , it is spoiled or ends before producing a result. "When Amy and Tom separated, my mother's dream of a romantic

	wedding went up in smoke."
<b><u>Got it made</u></b>	Someone who has <b>got it made</b> is so happy and successful in life that they have no more worries. "With a happy family life, new house and super job, Sam's got it made!"
<b><u>Hand it to someone</u></b>	If you <b>hand it to someone</b> , you admit, perhaps unwillingly, that they deserve credit or praise for their achievements. "You've got to hand it to Julie. She may be a snob, but her presentations are always excellent."
<b><u>Hit (or strike) pay dirt</u></b>	If you <b>hit or strike pay dirt</b> , you are lucky and suddenly find yourself in a successful money-making situation. "Charlie finally hit pay dirt with his latest invention."
<b>By <u>hook</u> or by crook</b>	If you say that you will do something <b>by hook or by crook</b> , you mean that you will succeed in doing it in whatever way is necessary, whether it is honest or not. "I'll get my revenge, by hook or by crook!"
<b><u>Jump on the bandwagon</u></b>	If a person or organization <b>jumps on the bandwagon</b> , they decide to do something when it is already successful or fashionable. "When organic food became popular, certain stores were quick to jump on the bandwagon and promote it."
<b>On its <u>knees</u></b>	When something such as a country or organization is <b>on its knees</b> or <b>brought to its knees</b> , it is in a very weak situation. "The civil war brought the country to its knees."
<b><u>Lead to a dead end</u></b>	If a plan or a project <b>leads to a dead end</b> , it develops no further because it has no future. "In spite of the scientists' efforts, the research lead to a dead end."
<b><u>Leaps and bounds</u></b>	If you do something <b>in/by leaps and bounds</b> , you make rapid or spectacular progress or growth. "The number of subscribers to the review has grown in leaps and

	bounds."
<b><u>Let</u> something slip through your fingers</b>	If you let something <b>slip through your fingers</b> , for example a good opportunity, you fail to obtain or keep it. "He should have accepted the job when it was offered. He let the opportunity slip through his fingers."
<b><u>Live</u> to fight another day</b>	This expression means that even though you have had a negative experience, you will have another chance in the future to try again. "He was defeated in the final match but he <b>lived to fight another day</b> ."
<b>(Have come) a <u>long</u> way</b>	When someone <b>has come a long way</b> , they have made a lot of progress or have become successful. "Tony has come a long way since he opened his first little restaurant."
<b>At a <u>low</u> ebb</b>	A person or organization <b>at a low ebb</b> is not as strong or successful as usual. "The recent political crisis has left the country at a low ebb."
<b><u>Make</u> the cut</b>	If you <b>make the cut</b> , you reach a required standard or succeed in passing from one round of a competition to another. "After intensive training, Sarah made the cut and joined the team."
<b><u>Make</u> a go of (something)</b>	When you <b>make a go of</b> something, you succeed in your enterprise or produce good results. "He opened a restaurant and worked hard to make a go of it."
<b><u>Make</u> headway</b>	If you <b>make headway</b> , you make progress in what you are trying to achieve. "Investigators have made little headway in their search for the causes of the catastrophe."
<b><u>Make</u> inroads</b>	If someone or something <b>makes inroads</b> , for example in a new field or area, they advance successfully or make progress. "Foreign cars have made inroads into the European market."
<b><u>Make</u> a killing</b>	If you say that someone has <b>made a killing</b> you mean that they have had great financial success

	"He made a killing on the stock market."
<b><u>Make or break</u></b>	Circumstances or events that will <b>make or break</b> someone or something will cause either total success or total ruin. "This assignment will make or break his career."
<b><u>Make a comeback</u></b>	When someone <b>makes a comeback</b> , they succeed in returning to their former successful career. "After devoting several years to her children, she made a comeback on Broadway."
<b><u>Make a pig's ear (of something)</u></b>	If you <b>make a pig's ear</b> of something, you do a task or a chore very badly or make a complete mess of it. "Jack offered to paint the kitchen but he made a pig's ear of it."
<b><u>Miss the boat</u></b>	If you <b>miss the boat</b> , you fail to take advantage of an opportunity because you don't act quickly enough. "I managed to get my order through before the end of the special offer - but I nearly missed the boat!"
<b><u>Moment of truth</u></b>	A critical or decisive time when you face the reality of a situation, and find out if your efforts have succeeded, is called the <b>moment of truth</b> . "The moment of truth has arrived - I'm going to serve my first soufflé!"
<b><u>Move up in the world</u></b>	A person who <b>moves up in the world</b> becomes more important in society or more successful in their career. "Rachel Jones has moved up in the world since we were kids."
<b><u>Murphy's law</u></b>	Referring to <b>Murphy's law</b> expresses a sentiment of bad luck and the idea that if anything can go wrong, it will. "We've tried to prepare for every possible incident, but remember Murphy's law ..."
<b><u>Not getting anywhere</u></b>	If you are <b>not getting anywhere</b> , you are making no progress at all. "I've spent the whole day looking for a solution but I'm not getting anywhere."

<p><b><u>Nothing succeeds like success!</u></b></p>	<p>This expression means that success often leads to further successes.</p> <p>"The success of my first book encouraged me to continue writing.</p> <p><b>Nothing succeeds like success!"</b></p>
<p><b><u>Out of the picture</u></b></p>	<p>To say the a person or group is <b>out of the picture</b> means that they have been eliminated in a contest or tournament.</p> <p>"We were beaten in the semi-finals, so that's us out of the picture!"</p>
<p><b>Ahead of the <u>pack</u></b></p>	<p>If a person or organization is <b>ahead of the pack</b>, they are better or more successful than their rivals.</p> <p>"Our products will have to be more innovative if we are to stay ahead of the pack."</p>
<p><b><u>Pack something in</u></b></p>	<p>If you <b>pack something in</b>, you abandon it or give it up.</p> <p>"She found city life so stressful, she decided to pack it in and move to the country."</p>
<p><b><u>Pass muster</u></b></p>	<p>If someone or something <b>passes muster</b>, they are considered to be satisfactory or acceptable.</p> <p>"The interview went well. I hope I'll pass muster."</p>
<p><b>On the <u>pig's back</u></b></p>	<p>A person who is <b>on the pig's back</b> is in a state of luck and everything is going well for them.</p> <p>"Before the recession, Ireland was on the pig's back, but the situation has changed greatly."</p>
<p><b><u>Place in the sun</u></b></p>	<p>If you find a <b>place in the sun</b>, you reach a position which provides you with wealth and happiness or whatever you have been hoping to obtain in life.</p> <p>"She finally found a place in the sun with the triumph of her most recent book."</p>



<p><b><u>Put the kibosh on something</u></b></p>	<p>If you do something to prevent a plan or activity from happening or developing, you <b>put the kibosh</b> on it.          "The bank's refusal to grant him a loan put the kibosh on Jack's project."</p>
<p><b><u>Pyrrhic victory</u></b></p>	<p>A victory that is obtained at a tremendous cost, or causes such a considerable loss that it is not worth winning, is called a <b>Pyrrhic victory</b>.          "It was a Pyrrhic victory. The shop owner won the lawsuit but went bankrupt because of the legal expenses involved."</p>
<p><b><u>From rags to riches</u></b></p>	<p>If you go <b>from rags to riches</b>, you start off being very poor and become very rich and successful          "By renovating old houses in the right places, he went from rags to riches."</p>
<p><b><u>Riding high</u></b></p>	<p>Someone who is <b>riding high</b> is enjoying a period of success or popularity.          He's been riding high since the success of his last film.</p>
<p><b><u>Rise to the occasion</u></b></p>	<p>If you <b>rise to the occasion</b>, you manage to do something successfully in difficult circumstances.          "When her boss broke his leg, Julie had to represent the company at the congress, and she rose to the occasion extremely well."</p>
<p><b><u>Run rings/circles around</u></b></p>	<p>If you do something much better than your opponent, by showing more skill or ability, <b>you run rings (or circles) around</b> them.          "In a quiz show on TV yesterday, a teenage girl ran rings around the other contestants."</p>
<p><b><u>Sail through something</u></b></p>	<p>If you <b>sail through</b> something, for example a test or an exam, you succeed in doing it without difficulty.          "The English test was no problem for Tom. He sailed through it!"</p>
<p><b><u>Sink or swim</u></b></p>	<p>If somebody has to <b>sink or swim</b>, they have to do something alone, and their success or failure depends entirely on their own efforts.          "The sink or swim attitude in the company can be very difficult for young recruits."</p>

<p><b>The <u>sky</u> is the limit</b></p>	<p>To say "<b>the sky's the limit</b>" means that there is no limit to the possibility of success or progress for someone or something.          "How successful do you think the project will be? Who knows... the sky's the limit!"</p>
<p><b><u>Smash</u> hit</b></p>	<p>A very successful performance in music, films, theatre, etc. is called a <b>smash hit</b>.          "The film 'Titanic' was a smash hit all over the world."</p>
<p><b><u>Snatch</u> victory from the jaws of defeat</b></p>	<p>If you manage to win something, such as a match or a contest, when you are on the verge of losing, you <b>snatch victory from the jaws of defeat</b>.          "With a last-minute goal, the team snatched victory from the jaws of defeat."</p>
<p><b><u>Spread</u> oneself too thin</b></p>	<p>If you <b>spread yourself too thin</b>, you do too many things at the same time and can't do any of them well.          "Don't spread yourself too thin or you'll get nowhere! "</p>
<p><b><u>Steal</u> the show</b></p>	<p>A person who <b>steals the show</b> gets more attention or praise than the other participants.          "The Japanese competitor stole the show at the Olympic Games."</p>
<p><b><u>Take</u> one's hat off to somebody</b></p>	<p>You say this to express admiration for something someone has done.          "I <b>take my hat off</b> to the chef. The meal was wonderful."</p>
<p><b><u>Throw</u> a spanner (or wrench) in the works</b></p>	<p>This expression means to prevent the success of a plan or event, by causing problems.          "The two companies wanted to sign the agreement before anything happened to <b>throw a spanner in the works</b>."</p>
<p><b><u>Throw</u> in the towel</b></p>	<p>If you <b>throw in the towel</b>, you admit that you cannot succeed in doing something or that you are defeated.          "After unsuccessfully <b>competing</b> in several championships, she decided to throw in the towel and go back to college."</p>
<p><b><u>Top</u> dog</b></p>	<p>To say that a person, group or country is <b>top dog</b> means that they are better or more powerful than others.          "She's top dog in cosmetics today."</p>

<p><b><u>Tread water</u></b></p>	<p>If you are <b>treading water</b>, your situation remains stationary in spite of your efforts, with no sign of any progress. "I've been treading water for the last year hoping for a better job."</p>
<p><b><u>Turn the tables</u></b></p>	<p>If you <b>turn the tables</b> on a person or organization, you reverse the situation so as to be in a position of superiority. "The success of our new product has turned the tables on our competitors."</p>
<p><b><u>On the up and up</u></b></p>	<p>If you are <b>on the up and up</b>, you are becoming increasingly successful. "That architect been on the up and up since he designed a building in Dubai."</p>
<p><b><u>Weather the storm</u></b></p>	<p>If you <b>weather the storm</b>, you succeed in surviving a difficult period or situation. "Given the current recession, the company is weathering the storm better than some others."</p>
<p><b><u>When the rubber hits the road</u></b></p>	<p>This expression refers to the moment when you put a theory into practice or actually apply what you have learned. "The plan sounds good. I'd like to be there <b>when the rubber hits the road.</b>"</p>
<p><b><u>Win-win</u></b></p>	<p>The term <b>win-win</b> refers to a situation or proposition where both or all parties benefit from the outcome. "There were smiles all round when the contract was signed - it was a win-win situation."</p>
<p><b><u>Wither on the vine</u></b></p>	<p>If something <b>withers on the vine</b>, it comes to an end or dies because people do nothing to support or encourage it. "Let's hope that the recent efforts towards peace will not wither on the vine."</p>
<p><b><u>Wooden spoon</u></b></p>	<p>The person who finishes last in a race or competition receives an imaginary prize called the <b>wooden spoon</b>. "Our team got the wooden spoon in this year's tournament."</p>

<p><b>Come up in the <u>world</u></b></p>	<p>A person who has <b>come up in the world</b> is richer than before and has a higher social status.          "My old school friend has bought an apartment overlooking Central Park. She has certainly come up in the world!"</p>
<p><b>Have the <u>world</u> at your feet</b></p>	<p>If you <b>have the world at your feet</b>, you are extremely successful and greatly admired.          "The talented young actress has the world at her feet."</p>
<p><b>Have a <u>bee</u> in one's bonnet</b></p>	<p>A person who has a <b>bee in their bonnet</b> has an idea which constantly occupies their thoughts.          "She's got a bee in her bonnet about moving to New York!"</p>
<p><b><u>Cloud cuckoo land</u></b></p>	<p><u>This expression refers to an imaginary unrealistic place where even is perfect and impossible things can happen.</u>  <u>"Anyone who thinks these measures are going to solve the crisis and living in <b>cloud-cuckoo-land!</b>"</u></p>
<p><b><u>A figment of one's imagination</u></b></p>	<p><u>To refer to something as a <b>figment of one's imagination</b> means that an appearance, event or incident is not considered to be real but is only imaginary.</u>  <u>"Other people saw the car, so it's not a figment of Tom's imagination!"</u></p>
<p><b><u>A flight of fancy</u></b></p>	<p><u>To refer to an idea or plan as a <b>flight of fancy</b> means that it is very imaginative but not at all practical or sensible.</u>  <u>"He often comes up with good ideas but his latest proposal is just a flight of fancy!"</u></p>
<p><b><u>Light bulb moment</u></b></p>	<p><u>A <b>light bulb moment</b> is when you have a sudden moment of inspiration, comprehension or realization.</u>  <u>"Harry had a light-bulb moment when he finally realized what was blocking the mechanism."</u></p>
<p><b><u>All in your head</u></b></p>	<p><u>If something is <b>all in your head</b>, it is not real. It is in your imagination.</u>  <u>"Don't be silly. Nobody is trying to harm you. It's all in your head!"</u></p>
<p><b><u>Toy with the idea</u></b></p>	<p><u>If you <b>toy with an idea</b>, you consider doing something but you do not really give it serious thought.</u>  <u>"Sally has often toyed with the idea of moving abroad, but as you can see she's still here!"</u></p>
<p><b><u>Mind over matter</u></b></p>	<p><u>The mental power to influence one's body and overcome physical difficulties is said to be a question of <b>mind over matter</b>.</u>  <u>"He knew he could not be cured, but he managed to live until the end was born - a case of mind over matter."</u></p>

<u><b>A mind of your own</b></u>	<p>If you have a <b>a mind of your own</b>, you are capable of forming an opinion and making decisions without being influenced by others.</p> <p><u>"That boy doesn't need any advice; he's got a mind of his own."</u></p>
<u><b>Never mind</b></u>	<p>When you say "<b>never mind</b>" to someone, you are telling them not to worry, that it is not important.</p> <p><u>"When the child broke the cup Susan said : "never mind - it was an old cup."</u></p>
<u><b>One-track mind</b></u>	<p>If you have a <b>one-track mind</b>, you have a tendency to think about only one subject.</p> <p><u>"That boy has got a one-track mind; all he thinks about is football!"</u></p>
<u><b>Take your mind off (something)</b></u>	<p>If an activity <b>takes your mind off</b> something that you are worrying about, it helps you to stop thinking about it for a while.</p> <p><u>"Sarah was worried about the result of the test so Tom took her to the cinema to take her mind off it."</u></p>
<u><b>Set great store by (someone or something)</b></u>	<p>When you consider something to be very important or valuable, you <b>set great store by it</b>.</p> <p><u>"The company sets great store by its after-sales service."</u></p>
<u><b>Take the words out of somebody's mouth</b></u>	<p>If you say exactly what someone else was going to say, you <b>take the words out of their mouth</b>.</p> <p><u>" I think so too. You took the words out of my mouth."</u></p>
<u><b>Think again</b></u>	<p>If you tell someone to <b>think again</b>, you advise them to reconsider the situation and perhaps change their decision.</p> <p><u>"Your apartment is so well located; you should think again before selling it. "</u></p>
<u><b>Think outside the box/ think out of the box</b></u>	<p>People who <b>think outside the box</b> try to find innovative ideas or solutions.</p> <p><u>"Our competitors are more creative than us - they really think outside the box."</u></p>
<u><b>A penny for your thoughts</b></u>	<p>This phrase is used to ask someone what they are thinking about.</p> <p><u>"You look pensive. <b>A penny for your thoughts.</b>"</u></p>
<u><b>Perish the thought</b></u>	<p>This expression is used when the speaker really hopes that something will not happen.</p> <p><u>"If I lost my job, <b>perish the thought</b>, I don't know how we'd survive."</u></p>

<p><u>Train of thought</u></p>	<p>A sequence of connected ideas is called a <b>train of thought</b>.</p> <p>"I was considering the different options when the noise outside broke my train of thought."</p>	
<p><u>Shot in the dark</u></p>	<p>To refer to a question or statement as a <b>shot in the dark</b> means that it is a complete guess, but at the same time it might be close to the truth.</p> <p>"He didn't know which players had been selected, so mentioning Carter's name was just a shot in the dark."</p>	
<p><u>Voice in the wilderness</u></p>	<p>If you are the only person expressing a warning or an opinion on a which is ignored by most others, you are a <b>voice in the wilderness</b>.</p> <p>"For many years she was a voice in the wilderness protesting against child labour."</p>	
<p><u>In a world of your own</u></p>	<p>If you are <b>in a world of your own</b>, you are so preoccupied by your own concerns that you are unaware of what is happening around you.</p> <p>"Dad's out there in the garden in a world of his own."</p>	
<p><u>After the fact</u></p>	<p>If something is done <b>after the fact</b>, it is too late, after something has actually happened, particularly a crime or an accident.</p> <p>"He said he realized he had put people in danger, but that was of no help after the fact."</p>	
<p><u>Against the clock</u></p>	<p>If you do something <b>against the clock</b>, you are rushed and have very little time to do it.</p> <p>"They are working against the clock to have the presentation ready for Monday."</p>	
<p><u>At this stage of the game</u></p>	<p>This expression refers to the current point reached in a process, activity or developing situation.</p> <p>"At this stage of the game I think any further intervention would be unwise.</p> <p>Let's wait and see how things develop."</p>	
<p><u>Better late than never</u></p>	<p>When someone does something late, this remark means that it's better to do it late than not do it at all.</p> <p>"Do you know what time it is? You promised you'd come early to help me - but <b>better late than never</b> I suppose!"</p>	
<p><u>In the blink of an eye</u></p>	<p>If something happens <b>in the blink of an eye</b>, it happens nearly instantaneously, with hardly enough time to notice it.</p> <p>"The pickpocket disappeared in the blink of an eye."</p>	

<p><b>In <u>broad daylight</u></b></p>	<p>If something happens <b>in broad daylight</b>, it takes place in the clear light of day when everyone can see what's going on.          "His car was stolen in front of the bank in broad daylight and apparently there was not one witness!"</p>
<p><b><u>Cut it/things fine</u></b></p>	<p>If you <b>cut it/things fine</b>, you leave barely enough time to do something.          "You're counting just an hour between the airport and the train station - that's cutting things a bit fine isn't it?"</p>
<p><b><u>Day late and a dollar short</u></b></p>	<p>If something is <b>a day late and a dollar short</b>, it comes too late and is not good enough.          "They offered me an internship when I'd already found a job - a day late and a dollar short!"</p>
<p><b><u>Down to the wire</u></b></p>	<p>If something such as a project or a match goes <b>down to the wire</b>, the situation can change up until the last possible moment.          "There's nothing as exciting as watching a game that goes down to the wire."</p>
<p><b>At the <u>drop</u> of a hat</b></p>	<p>If you do something <b>at the drop of a hat</b>, you do it immediately and without hesitation          "I've got great friends. They're ready to help out at the drop of a hat."</p>
<p><b>At the <u>eleventh hour</u></b></p>	<p>If something happens <b>at the eleventh hour</b>, it happens when it is almost too late, or at the last possible moment.          "Our team won after they scored a goal at the eleventh hour."</p>
<p><b><u>Five o'clock shadow</u></b></p>	<p>This expression refers to a patch of stubble on the face of a man who hasn't shaved for at least a day.          "He looked tired and had <b>a five o'clock shadow.</b>"</p>
<p><b><u>From the word go</u></b></p>	<p>The expression '<b>from the word go</b>' means from the very beginning of an activity.          "Right from the word go he was rejected by the rest of the</p>

	group."	
<b><u>In the interim</u></b>	<p>Something that happens <b>in the interim</b> takes place during a period of time between two events.</p> <p>"I won't have the apartment until next month. In the interim I'm staying at a local hotel."</p>	
<b><u>In the long run</u></b>	<p>This term refers to something that will have effect over or after a long period of time.</p> <p>"I've decided to study Chinese, which is going to be difficult, but it'll be worth it <b>in the long run</b> because it'll help me get a better job."</p>	
<b><u>Just around the corner</u></b>	<p>If something is just around the corner, it will happen very soon.</p> <p>"With spring <b>just around the corner</b>, the new collection should begin to sell."</p>	
<b>Never in a <u>million years</u></b>	<p>This expression means "absolutely never"</p> <p>"I will <b>never in a million years</b> understand why Anne married Bob."</p>	
<b><u>Living on borrowed time</u></b>	<p>This expression refers to a period of time after an illness or accident which could have caused death.</p> <p>" After heart surgery, some patients say they're <b>living on borrowed time.</b>"</p>	
<b><u>Lose track of time</u></b>	<p>When you give all your attention to something, and become so engrossed in it that you don't realize what time it is, you <b>lose track of time.</b></p> <p>"When I start surfing on the web, I lose all track of time."</p>	
<b><u>Make up for lost time</u></b>	<p>If you <b>make up for lost time</b>, you increase your efforts or work harder to complete something or meet a deadline.</p>	



		"Progress has stopped because of bad weather, but we are determined to make up for lost time."
	<b><u>Moment of truth</u></b>	A critical or decisive time when you face the reality of a situation, and find out if your efforts have succeeded, is called the <b>moment of truth</b> . "The moment of truth has arrived - I'm going to serve my first soufflé!"
	<b><u>Month of Sundays</u></b>	This expression is an amusing way of referring to a very long period of time. "I haven't been to the theatre in a <b>month of Sundays</b> ."
	<b><u>Nick of time</u></b>	If something happens <b>in the nick of time</b> , it happens at the last minute, when it is nearly too late. "The child was standing in front of the open window. His mother arrived in the nick of time."
	<b><u>Once in a blue moon</u></b>	Something that happens <b>once in a blue moon</b> is something that happens rarely or hardly ever.
	<b><u>Play for time</u></b>	If you <b>play for time</b> , you try to delay or prevent something from happening in order to gain an advantage. "He decided to play for time in the hope that the price would decrease."
	<b><u>Pressed for time</u></b>	If you're <b>pressed for time</b> , you have hardly enough time to do something, so you must hurry. "Sorry. I can't talk to you now - I'm a bit pressed for time."
	<b><u>Put on ice</u></b>	To say that a plan or project is <b>put on ice</b> means that all further action has been postponed for an indefinite period of time. "Plans for a nuclear power station have been put on ice."

	<p><b>A <u>race</u> against time</b></p>	<p>If someone is in a <b>race against time</b>, they have to work very quickly in order to do or finish something before a certain time.</p>
	<p><b><u>Shelf</u> life</b></p>	<p>If something, such as food, drink or medicine, has a particular <b>shelf life</b>, it must be used or sold before the end of that period of time. "Dairy products have quite a short shelf life."</p>
	<p><b>That <u>ship</u> has sailed</b></p>	<p>The expression 'that ship has sailed' means that a particular opportunity has passed by and it's now too late. "Is the offer this open?" "Sorry, that ship has sailed - you missed your chance!"</p>
	<p><b><u>Sign</u> of the times</b></p>	<p>This expression refers to something that shows the nature of today's society. "The rising level of violence is a <b>sign of the times</b>."</p>
	<p><b><u>Small</u> hours</b></p>	<p>If you refer to <b>the small hours</b>, you mean after midnight, or the very early hours of the day. "Sarah worked until the small hours on her speech for the ceremony."</p>
	<p><b>On the <u>spur</u> of the moment</b></p>	<p>If you do something <b>on the spur of the moment</b>, you do it as soon as you think of it, spontaneously, without any planning. "He decided on the spur of the moment to buy flowers for his wife."</p>
	<p><b>Stand the test of <u>time</u></b></p>	<p>If something <b>stands the test of time</b>, people continue to find it valuable or useful after many years. "The teaching method has stood the test of time. It is still used in schools today."</p>

	<b><u>Time after time</u></b>	<p>If you do something <b>time after time</b>, you do it repeatedly or on many occasions.</p> <p>"The boy was surprised when the teacher punished him although he had been warned time after time."</p>
	<b><u>Time flies</u></b>	<p>This expression is used to express surprise at how quickly time passes (usually in a very active or happy situation).</p> <p>"It's hard to believe we've been living here two years already. Time flies, doesn't it?"</p>
	<b><u>Time on your hands.</u></b>	<p>If you have <b>time on your hands</b>, you have a lot of free time, usually more than you need or want.</p> <p>"Since he retired, Bill has too much time on his hands. He should take up a hobby!"</p>
	<b><u>Time of your life</u></b>	<p>If you have <b>the time of your life</b>, you enjoy yourself very much.</p> <p>"The kids had the time of their lives at Disneyland."</p>
	<b><u>Time is ripe</u></b>	<p>If the <b>time is ripe</b> for something, it is the right moment to do it.</p> <p>"He sold his business when the time was ripe."</p>
	<b><u>Time on your side</u></b>	<p>If you have <b>time on your side</b>, you can afford to wait before doing or achieving something.</p> <p>"He didn't succeed this time, but he's young enough to try again. He's got time on his side. "</p>
	<b><u>In one's own sweet time</u></b>	<p>If you do something <b>in your own sweet time</b>, you take as long as you please to do it, in spite of the orders or wishes of others.</p> <p>"OK, I'll do it - but in my own sweet time!"</p>

	<p><b>Since <u>time</u> immemorial</b></p>	<p>If something has existed <b>since time immemorial</b>, it has been there for such a long time that nobody can recall a time without it. "I don't know when that bridge was built. It's been there since time immemorial."</p>
	<p><b><u>Time-honoured practice</u></b></p>	<p>A custom that is universally respected, or a traditional way of doing something, is called a <b>time-honoured practice</b>.</p>
	<p><b><u>Until hell freezes over</u></b></p>	<p>If you tell someone they can do something <b>until hell freezes over</b>, you mean that they can do it forever but they won't obtain the result they want. "You can ask until hell freezes over; I will not allow you to go bungee-jumping."</p>
<p><b>Jump on the bandwagon</b></p>	<p>If a person or organization jumps on the bandwagon, they decide to do something when it is already successful or fashionable. "When organic food became popular, certain stores were quick to jump on the bandwagon and promote it."</p>	
<p><b>In the same boat</b></p>	<p>If two or more parties in the same boat, they are in the same unpleasant or difficult situation. "When the factory closed down, the workers all found themselves in the same boat."</p>	
<p><b>Miss the boat</b></p>	<p>If you miss the boat, you fail to take advantage of an opportunity because you don't act quickly enough. "I managed to get my order through before the end of the special offer - but I nearly missed the boat!"</p>	
<p><b>Rock the boat</b></p>	<p>If you tell someone not to rock the boat, you are asking them to do nothing that might cause trouble or upset a stable situation.</p>	

	<p>"After the recent riots, it was decided not to rock the boat by introducing strict measures.</p>
<b>Paddle one's own canoe</b>	<p>If you paddle your own canoe, you do what you want to do without help or interference from anyone.          "He decided to paddle his own canoe and set up his own company."</p>
<b>As much use as a handbrake on a canoe</b>	<p>This expression refers to something which is completely useless or serves no purpose.          "With no electricity, a refrigerator would be as much use as a handbrake on a canoe. "</p>
<b>Put the cart before the horse</b>	<p>A person who puts the cart before the horse is doing things in the wrong order.          "Building a school before knowing the age of the population is putting the cart before the horse.</p>
<b>Drive a hard bargain</b>	<p>A person who drives a hard bargain always makes sure they gain advantage in a business deal.          "Be prepared for tough negotiations with Stuart - he drives a hard bargain."</p>
<b>Drive someone up the wall</b>	<p>If somebody or something drives you up the wall, they do something that greatly annoys or irritates you.          "I can't concentrate with all the noise - it's driving me up the wall!"</p>
<b>Backseat driver</b>	<p>A backseat driver is a passenger in a car who gives unwanted advice to the driver.          "I can't stand backseat drivers like my mother-in-law!"</p>
<b>Fender bender</b>	<p>This expression refers to a minor car accident in which there is little damage and no injuries.          "It's hard to believe that a small fender bender can cause a major traffic jam!"</p>

<b>My way or the highway</b>	<p>If you say to someone "it's my way or the highway" you are telling that person that either they accept what you tell them to do or they leave the project.</p> <p>You don't have much choice when someone says : "It's my way or the highway."</p>
<b>Highways and byways</b>	<p>If you travel the highways and byways, you take large and small roads to visit every part of a country.</p> <p>"He travelled the highways and byways looking for traces of his ancestors."</p>
<b>Hit and run (accident)</b>	<p>When the driver of a vehicle hits another vehicle without stopping to provide help, identification or insurance, and fails to report the accident to the police, the collision is called a hit-and-run accident.</p> <p>"A hit-and-run accident deserves serious punishment. "</p>
<b>On the home stretch</b>	<p>To say that you're on the home stretch means that you are approaching the end of something such as a task, a race or a journey.</p> <p>"Don't give up - we're on the the home stretch now."</p>
<b>Itchy feet</b>	<p>A person who has itchy feet is someone who finds it difficult to stay in one place and likes travelling and discovering new places.</p> <p>"Scott never stays long anywhere. He's got itchy feet! "</p>
<b>Jump the lights</b>	<p>If you continue driving when the traffic lights turn red, you jump the lights.</p> <p>"It's very dangerous to jump the lights. No wonder he was stopped by the police."</p>
<b>Fall off the back of a lorry</b>	<p>If you buy goods that have fallen off the back of a lorry, they are stolen goods.</p> <p>"Judging by the price of that camera, it must have fallen off the back of a lorry!"</p>
<b>Make your way (to)</b>	<p>If you make your way to a destination, you manage to go there without difficulty.</p>

	"Don't worry. I'll make my way to your home from the station."
<b>(Put the) pedal to the metal</b>	When you put the pedal to the metal, you accelerate or make something go faster, especially a vehicle. "If we put the pedal to the metal we could get this finished in time."
<b>Any port in a storm</b>	When you are in difficulty, any port in a storm refers to a solution you accept, which in normal circumstances you would find unacceptable. "The hotel was substandard, but it was a case of any port in a storm; all the others were full."
<b>Take someone for a ride</b>	To take someone for a ride means to cheat or deceive them. "I discovered he had charged me double the normal fee. He really took me for a ride!"
<b>Hit the road</b>	When you hit the road, you begin a journey. "It's getting late and we've got a long way to go. Let's hit the road."
<b>Road rage</b>	Aggressive driving habits sometimes resulting in violence against other drivers. "A number of car accidents today are a result of road rage."
<b>Get the show on the road</b>	If you manage to put a plan or idea into action, you get the show on the road. "OK! We've got all we need, so let's get the show on the road!"
<b>Sail close to the wind</b>	If you sail close to the wind, you do something dangerous or act just within the limits of what is legal or acceptable. "He seems to invest his money well although he often sails close to the wind."
<b>Sail through something</b>	If you sail through something, for example a test or an exam, you succeed in doing it without difficulty. "The English test was no problem for Tom. He sailed through it!"

<b>Shank's pony</b>	<p>If you go somewhere on Shank's pony, you have to walk rather than travel by bus, car, etc.</p> <p>"It was impossible to find a taxi after the party so it was Shank's pony for us!</p>
<b>Like ships that pass in the night</b>	<p>This expression is used to refer to people who meet briefly and are not likely to meet again.</p> <p>"The two men met once, like ships that pass in the night, and never met again."</p>
<b>Live out of a suitcase</b>	<p>Someone who lives out of a suitcase travels a lot, moving from place to place, and is therefore restricted to the contents of their suitcase.</p> <p>"Sarah's new job involves so much travelling that she lives out of a suitcase most of the time."</p>
<b>Train of thought</b>	<p>A sequence of connected ideas is called a train of thought.</p> <p>"I was considering the different options when the noise outside broke my train of thought."</p>
<b>Gravy train</b>	<p>If someone is on the gravy train, they have found an easy way to make money, one that requires little effort and is without risk.</p> <p>"Since the village has become fashionable he charges for every photograph taken of his house - he's on the gravy train!"</p>
<b>Travel light</b>	<p>When you travel light, you travel with as little luggage as possible.</p> <p>"If you intend to go trekking, you'd better travel light."</p>
<b>Hitch one's wagon to a star</b>	<p>Someone who hitches their wagon to a star has great ambitions and is very determined to reach their goal.</p> <p>"At an early age she decided to hitch her wagon to a star and become rich and famous."</p>
<b>On the wagon</b>	<p>Someone who is on the wagon is no longer drinking alcohol.</p> <p>"No wine for me please. I'm on the wagon."</p>



<p><b>Asleep at the wheel</b></p>	<p>If you say that someone is asleep at the wheel you mean that they are not sufficiently attentive, especially at a critical moment when vigilance is required.</p> <p>"When the firemen arrived too late at the scene, the night watchman was accused of being asleep at the wheel."</p>
<p><b>Fifth wheel</b></p>	<p>This expression refers to a person who finds themselves in a situation where their presence is unnecessary and as a result they feel useless.</p> <p>"Everyone seemed to have a specific role except me. I felt like a fifth wheel."</p>
<p><b>The wheels fall off</b></p>	<p>When a situation gets out of control and everything starts to go wrong, the wheels fall off.</p> <p>"The wheels fell off her career when she started taking drugs and cancelling concerts."</p>
<p><b>Once in a blue moon</b></p>	<p>If something happens once in a blue moon, it occurs very rarely.</p> <p>"Bill has very little contact with his brother. They see each other once in a blue moon."</p>
<p><b>A bolt from the blue</b></p>	<p>To refer to something as a bolt from the blue means that it happened completely unexpectedly.</p> <p>"The chairman's resignation came as a bolt from the blue!"</p>
<p><b>Chill wind of something</b></p>	<p>If you face or feel the chill wind of something, you are beginning to encounter the problems or trouble it causes.</p> <p>"Many building companies are facing the chill wind of the recession."</p>
<p><b>Cloud on the horizon</b></p>	<p>A problem or difficulty that is predictable, or seems likely to arise in the future, is called a cloud on the horizon.</p> <p>"They are happily married and for the moment there appear to be no clouds on the horizon."</p>

<b>Cloud nine</b>	<p>A person who is on cloud nine is very happy because something wonderful has happened.</p> <p>"When the boss announced my promotion, I was on cloud nine!"</p>
<b>Come rain or shine</b>	<p>If a person does something come rain or shine, they do it regularly, whatever the circumstances.</p> <p>"He goes to the gym club every day, come rain or shine."</p>
<b>In the dark</b>	<p>If someone is kept or left in the dark about something, they are not informed about it .</p> <p>"The personnel were kept in the dark about the merger until the last minute."</p>
<b>Fair-weather friend</b>	<p>Someone who acts as a friend when times are good, and is not there when you are in trouble, is called a fair-weather friend.</p> <p>"I thought I could count on Bill, but I've discovered he's just a fair-weather friend."</p>
<b>(The) heavens open</b>	<p>When the heavens open, it suddenly starts to rain heavily.</p> <p>"As soon as the race started, the heavens opened and the runners were soaked."</p>
<b>The lull before the storm</b>	<p>This expression refers to a period of unnatural calm before a difficult time or violent activity.</p> <p>"The sales start on January 1st. The quiet period before that is just the lull before the storm."</p>
<b>Reach for the moon</b>	<p>If you reach for the moon, you are very ambitious and try to achieve something even if it's difficult.</p> <p>"Jenny is talented and ambitious; she always tends to reach for the moon."</p>
<b>Chasing rainbows</b>	<p>Someone who is chasing rainbows is trying to get something they will never obtain.</p> <p>"She's trying to get into Harvard but I think she's chasing rainbows."</p>
<b>Wait for a raindrop in the drought</b>	<p>When someone is waiting for a raindrop in the drought, they are waiting or hoping for something that has little chance of happening.</p> <p>"For many people finding a job these days is like waiting for a raindrop"</p>

	in the drought! "
<b>Raining cats and dogs</b>	If it's raining cats and dogs, it's raining very heavily. "We'll have to cancel the picnic I'm afraid. It's raining cats and dogs."
<b>It never rains but it pours</b>	This expression is used to comment on the fact that when something bad happens, other bad things often happen too, and make the situation even worse. "First he forgot his briefcase, then he lost his wallet, and when he reached the car park, his car had been stolen - it never rains but it pours!"
<b>A storm is brewing</b>	To say that a storm is brewing means that the atmosphere indicates that there is going to be trouble, probably with outbursts of anger or emotion. "As soon as we saw Pete's face, we knew there was a storm brewing."
<b>A storm in a teacup</b>	To refer to something as a storm in a teacup means that you think that people are making a lot of unnecessary fuss or excitement about something unimportant.
<b>Any port in a storm</b>	When you are in difficulty, any port in a storm refers to a solution you accept, which in normal circumstances you would find unacceptable. "The hotel was substandard, but it was a case of any port in a storm; all the others were full."
<b>In the eye of the storm</b>	If you are in the eye of the storm you are deeply involved in a situation which is difficult or controversial and affects a lot of people. "The minister was often in the eye of the storm during the debate on the war in Iraq."
<b>Weather the storm</b>	If you weather the storm, you succeed in surviving a difficult period or

	<p>situation.</p> <p>"Given the current recession, the company is weathering the storm better than some others."</p>
<b>Make hay while the sun shines</b>	<p>This expression is used as an encouragement to take advantage of a good situation which may not last. Successful sportsmen are advised to make hay while the sun shines.</p>
<b>Snowed under</b>	<p>Someone who is snowed under has so many things to do, usually work, that they feel unable to cope with it all.</p> <p>"With the 'flu epidemic, doctors and nurses are completely snowed under."</p>
<b>Teeth chattering</b>	<p>If your teeth are chattering, you are extremely cold.</p> <p>"Was I cold? My teeth were chattering!"</p>
<b>Face like thunder</b>	<p>If someone has a face like thunder, they look very angry.</p> <p>"When Dad is really angry, he has a face like thunder!"</p>
<b>Tide has turned</b>	<p>When a trend has changed from one thing to another, the tide has turned.</p> <p>"Before, people wanted to live in residential suburbs; now the tide has turned and warehouses are being converted into fashionable loft apartments."</p>
<b>Under the weather</b>	<p>If you are under the weather, you are not feeling very well.</p>
<b>Know which way the wind blows</b>	<p>This expression means that it is advisable to know how a situation is developing in order to be prepared for the changes that are likely to happen.</p> <p>"Before we decide on anything, we need to know which way the wind is blowing."</p>