

IDIOMS

- ◆ English corner (English from A to Z)
- ◆ Mohamed issa

child's play

(عمل في منتهى السهولة / سهل جدا)



something that is very easy
to do

Examples :

- Oh please, I've been playing guitar for 20 years—that song is **child's play**.
- For her, computer programming is **child's play**.

Idiom

go bananas

(فقد اعصابه / جن جنونه)



to become extremely angry
or excited

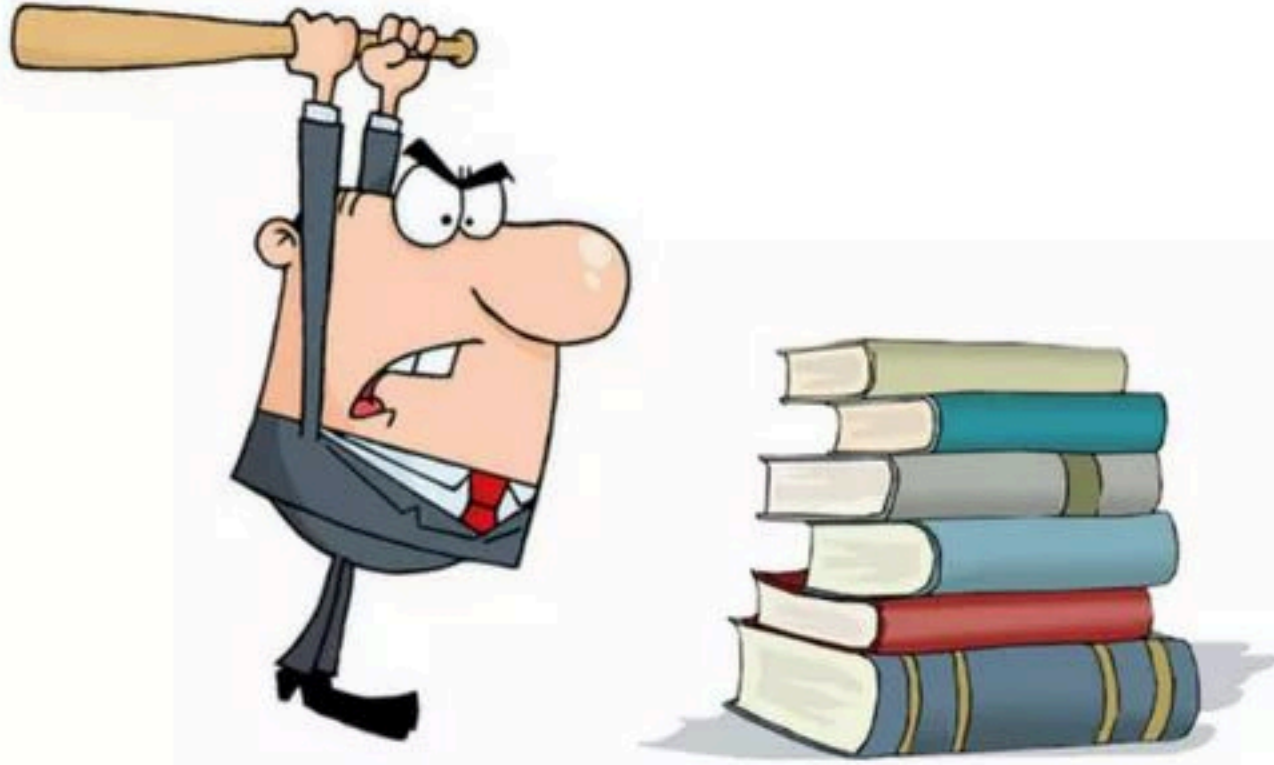
Examples :

- She'll **go bananas** when you tell her the news.
- Dad will **go bananas** when he sees this mess.

Idiom

hit the books

(ان تراجم و تدرس بجد)



to study hard

Examples :

- You better **hit the books** if you want to pass your exam on Monday.
- I can't go out tonight. I need to **hit the books**.

skin and bones

(نحيف جدا)



to be extremely thin

Examples :

- A lot of these fashion models are all **skin and bones**.
- Your brother is just **skin and bones** - has he been sick?

Idiom

a mind like a sieve

(ذَاكِرَتُهُ ضَعِيفَةٌ جَدًّا)



If you have a mind like a sieve, you forget things very easily

Examples :

- John has **a mind like a sieve** - had to leave him three separate reminders about the play tomorrow night!
- He has lost his keys again- he has **a mind like a sieve**.

Idiom

on the dot

(في الوقت المحدد)



exactly on time or at a particular time

Examples :

- The plane landed at two o'clock **on the dot**.
- I'll be there **on the dot**.

Idiom

go halves

(قاسم مناصفة)



to divide the cost of something
with someone

Examples :

- Shall we **go halves** on a present for Sarah?
- We decided to **go halves** on the expenses.

Idiom

rack your brains

(بذل جهدا للتفكير او تذكر شيء)



to think very hard

Examples :

- I've been **racking my brains** all day but I can't remember her name.
- She **racked her brains**, trying to remember what David had said.

it's early days

ما زال الوقت مبكرا (حتى نحكم)



it is too soon to be sure how a situation will develop

Examples :

- Our progress has been fairly slow so far, but **it's early days**.
- My new business is doing pretty well in terms of profit, but **it's early days**.

Idiom

a long face

(شخص مکتوب او حزین)



if you have a long face, you look sad

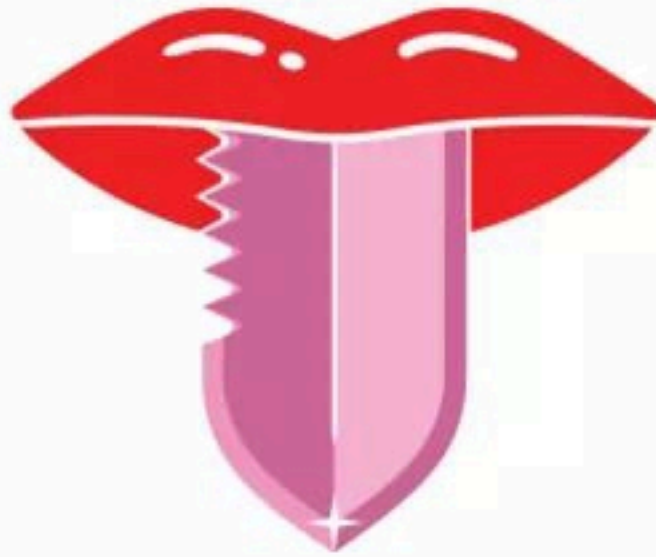
Examples :

- Sarah had such **a long face** yesterday after she learned that she failed her exam.
- Why do you have such **a long face**? Is something bothering you?

Idiom

have a sharp tongue

(ساطط اللسان)



to be someone who often criticizes and speaks in a severe way

Examples :

- She **has a sharp tongue**, so be warned.
- He **has** quite a **sharp tongue**. Don't be totally upset by what he says or the way he says it.

Idiom

it's all go

(مشغول جدا)



it is very busy

Examples :

- It's all go in the commercial property market.
- It's all go in town today.

Idiom

no sweat

(دون اي صعوبة أو مشكلة)



with no difficulty or problem

Examples :

- "Can you fix my car for me?" "**No sweat!**"
- "Will you be able to fix the light?" "Yeah, **no sweat.**"

Idiom

all talk and no trousers

(كثير الكلام قليل الفعل)



Someone who talks about doing important things, but doesn't take any action.

Examples :

- Politicians are known to be **all talk and no trousers**.
- He says he's going to do something about it but he never will. He's **all talk and no trousers**.

Idiom

down in the dumps

(مکتب / تعیس)



very sad and without much interest in life

Examples :

- Sarah is a bit **down in the dumps** because she failed one of her exams.
- Peter is feeling a bit **down in the dumps**.

with open arms

(بترحاب شديد / بذراعين مفتوحين)



in a very friendly way

Examples :

- He greeted Peter **with open arms**.
- Don't expect her to welcome you **with open arms**. She's still very angry with you.

cold fish

(غير ودي / شخص جامد العواطف)



someone who seems unfriendly and who does not share their feelings

Examples :

- They think we are **cold fish** and sloppy in our appearance.
- When I first met him, he seemed rather a **cold fish**, but actually he's quite passionate.

Idiom

a shot in the dark

(مجرد تخمين)



a guess that you make without having any facts or ideas to support it

Examples :

- My answer to the last question was **a complete shot in the dark**.
- It was **a shot in the dark**, but it turned out to be exactly right.

Idiom

make a killing

(كسب مالا وفيرا في وقت قصير)



to make a lot of money in a short time

Examples :

- They **made a killing** with the sale of their London house.
- He **made a killing** on the stock exchange.

Idiom

pay through the nose

(دفع ثمننا باهظلا)



to pay too much money for something

Examples :

- We **paid through the nose** to get the car fixed.
- Universities are actually free for citizens in this country, but because I immigrated here I have to **pay through the nose** for my degree.

Idiom

in my book

(في رأيي / في تقديرى)



in my opinion

Examples :

- **In my book**, the Dark Knight is the best film ever made.
- Well, **in my book**, if you steal, you deserve to get caught.

clear the air

(أزال سوء الفهم أو الخلافات)



to discuss a problem or difficult situation with someone in order to make it better

Examples :

- All right, let's discuss this frankly. It'll be better if we **clear the air**.
- In an attempt to **clear the air**, Peter has planned a meeting with employees to discuss the issue.

Idiom

water under the bridge

(ما حصل حصل / أصبح في الماضي)



something that happened in the past and cannot now be changed

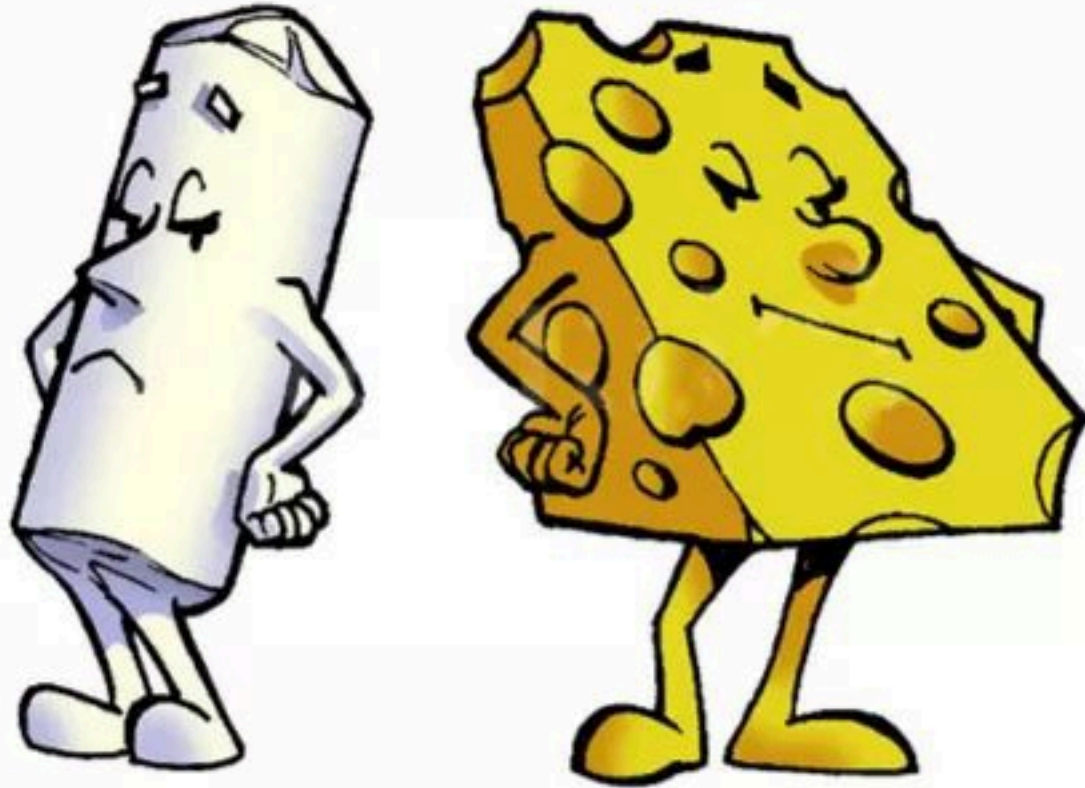
Examples :

- Yes, we did have our disagreements but that's **water under the bridge now**.
- George and I were friends once, but that's **all water under the bridge now**.

Idiom

like chalk and cheese

(مختلفان تماماً)



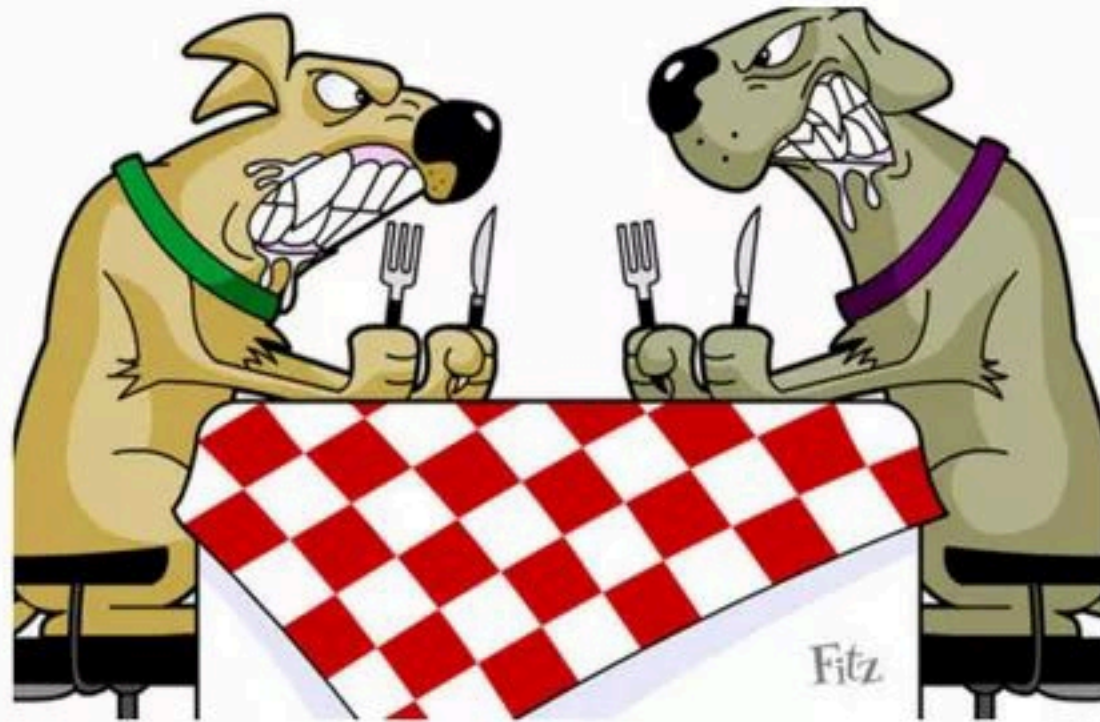
completely different from each other

Examples :

- My brother and I are **like chalk and cheese**.
- His two sons are **like chalk and cheese**.

dog eat dog

(اصراع قانس)



used to describe a situation in which people compete with each other for success in a cruel and selfish way

Examples :

- It's **dog eat dog** in the television industry.
- It is very much **dog eat dog** out there.

worried sick

قلق جدا

- extremely worried



Examples :

- The next time you're going to be this late getting home, please call me, because I was **worried sick**!
- Your father and I are **worried sick** about you.

Idiom

it's not brain surgery

الامر لا يحتاج الكثير من الذكاء

- something is not that difficult to do



Examples :

- Just keep calm and do it. **It's not brain surgery.**
- Come on! it's just an easy math problem, **it's not brain surgery.**

Idiom

(as) clear as mud

غیر واضح

- very difficult to understand



Examples :

- His instructions were **as clear as mud**.
- The computer manual was **as clear as mud**, so we stopped reading it.

Idiom

not have a leg to stand on

حجته باطله

- to be in a situation in which you cannot prove something



Examples :

- If you have no witnesses, you **don't have a leg to stand on**.
- My lawyer said I **didn't have a leg to stand on**, so I shouldn't sue the company.

shoot yourself in the foot

أذى نفسه/ فعل أو قال ما يضر بنفسه

- to do or say something that causes problems for you



Examples :

- Why does Sarah always **shoot herself in the foot** by saying the wrong thing?
- If we just let him keep talking, pretty soon he's going to **shoot himself in the foot**.

in no time

في لمح البصر / بسرعة

- very quickly



Examples :

- I'll be there **in no time**.
- The kids ate their dinner **in no time**.

(be) in two minds

غیر قادر علی اتخاذ قرار

- to be unable to decide about something



Examples :

- I was **in two minds** whether or not to come this morning.
- Peter is **in two minds** about what to study at university. He's interested in history, but he also likes the idea of being a lawyer.

chop-chop

أسرع

- used to tell someone to hurry



Examples :

- Come on, **chop-chop**, we're late!
- Let's go, **chop-chop**!

kick the bucket

پموت

- to die



Examples :

- When I **kick the bucket** you'll be able to live on my life insurance.
- Peter **kicked the bucket** at the age of 102.

slippery slope



في وضع حرج / وضع خطير

- a bad situation or habit that, after it has started, is likely to get very much worse

Examples :

- You're on a **slippery slope** once you start lying about your age!
- His behavior will lead him down a **slippery slope** to ruin.

by the book

اتبع او عمل وفق قواعد

- exactly according to rules or the law



Examples :

- The lawyers want to make sure we've done everything strictly **by the book**.
- My boss insists on doing everything **by the book**.

tie the knot

حقد قرانه / تزوج

- to get married



Examples :

- She's planning to **tie the knot** with her German fiancé next June.
- They **tied the knot** yesterday.

lose your cool

تفقد أعصابك / تثار غضبه

- to suddenly become very angry



Examples :

- I try to be patient with her but she made so many irritating comments, I absolutely **lost my cool**.
- Peter completely **lost his cool** and started yelling.

Idiom

bite off more than you can chew

ان تحمل نفسك فوق طاقتها

- to try to do something that is too difficult for you



Examples :

- I think he's **bitten off more than he can chew** taking all those classes.
- Don't **bite off more than you can chew**. Let someone else organize the party.

keep it under your hat

احتفظ بالسِر

- to keep something secret



Examples :

- I've got some interesting news, but you must promise to **keep it under your hat** for the moment.
- I'll only tell you if you promise to **keep it under your hat**.



beat around the bush

تجنب الخوض في الموضوع مباشرة

- to avoid talking about what is important

Examples :

- Don't **beat around the bush** - get to the point!
- Let's stop **beating around the bush** and discuss this matter.

dead duck

شيء او شخص محتمل فشله



- someone or something that is very unlikely to be successful, especially because of a mistake or bad judgment

Examples :

- They knew their plans were a **dead duck**.
- The government is a **dead duck**.

take the bull by the horns

تعالج مع المشكلة بصورة مباشرة



- to deal with a difficult situation in a very direct way

Examples :

- Why don't you **take the bull by the horns** and tell him to leave?
- It's time to **take the bull by the horns** and get this job done.

go the extra mile

بذل جهدا خاصا



- to make more effort than is expected of you

Examples :

- He's a nice guy, always ready to **go the extra mile** for his friends.
- I like doing business with that company. They always **go the extra mile**.

scared to death

خائف للغاية

- extremely frightened



Examples :

- My dog is **scared to death** of thunder and firecrackers.
- I was **scared to death** of telling the truth about my past; I knew people would disapprove.

beat the clock

انجز العمل او الشيء قبل موعده

- to do or finish something quickly before a particular time



Examples :

- Peter **beat the clock**, arriving a few minutes before the doors were locked.
- They were afraid they would be late and hurried in order to **beat the clock**.

fight like cat and dog

تجادلا بدون توقف



- to have angry arguments all the time

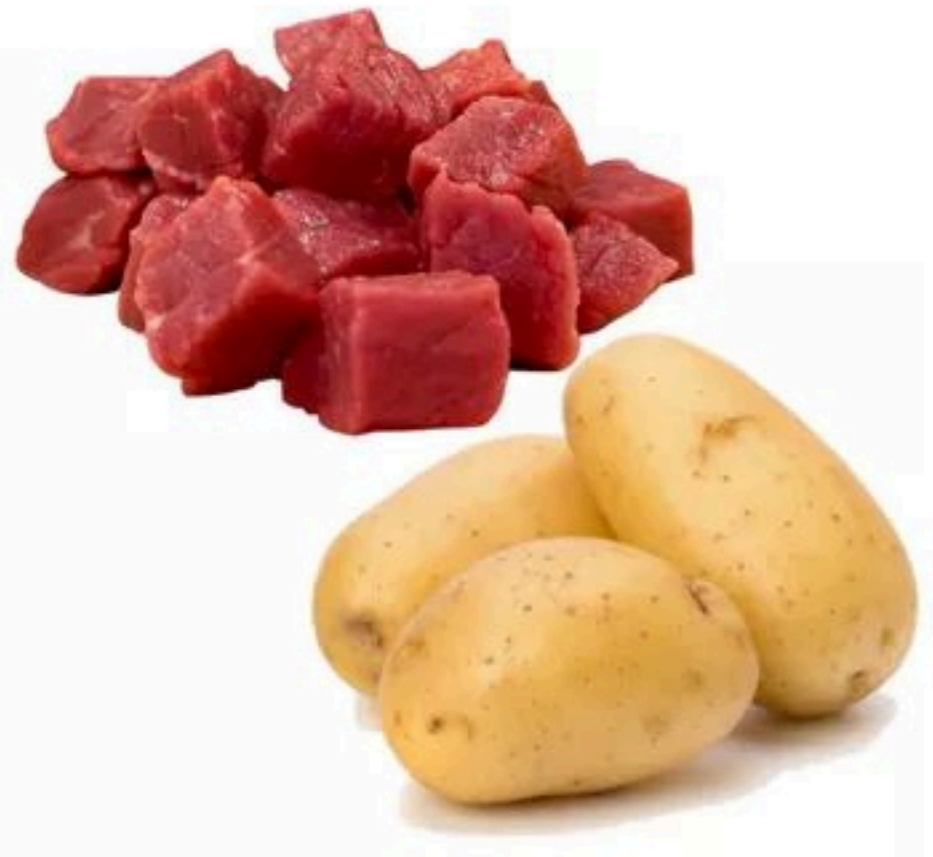
Examples :

- As kids we used to **fight like cat and dog**.
- We get on very well as adults but as kids we **fought like cat and dog**.

meat and potatoes

شيء أساسي

- the most important or basic parts of something



Examples :

- Let's get down to the **meat and potatoes**. How much are you going to pay me for this?
- Teachers have a lot to do, but time spent in the classroom is the **meat and potatoes** of the profession.

sit on the fence

بقي محايدا

- not to take sides in a dispute



Examples :

- When Jane and Tom argue, it is best to **sit on the fence** and not make either of them angry.
- You have to choose whether you support the candidate or not. You can't **sit on the fence** right now, you must vote!

(be) dead meat



في مأزق حرج أو ورطة

- to be in serious trouble

Examples :

- He is **dead meat** if they catch him.
- He will be **dead meat** if his father finds out.

do the trick

حقق الغرض أو المطلوب

- to achieve the desired result

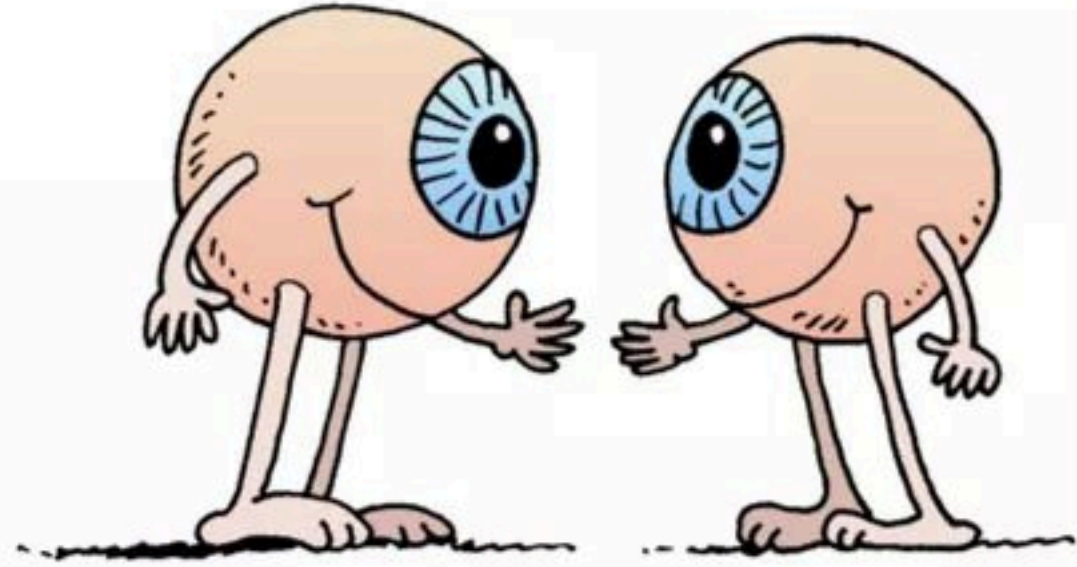


Examples :

- I need something to put these papers in – this folder should **do the trick**.
- This sauce needs more flavour - I know, some lemon juice should **do the trick**.

see eye to eye

اتفقا في الرأي أو وجهة النظر



- to agree with someone

Examples :

- My father and I **see eye to eye** on most things.
- My sisters don't **see eye to eye** with me about the arrangements.

Idiom

like pulling teeth

في غاية الصعوبة

- extremely difficult



Examples :

- Getting Sarah to tell me about her childhood was **like pulling teeth**.
- It's **like pulling teeth** to get a straight answer from him.

cost an arm and a leg

بامط التكلفة / مكاف جد

- to be extremely expensive



Examples :

- I would love to buy a Porsche, but they **cost an arm and a leg**.
- These opera tickets **cost us an arm and a leg!**

go ape

ثار غضبه

- to become extremely angry



Examples :

- She **went ape** because I was half an hour late.
- Sarah will **go ape** when she sees this mess.

crash and burn

فشل فشلا ذريعا

- to fail completely



Examples :

- The company **crashed and burned** after only two years in business.
- She watched her parents' marriage **crash and burn**.

I'll eat my hat

مستحيل ان يحدث

- used to say that you are sure something will not happen



Examples :

- If she actually marries him, **I'll eat my hat.**
- If Peter really joins the army, **I'll eat my hat.**

please yourself

افعل ما بدا لك / كما تريد

- used is speech to tell someone he or she can do what he or she wants to do



Examples :

- "I can't stand this place - I'm going home." "**Please yourself.**"
- "I'm going to skip the party tonight." "OK, **please yourself.**"

Speak ill of

نكر بسوء

- to say something bad about someone



Examples :

- It's wrong to **speak ill of** the dead.
- The candidates clearly did not want to **speak ill of** each other during the campaign.

Speak for yourself

هَذَا رَأْيِكَ وَ اَنَا لَا اوافق عَلَيْهِ

- I disagree with what you have just said



Examples :

- "We had a really boring trip." "**Speak for yourself!** I had a wonderful time!"
- "None of us like the hotel." "**Speak for yourself** - I think it's OK."

Be my guest

رد على طالب لاخذ او فعل شيء
(تفصيل)

- something you say when you give someone permission to do or use something



Examples :

- "Can I try out your new bicycle?" "**Be my guest.**"
- "Do you mind if I sit here?" "**Be my guest.**"

fuddy-duddy

شخص قديم

- a person who has old-fashioned ideas and opinions



Examples :

- That dress makes you look like such a **fuddy-duddy**.
- You are such an old **fuddy-duddy** !

Bigwig

شخصية هامة / سيد عظيم

- an important or powerful person



Examples :

- We were invited to a lunch with local **bigwigs**.
- A few of the company **bigwigs** have their own jets.

a bad hair day

يوم تحدث فيه أمور سيئة كثيرة
يوم سيء

- a bad day in general



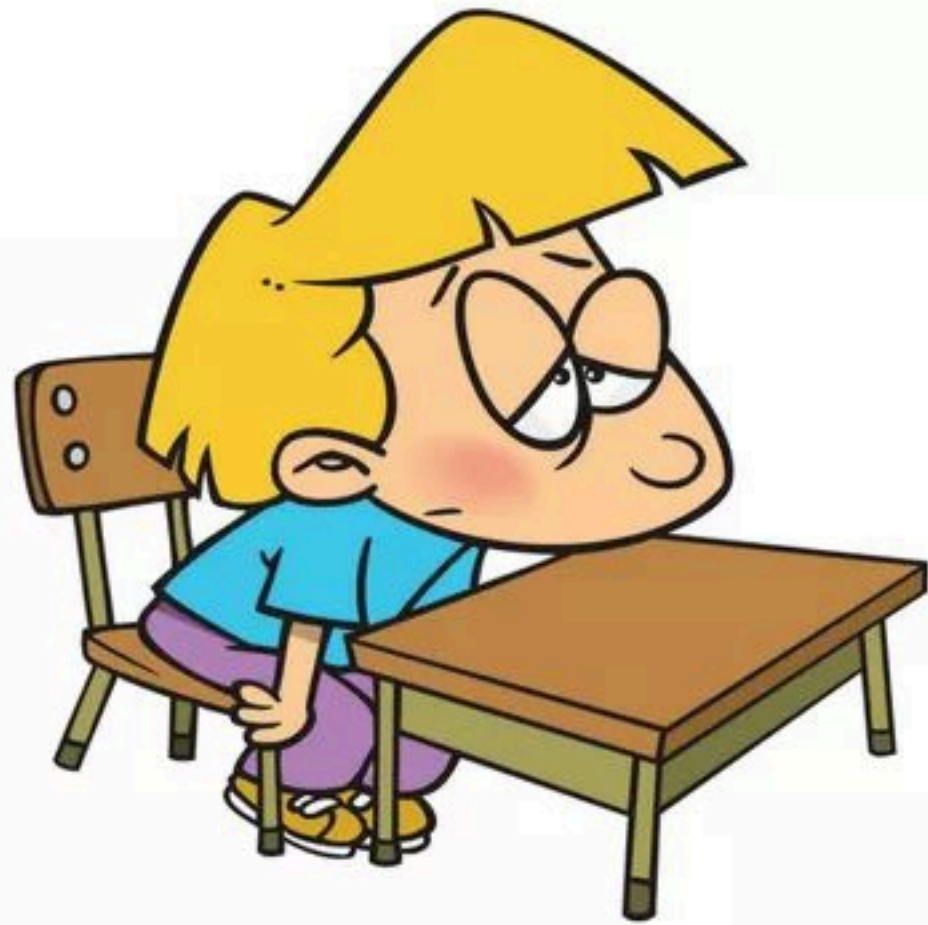
Examples :

- Poor Peter is in a terrible mood. I think he is having **a bad hair day**.
- I'm sorry I am so sad. This has been **a bad hair day**.

Day in day out

يوم بعد يوم / كل يوم

- done or happening every day for a long period of time



Examples :

- I have to do the same boring jobs **day in day out**.
- I am so bored! I do the same thing **day in day out**.

Idiom

keep a low profile

تُجنب لفت الانتظار اليه

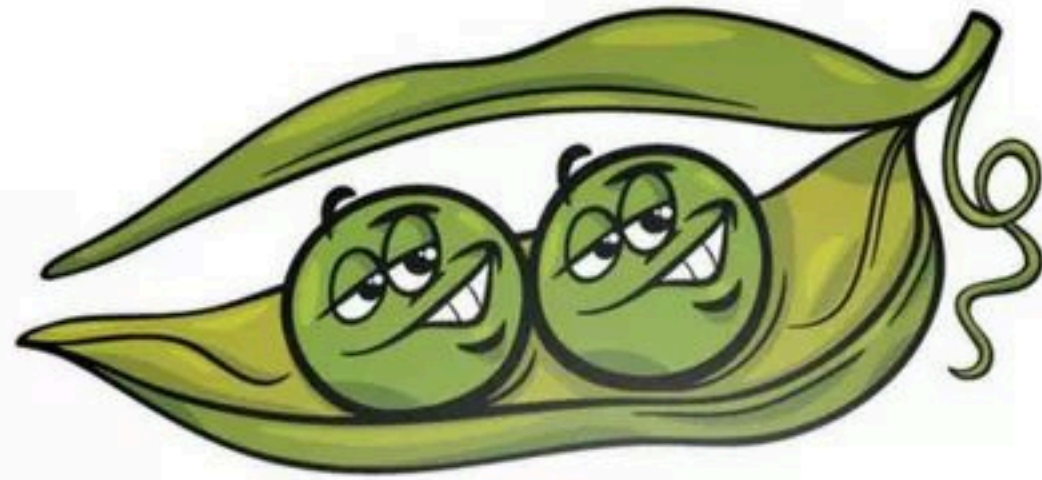
- to avoid attracting attention to yourself



Examples :

- He's been in a little trouble recently so he's trying to **keep a low profile**.
- He's been **keeping a low profile** at work ever since his argument with Peter.

like two peas in a pod



متشابه جدا

- very similar

Examples :

- We were **like two peas in a pod** – we liked all the same things, and we did everything together.
- The twins are **like two peas in a pod**.

In any case

على أي حال / مهما يكن

- whatever happens or happened



Examples :

- You should be able to catch a bus, but **in any case** you can always take a taxi home.
- we can either go to the new Batman movie or see a play tonight. **In any case**, you will need to be at my house by seven o'clock.

Second to none

بلا منافس / الأفضل

- as good as or better than all others



Examples :

- This is an excellent car—**second to none**.
- The hotel's restaurant is **second to none**.

Nothing doing

مستحيل أن أفعل ذلك

- not a chance



Examples :

- We asked if she'd come over and help us, but she said, "**Nothing doing**".
- You want me to buy that broken car from you for a million bucks? **Nothing doing!**

Dead in the water

مشروع فاشل / شيء لا يتوقع نجاحه

- If something is dead in the water, it has no chance of succeeding or of making any progress.



Examples :

- I'm sure that Perter's new company is **dead in the water**. Nobody's interested in buying his product.
- I guess our plans for summer vacation are **dead in the water**.

Smart cookie

شخص ذكي



- an intelligent person who is able to handle difficult situations

Examples :

- If anyone can make this company succeed, it's Peter - he's one **smart cookie**.
- Our English teacher is a **smart cookie**.

full of hot air

يتكلم كثيرا
معظم كلامه فارغ

- full of nonsense
talking nonsense



Examples :

- Oh, shut up, Peter. You're **full of hot air**.
- Did the salesman tell you anything new, or was he just **full of hot air**?

the salt of the earth

أخيار الناس / شخص نزيه

- a good, reliable, honest person



Examples :

- Peter is **the salt of the earth**. He is the first to help anyone in trouble.
- Mrs Andrews runs the business and people think she's **the salt of the earth**.

Wet blanket

شخص مفسد للمتعة
يحكر بكأبته سرور أو أفراح الآخرين

- someone who prevents other people from having fun



Examples :

- Don't invite Peter to your party, he's only going to be a **wet blanket** and take the fun out of everything.
- Oh, Sarah! Why do you have to be such a **wet blanket**?

Once and for all

مرة واحدة و بصورة نهائية / الي الأبد

- completely and finally



Examples :

- I wish we could settle the matter **once and for all**.
- Jim said he's decided **once and for all** that he's going to stay single and never get married again.

Deep pockets

لديك الكثير من المال

- to have a lot of money or wealth



Examples :

- Let's make a list of everyone we know with **deep pockets**, and see if any of them want to invest in our company.
- The politicians with the **deepest pockets** usually win the election.

Slip of the tongue

زلة لسان

- something that you say by accident when you intended to say something else



Examples :

- A newsreader made **a slip of the tongue** when reading out the scores. He said Chelsea had lost by a goal, instead of saying they had won by a goal.
- I accidentally called John by his brother's name. It was just a **slip of the tongue**.

under the weather

أشعر بالمرض

- to be or feel ill



Examples :

- I'm feeling a bit **under the weather** - I think I'm getting a cold.
- Sorry, but I don't think I'll be able to make it to work today. I'm feeling a bit **under the weather**.

See red

نار غضبه

- If you see red, you become extremely angry.



Examples :

- The corruption in government is making voters **see red**.
- People who don't finish a job really make me **see red**.

(be) made of money

غني جدا

- If you are made of money, you have lots of money.



Examples :

- No, you can't have another car - I'm not **made of money**!
- That guy Howard acts as if he's **made of money**, but I know for a fact that he's actually quite poor.

have eyes like a hawk

حاديد البصر

- if someone has eyes like a hawk, they notice everything



Examples :

- Our English teacher **has eyes like a hawk**, no one can cheat in his subject.
- One of the president's bodyguards is over sixty, but he **has** still got **eyes like a hawk**.

a wolf in sheep's clothing

ذئب في ثياب خروف

- A wolf in sheep's clothing is someone who seems to be a good person but is really a bad person.



Examples :

- Our new English teacher seemed to be a very warm and caring man, but we later found out that he was **a wolf in sheep's clothing**.
- People in our town suspected that Peter was **a wolf in sheep's clothing**, but I think they were wrong.

Eat your words

تَعْتَرِفُ أَنْ مَا قَالَهُ كَانَ خَاطِئًا

- to admit that something you said before was wrong



Examples :

- The president was forced to **eat his words** after it was shown that what he had said wasn't true.
- Sarah said I would never win a gold medal, but now that I have she will have to **eat her words**.

Rotten apple

شخص ناپسند او تکه پوسند خیره

- a dishonest, corrupt person who has a negative influence on his/her colleagues



Examples :

- Before you accuse the entire department of wrongdoing, you should try to find the **rotten apple** that initially caused the problem.
- People thought that Peter is a trustworthy person but he turned out to be a **rotten apple**.

Jack of all trades

متعدد المواهب و المهارات

- a person who can do many different things



Examples :

- My best friend is a **jack of all trades**.
- My father could fix cars, build furniture, and program computers, he was a **jack of all trades**.

Eager Beaver

موظف طموح

- a very hard-working, enthusiastic employee



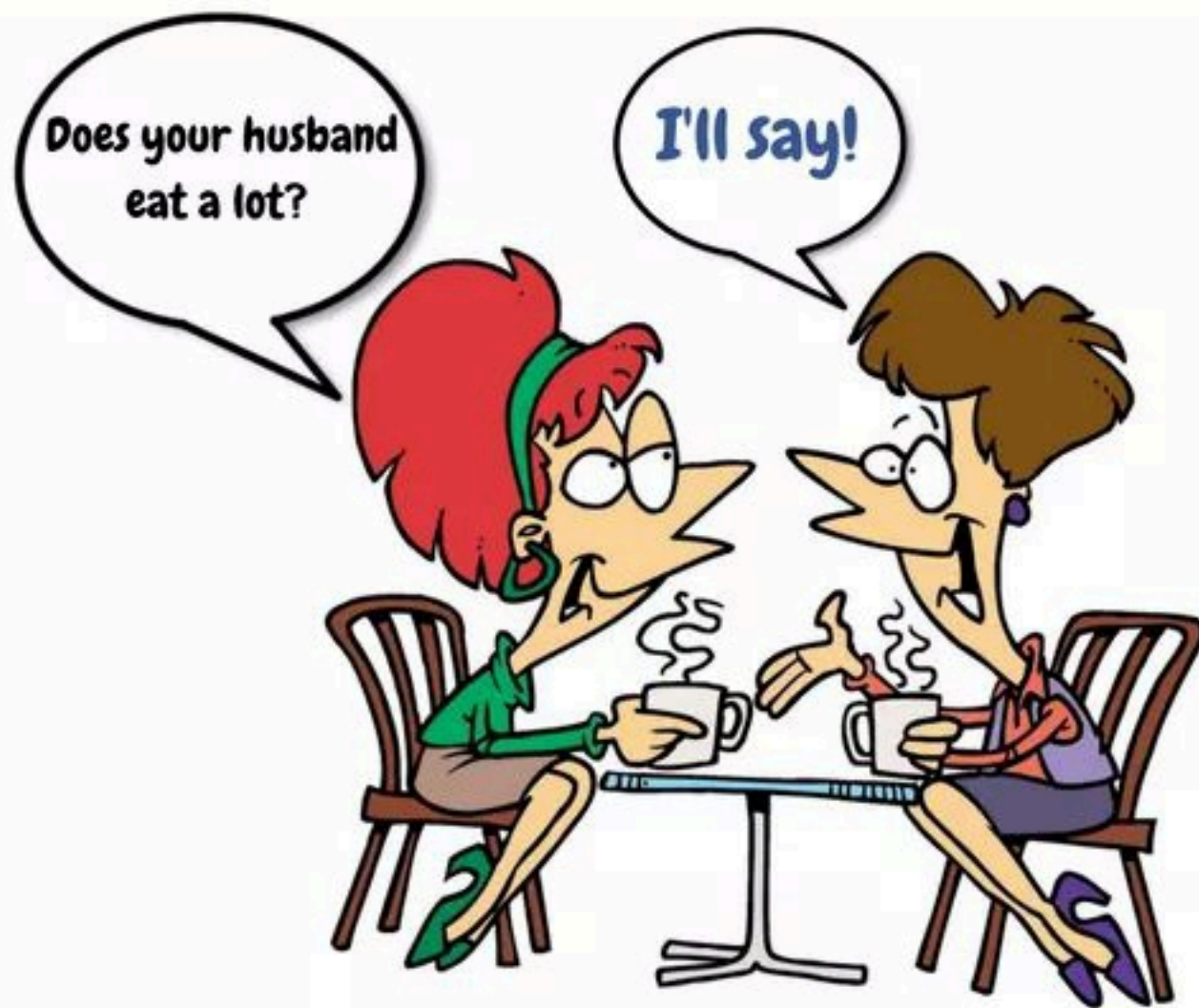
Examples :

- When he first started working he was a real **eager beaver**.
- The young assistant gets to work very early. She's a real **eager beaver**.

I'll say!

بالتأكيد / نعم

- Definitely / Yes



Examples :

- "Your brother must have been very happy after winning \$50,000 in the lottery" " I'll say!"
- "Did you enjoy the film?" "-I'll say!."

Hold your horses

على رساك / انتظر

- used to tell someone to stop and consider carefully their decision or opinion about something



Examples :

- Just **hold your horses**, Bill! Let's think about this for a moment.
- **Hold your horses** sir, can't you see that we haven't finished here?!

Bury the hatchet

دفن الأحقاد / عقد صلحا

- To stop an argument and become friends again.
To make peace.



Examples :

- After years of fighting over who should have gotten Dad's money, my brothers finally **buried the hatchet**.
- Let's stop arguing and **bury the hatchet**.

Make a name for yourself

تصبح مشهورا

- to become famous or respected by a lot of people



Examples :

- He has **made a name for himself** as a talented journalist.
- If you can **make a name for yourself**, things will get easier.

It's raining cats and dogs

تَمَطَّر بِغَزَارَةٍ

- something that you say when it is raining heavily



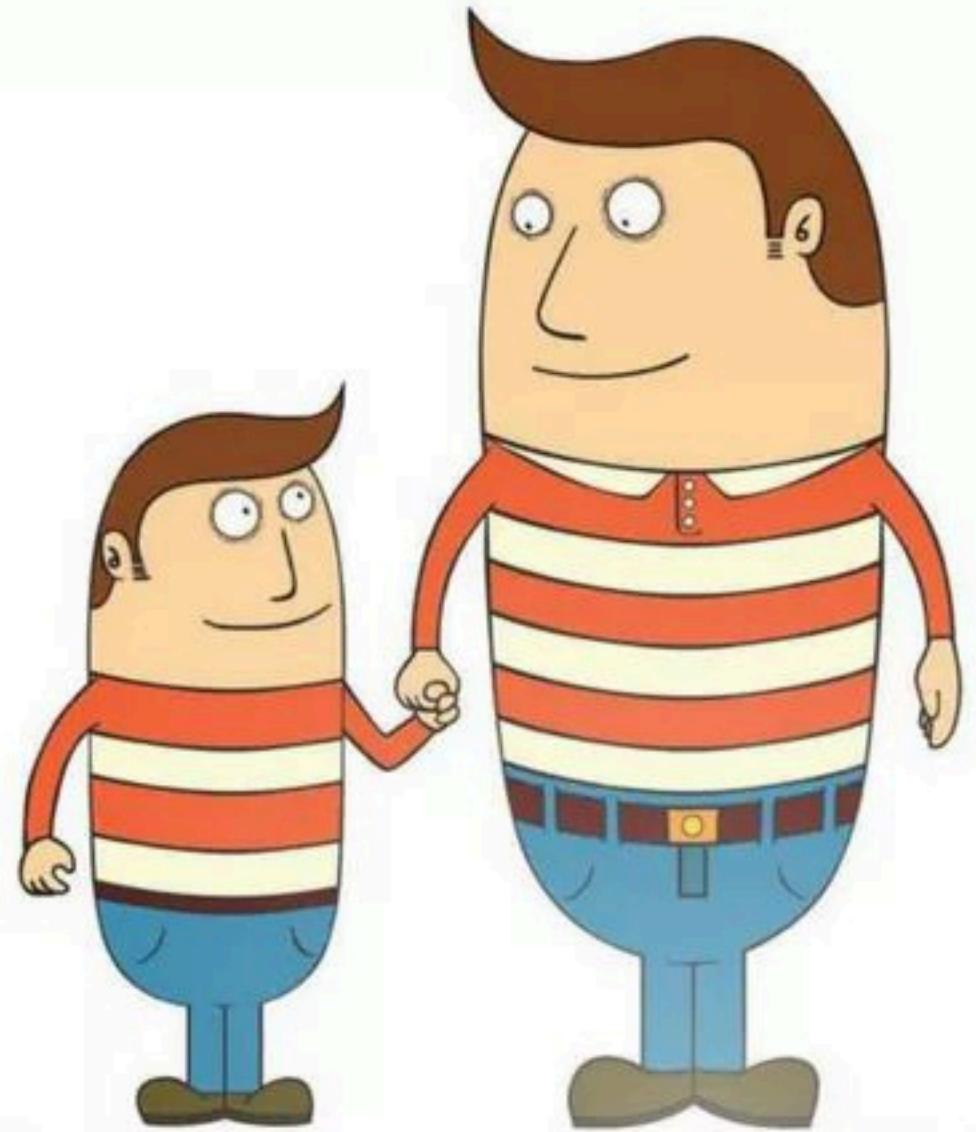
Examples :

- The weather was horrible on Saturday. **It was raining cats and dogs all day.**
- **It's raining cats and dogs** out there! It's a wonder any of the men can see what they're doing!

Cut from the same cloth

من نفس الطينة / متشابه

- to be very similar



Examples :

- The country's new president is **cut from the same cloth** as his predecessor.
- Father and son are **cut from the same cloth** and even sound alike on the telephone.

have one foot in the grave

على حافة القبر / على وشك الموت

- to be very old and near death



Examples :

- He has been telling everyone he **has one foot in the grave** for years now.
- You'd better go visit uncle Peter while you can. He **has one foot in the grave**.

Speak with a forked tongue

شخص غير صادق و كذاب

- to tell lies or say one thing and mean something else



Examples :

- The minister is **speaking with a forked tongue**, promising support he will never deliver.
- People tend to believe Peter because he seems generous, but we know he **speaks with a forked tongue**.

It's raining cats and dogs

تَمَطِر بِعِزَارَةٍ

- something that you say when it is raining heavily



Examples :

- The weather was horrible on Saturday. **It was raining cats and dogs all day.**
- **It's raining cats and dogs** out there! It's a wonder any of the men can see what they're doing!

Out of practice

لم يمارس امرا منذ زمن طويل

- no longer good at doing something



Examples :

- I would love to play football with you, but I'm really **out of practice**.
- Sarah studied French in high school, but she hasn't spoken it since. She is really **out of practice**.

Big shot

شخص مهم



- a powerful or important person

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Examples:

- He is trying to become a **big shot** in the mortgage business.
- Peter has become a real **big shot** in Hollywood. This year he produced several movies.

Idiom

wet behind the ears

شخص صغير وقليل الخبرة



- To be young and without experience.

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Examples:

- Peter is too young to take on a job like this! He's still **wet behind the ears!**
- He may be **wet behind the ears**, but he's well-trained and totally competent.

Live wire

ممتلئ بالنشاط
يفيض حيوية أو طاقة



- Someone who is very active and has a lot of energy.

Examples:

- My sister was the **live wire** and I was always called "the quiet one."
- The group is very quiet today , we need a **live wire** like Peter to get us talking.

Call it a day

حين نحس بالتعب او المأل من عمل
يكفي هذا اليوم



- To stop the work you are doing.

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Examples: Page

- I'm getting a bit tired now - let's **call it a day**.
- You've been studying hard ,I think you should **call it a day**.

Pipe dream

أمل يستبعد أن يتحقق

تخيلات يستحيل وقوعها

- An idea or plan that is impossible or very unlikely to happen.



Examples:

- Your hopes of winning a lot of money are just a silly **pipe dream**.
- You want to become a famous actor? That sounds like a **pipe dream**.

Work like a dog

عمل بجد / أجهد نفسي

- To work very hard.

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Examples:

- He **worked like a dog** all day to finish the wallpapering.
- Peter became a lawyer after college, and now he **works like a dog**.



(as) cool as a cucumber

شخص شادى

- very calm



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Examples:

- Sarah felt nervous, but she acted **as cool as a cucumber**.
- She walked in **as cool as a cucumber**, as if nothing had happened.



I thought as much

لقد توقعت ذلك

- Used to say that you are not surprised by what someone has said or done.



Examples :

- "I came to ask you a favour." "I thought as much."
- "Andy failed his driving test." "I thought as much when I saw his face."



Fat chance

بالطبع لا / مستحيل

- Definitely not.



Examples :

- "Maybe they'll invite you to go with them." "**Fat chance!**"
- You want to borrow my new car and drive it across the country? **Fat chance!**



Have a heart of gold

قلبه كبير / كريم

- To be very kind and generous.



Examples :

- Mary is such a lovely person. She **has a heart of gold**.
- Peter **has a heart of gold** and always thinks of others before himself.



No wonder

لا عجب أن / الآن أفهم لماذا



- It is not surprising.
Now I understand why.

Examples :

- A: "Why is he so sad?"
B: "His wife just died."
A: "**No wonder** he's sad."
- **No wonder** the baby is crying. She's wet.



Race against time

يسابق الزمن



- To hurry and do something quickly.

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Examples:

- We had to **race against time** to finish the project before the deadline.
- You don't need to **race against time**. Take all the time you want.



Stuck in a rut

حياة مملة دون اي جديد

- In a boring lifestyle that never changes.



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Examples:

- I need to change my job , after 15 years here I feel I'm **stuck in a rut**.
- Peter felt that he was **stuck in a rut**, so he decided to go back to University to study dentistry.



Come to terms with

تقبل الوضع على ما هو عليه



- To start to accept and deal with a difficult situation.

Examples:

- It's very hard **coming to terms with** the fact that you'll never have children.
- She has never really **come to terms with** her son's death.



Make it snappy

شيئا يسر عاك



- Used to tell someone that you want them to do something immediately and to do it quickly.

Examples:

- **Make it snappy!** I haven't got all day.
- Get me a drink, and **make it snappy.**



Hit the roof

فقد اعصابه / غضب غضبا شديدا

- To become extremely angry.



Examples :

- I'm afraid he'll **hit the roof** when he finds out our vacation is canceled.
- My mother **hit the roof** when she caught me smoking.



Not my cup of tea

ليس أمرا أحبه أو اميل اليه

- If something is not your cup of tea, it is not the type of thing of that you like.



Examples :

- Thanks for inviting me, but opera is **not** really **my cup of tea**.
- Watching Indian movies is **not my cup of tea**.



it's not rocket science

أمر شين أو بسيط

2+2 = ?
It's not
rocket science



- Used to say that you do not think that something is very difficult to do or to understand.

Examples :

- Come on, it's only a crossword, **it's not rocket science.**
- It's just an easy math problem. **It's not rocket science.**

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Ball and chain

زوجة

- a wife.



Examples :

- My **ball and chain** is mad at me.
- I can't play poker tonight with you guys, my **ball and chain** said that I can't go out.



Burst out crying

أجهش بالبكاء / انفجر بالبكاء

- To begin to cry suddenly.



Examples :

- He **burst out crying** at the news of his friend's death.
- I thought everything was fine until she **burst out crying** in the middle of dinner.



Burst out laughing

انفجر ضاحكا

- To suddenly start laughing.



Examples :

- The whole classroom **burst out laughing** when the teacher beat me.
- I walked in and everyone **burst out laughing**.



a cold fish

شخص جامد العواطف / غير ودي

- a person who shows little emotion or seems unfriendly.



Examples :

- Don't expect mercy from him, he is **a cold fish**.
- She's a lovely person, but her husband is a bit of **a cold fish**.



Break the news

ينشر الخبر

They are getting married



- To make something known.

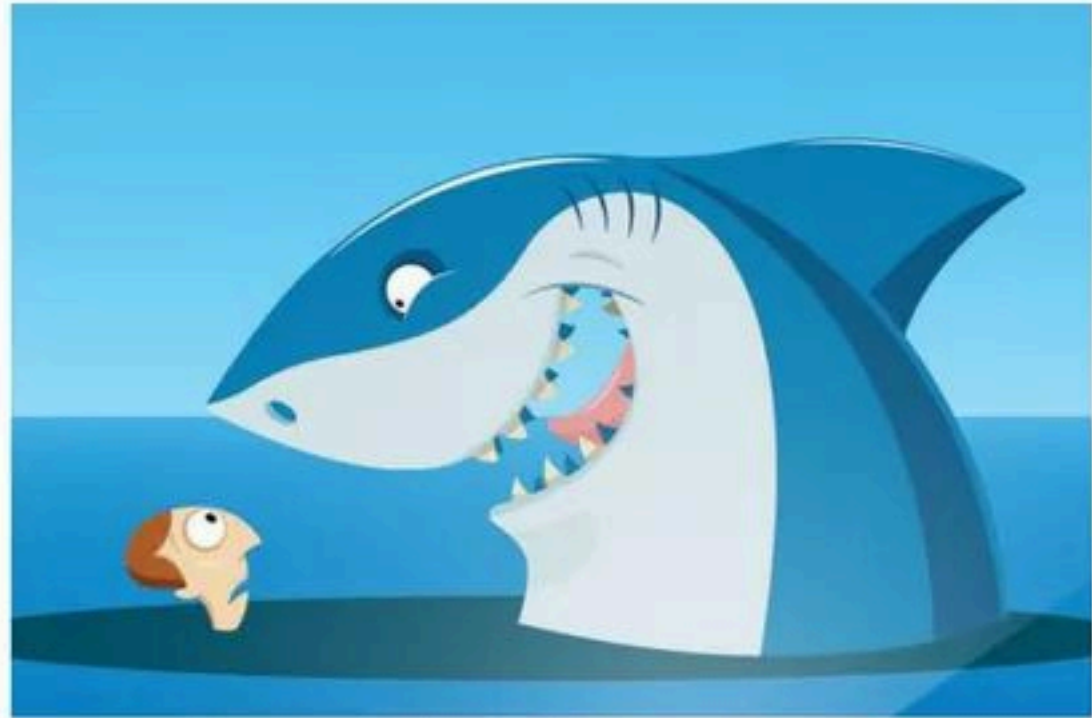
Examples :

- The doctor had to **break the news** to Jane about her husband's cancer.
- Peter and Sarah are getting married, but they haven't yet **broken the news** to their parents.



In deep water

في مأزق / في ورطة



- To be in a difficult situation which is hard to deal with.

Examples :

- We're going to be **in deep water** if the bank refuses to authorize a bigger loan.
- I am in **deep water** because I lied to my wife.



Get hitched

عقد قرانه / تزوج

- To get married.



Examples :

- Is Peter really **getting hitched**?
- He **got hitched** fifteen years ago to some fashion model.



Have egg on your face

شعر بالحرج الشديد

- To be very embarrassed because of something you said or did.



Examples :

- Stan **had egg on his face** after saying he could easily do fifty push-ups, and then giving up after doing just twenty.
- I was completely wrong, and now I **have egg on my face**.



Drop the ball

ارتركب حماقة او خطأ

- To make a mistake, especially by doing something in a stupid or careless way.



Examples :

- For God's sake don't **drop the ball** on this , we're relying on you.
- Thomas **dropped the ball** when he forgot to pick his wife up at the train station.



Open a can of worms

تضع نفسك في حالة أو وضع قد
يسبب لك مشاكل كبيرة

- To create a situation that will cause a lot of problems.



Examples :

- Darling! I don't want to **open a can of worms**, but I found a woman's phone number in your pocket.
- The investigation into how these expensive trips were paid for certainly **opened a can of worms**.



Pie in the sky

شيء مستبعد الحدوث أو الوقوع



- Something that you hope will happen but is very unlikely to happen.

Examples :

- His dream of becoming a famous singer is just a **pie in the sky**.
- Their plans to set up their own business are just **pie in the sky**.



a lone wolf

شخص يفضل العمل او العيش وحيدا

- a person who prefers to act, work, or live alone.



Examples :

- He had the reputation of being **a lone wolf** in high school.
- You know how he is, **a lone wolf**.



a hard nut to crack

مشكلة او امر صعب القيام به

- a difficult problem to solve.



Examples :

- Our product sells well in the States, but the European market is **a hard nut to crack**.
- Fc Barcelona will be **a hard nut to crack** especially with Lionel Messi in good form at the moment.



In hot water

في مشكلة او مأزق

- In trouble.



Examples :

- He found himself **in hot water** over his comments about immigration.
- I am **in hot water** with my teacher, because she caught me cheating on the final exam.



Take a hike

اخرج من وجهي
انصرف من هنا

- a rude way of telling someone to leave.



Examples :

- I've had enough of you, **take a hike!**
- I don't want to hear your excuses, just **take a hike.**



Spill the beans

أفشى السر

- To tell people secret information



Examples :

- Someone **spilled the beans** about Rick's surprise party.
- There is a surprise party for Peter on Wednesday. Please don't **spill the beans**.



You can say that again!

أنا أتفق معك

- Used to show that you completely agree with what someone has said.



Examples :

- - I was in Poland last week.
- I expect it was cold, wasn't it?
- **You can say that again!** It was minus 22 degrees where I was staying!
- - That was an absolutely delicious lunch.
- **You can say that again!**



Mark my words

تذكر كلامي

- Something that you say when you tell someone about something that you are certain will happen in the future.



Examples :

- He'll cause trouble, **mark my words!**
- **Mark my words,** that man is not to be trusted.



For the time being

في الوقت الحاضر / مُوقَّتاً

- At this time only, not forever.



Examples :

- We plan to buy a house, but **for the time being** we're living with my parents.
- I'm working as a waiter **for the time being**. But I hope to become a doctor.



Hang in there

لا تستسلم

- Do not give up.



Examples :

- **Hang in there**, Peter! Your invention will soon be a success.
- **Hang in there** .Exams are almost over.



Tied up

مشغول جدا



- To be very busy and unable to speak to anyone, go anywhere, etc.

Examples :

- Mrs Moran is **tied up** in a meeting at the moment but I'll ask her to call you later.
- - Can we meet today?
- Sorry, I'll be **tied up** all day. How about tomorrow?



Drop it

Drop it

انسى الأمر

- We use this expression to tell someone to stop talking about something that is annoying us.



Examples :

- - Show me the photo! Show me the photo!
- Just **drop it**. I'm not going to show it to you again.
- - Mummy, please can we go to the cinema tonight?
- No, I've told you that your aunt is coming for dinner. **Drop it!**



No point in

لا جدوى من / امر لا يستحق القيام به

- No purpose in doing something.
It's not worth (doing something)



Examples :

- There is **no point in** worrying about things you can't change.
- There is **no point in** practising sport if you keep smoking and drinking alcohol.



a nasty piece of work



غير كريم / بغيض / خذاع / غشاش

- a person who is unpleasant, unkind, or dishonest.

Examples :

- He's **a nasty piece of work**. I'd avoid him if I were you.
- I hate dealing with Sarah; she's **a nasty piece of work**.



On top of that

بِالإِضَافَةِ إِلَى (ذَلِكَ)



- In addition to something, especially something unpleasant.

Examples :

- We missed our flight, and **on top of that** we had to wait seven hours for the next one.
- We missed the bus, and **on top of that** it started raining.



Laugh your head off

انفجر ضاحكا / ضحكك

- To laugh a lot, loudly.



Examples :

- You **laughed your head off** when I fell!
- The comedy show was so funny!
I was **laughing my head off** all night.



Tie the knot

عقد قرانه / تزوج

- To get married.



Examples :

- They **tyed the knot** last Saturday.
- She's planning to **tie the knot** with her German fiancé next June.



Any minute now

في أي لحظة الان / قريباً

- Very soon.



Examples :

- The right man would come along **any minute now**.
- Peter is outside parking his car. He'll be here **any minute now**.



Give it a go

حاول / جرب



- We use this expression to say we will try something for the first time, or to encourage someone else to do something.

Examples :

- - Do you think I could ride a horse? I've never tried.
- **Give it a go** , you might like it.
- - I don't know how to cook properly.
- Come on, you should **give it a go**, I'm sure you'll be fine!



Having said that

پرغم من كلامي



- Used to say that something is true despite what you have just said.

Examples :

- It's an expensive restaurant. **Having said that**, the food is very good.
- He forgets most things, but **having said that**, he always remembers my birthday.



Can't stand

لا أحب / أكره

- To hate someone or something



Examples :

- Aunt Sarah **can't stand** the sight of cats.
- We used to be good friends but now I **can't stand** her.



Ring a bell

اسم أو شيء يبدو مالوفا

- To sound familiar.

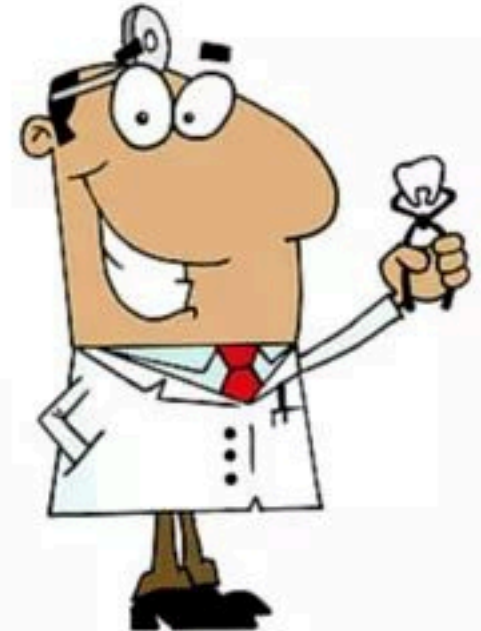


Examples :

- The name James Moss **rings a bell**, but I can't place it at the moment.
- That phrasal verb **rings a bell**. I think I came across it in a book last week.



An old hand



شخص ماهر وذو خبرة

- Someone who is very experienced and skilled in a particular area of activity.

Examples :

- We should be able to trust Peter to negotiate a good deal for us , he's **an old hand** at the game.
- The guide you just hired is **an old hand** at leading safaris.



Not to mention

بالإضافة إلى (ذلك)



- Used when you want to emphasize something that you are adding to a list.

Examples :

- He's one of the kindest and most intelligent, **not to mention** handsome, men I know.
- He's got fast cars, great clothes, a helicopter, **Not to mention** the houses in New York and the California.



Let's face it

بمعنى تقبل الحقيقة



- We should accept the truth.

Examples :

- **Let's face it**, I'm never going to be a great artist.
- **Let's face it**, if you don't have a college degree, it can be difficult to find a high-paying job.



You bet!

بالتأكيد / طبعاً



- Used to emphasize a statement or to mean "certainly".

Examples :

- "Are you coming to the party?" "**You bet!**"
- Did you like the party?
You bet! It was great.



I'm off

أنا مغادر



- An expression said by someone who is just leaving.

Examples :

- Sue: Well, it's been a great party. Good-bye.
Mary: **I'm off** too. Bye.
- Peter : **I'm off**.
Sarah : OK, see you tomorrow.



a whale of a time

استمتع بوقته



- To enjoy yourself very much.

Examples :

- We had a **whale of a time** on holiday.
- We had **a whale of a time** at Sally's birthday party.



Not likely!

غير ممكن مطلقاً / لأبداً

We use this expression to say that we don't want or wouldn't like to do something.



Examples :

- "Do you want to come running with me?" **"Not likely!"**
- 'He said you'd be giving them a lift.' **'Not likely!'**



Fair and square

بعدل وانصاف

- In an honest way and without any doubt.



Examples :

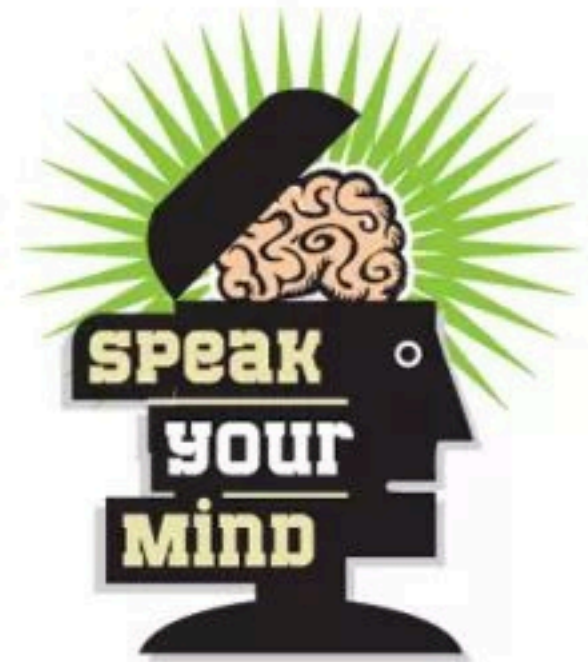
- He won the game **fair and square**.
- The division of the money should be **fair and square**.



Speak your mind

أن تدلي برأيك بصراحة

- To say what you think about something very directly.



Examples :

Dz Page

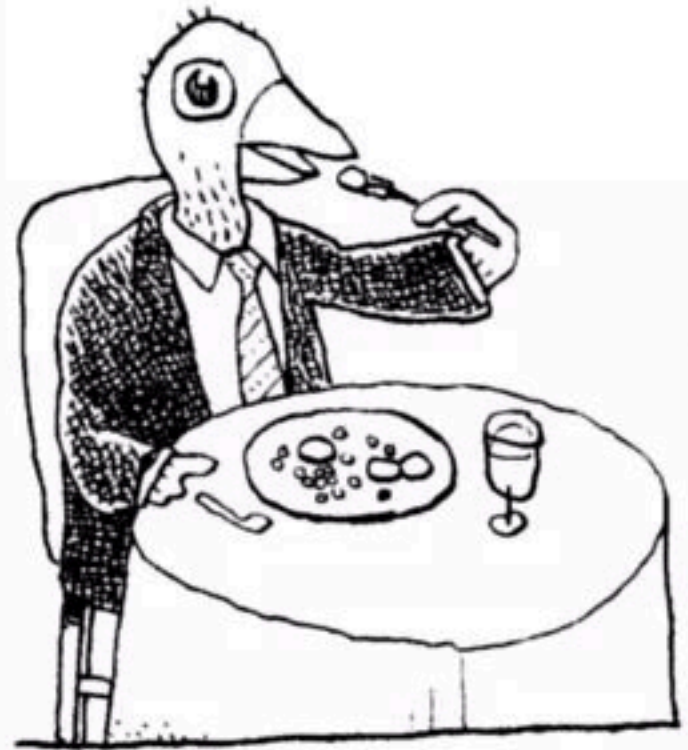
- He's certainly not afraid to **Speak his mind**.
- Sam has never been shy about **speaking his mind**.



Eat like a bird

أكله قليل

- To always eat a small amount of food.



Eat like a bird

Examples :

Dz Page

- Jane is very slim because she **eats like a bird**.
- You **eat like a bird** .I don't know how you stay healthy.



In the pink

في أتم صحة / في أحسن حال



- In very good health.

Examples :

Dz Page

- She was lively and active and **in the pink** of condition.
- Sarah looked so well, she was **in the pink**.



Idiom

(To)stab someone in the back

طعن في الظهر او ان تخون شخص يثق بك

- To betray someone.



Examples :

Dz Page

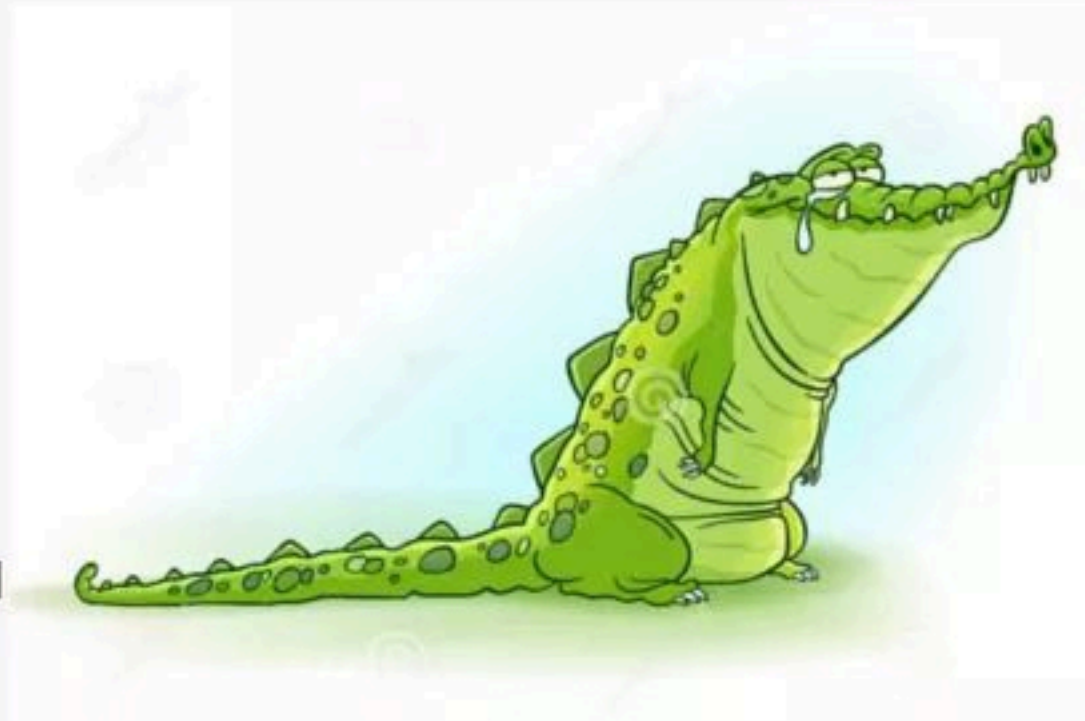
- He had been lied to and **stabbed in the back** by people that he thought were his friends.
- He seems friendly, but he wouldn't hesitate to **stab you in the back** if he thought it would help him get your job.



Crocodile tears

حُزْنٌ كاذِبٌ؛ دموع التماسيح

- Tears that you cry when you are not really sad or sorry.



Examples :

Dz Page

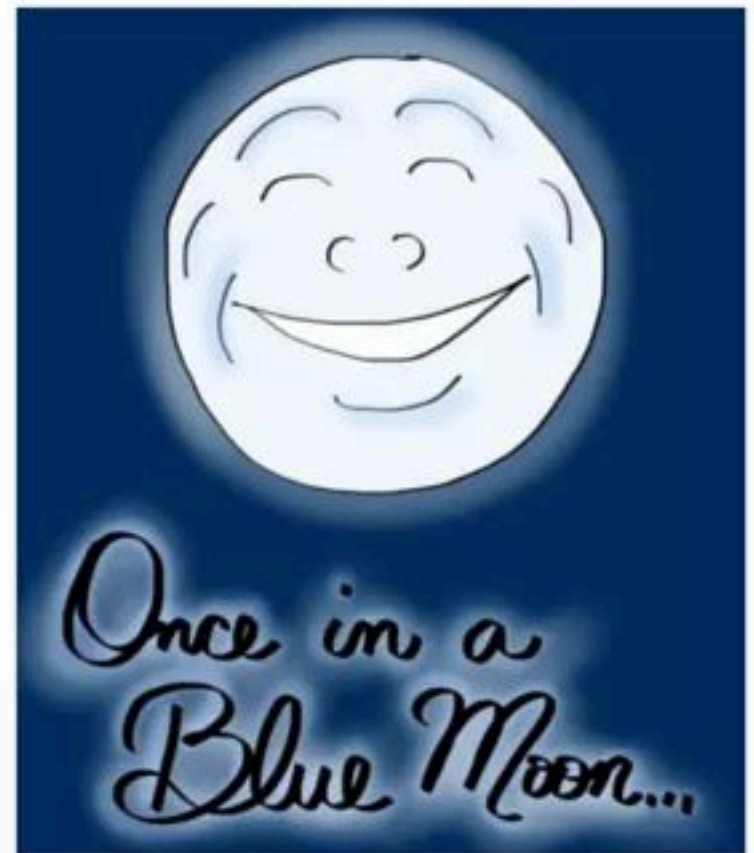
- I don't believe Peter really hurt himself when he fell. I think he's crying **crocodile tears** just to get attention.
- Political leaders shed **crocodile tears** while allowing the war to continue.



Once in a blue moon

نَادِرًا

- Not very often.
Very rarely.



Examples :

Dz Page

- My sister lives in Alaska, so I only see her **once in a blue moon**.
- We go out to eat **once in a blue moon**.



(be) green with envy

أكلته الغيرة / أكل الحسد قلبه



- To be very unhappy because someone has something that you want.

Examples :

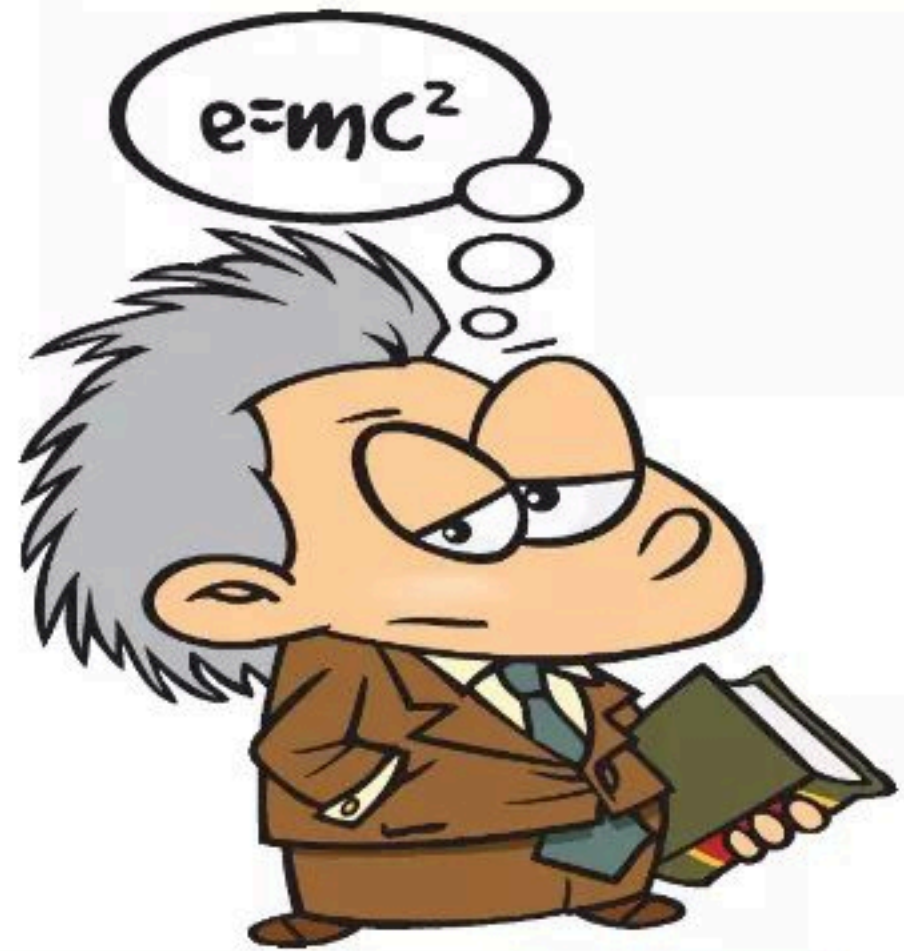
Dz Page

- Peter is going to Spain next week, and I'm green with envy.
- Peter bought a new car, and I'm green with envy.



(as) sharp as a tack

حاد الذكاء



- Very intelligent.

Examples :

Dz Page

- He may be old in years, but he's still **as sharp as a tack**
- Peter scored 100% on his science test. He is **as sharp as a tack**.



a piece of cake

أمرهين أو بسيط



- Something very easy to do.

Examples :

Dz Page

- The exam was **a piece of cake**.
- I learned to play the guitar in one year. It was **a piece of cake** for me.



So far so good

الامور تمام أو على ما يرام حتى الان



- Everything has gone well until now.

Examples :

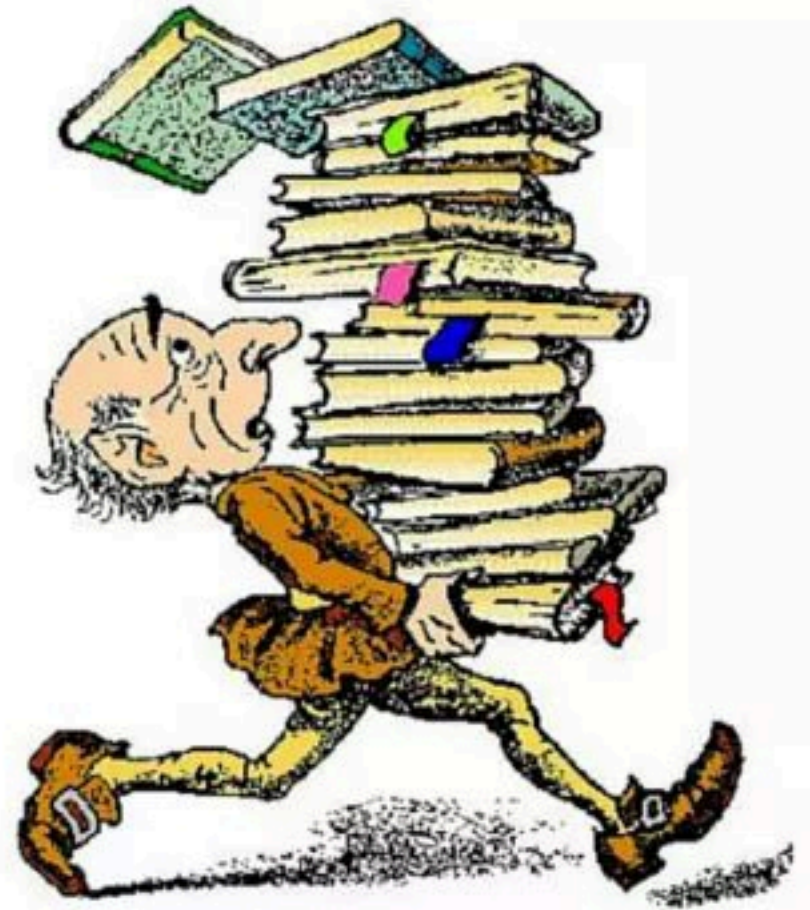
Dz Page

- "How's your new job?" "So far so good."
- Are you enjoying your English lessons ?
Yes, so far so good.



Hit the books

بمعنى ان تدرس بجد



- To hit the books means to study hard.

Examples :

English For Arabs

- I have to **hit the books** this weekend. I have two exams next week.
- I can't go out tonight. I need to **hit the books**.



Make a killing

كسب مالا وفيرا في وقت قصير

- To earn a lot of money in a short time and with little effort.



Examples :

English For Arabs

- They **made a killing** with the sale of their London house.
- They should **make a killing** today.



Let the cat out of the bag

أفشى السر دون قصد



- To accidentally reveal a secret.

Examples :

English For Arabs

- I was trying to keep the party a secret, but Peter went and **let the cat out of the bag**.
- He **let the cat out of the bag** and now everybody knows the story.



Be full of beans

يفيض حيوية ونشاطا
بصحة جيدة



English For Arabs

- To have a lot of energy and enthusiasm.

Examples :

- I'm **full of beans** after that lovely cup of coffee and croissant.
- Our teacher was **full of beans** in our lesson this morning but I was half asleep.



"Out of the question"

English For Arabs

لن يحدث أبدا / مُسْتَحِيل



Definition :

- Not allowed. Impossible

Example :

- You want to borrow my new car and drive it across the country ?I'm sorry, but that's **out of the question**.



Expression

English For Arabs

" Hold your horses "

" تمهّل / على رسلك "

- Used to tell someone to wait and be patient.
- Where do you think you are going ?

Hold your horses. I need to speak with you.



English For Arabs



Expression

" Shake a leg "

" أسرع - بسرعة "

=> Used to tell someone to hurry or act more quickly.

=> **Shake a leg** Peter ! the train leaves in 20 minutes !



English For Arabs



Idiom

child's play

(عمل في منتهى السهولة / سهل جدا)



something that is very easy
to do

Examples :

- Oh please, I've been playing guitar for 20 years—that song is **child's play**.
- For her, computer programming is **child's play**.

Idiom

go bananas

(فقد اعصابه / جن جنونه)



to become extremely angry
or excited

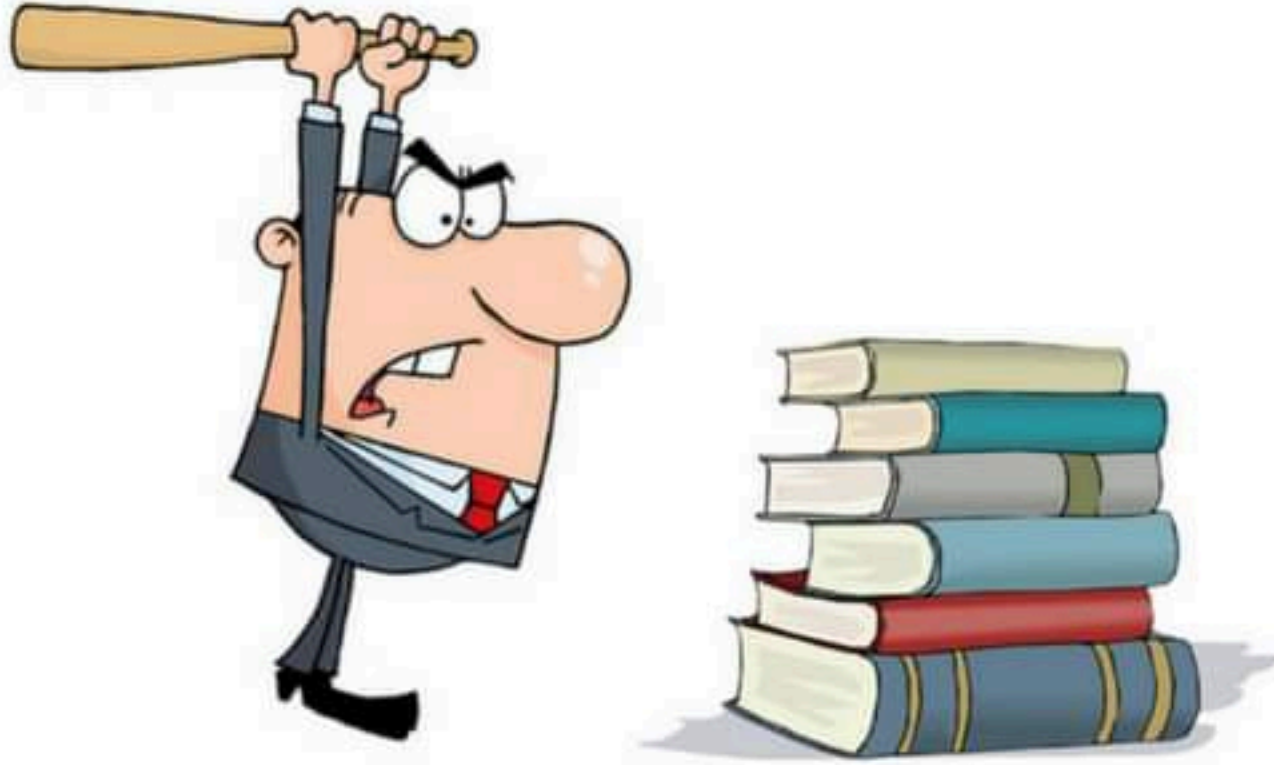
Examples :

- She'll **go bananas** when you tell her the news.
- Dad will **go bananas** when he sees this mess.

Idiom

hit the books

(ان تراجم و تدرس بچد)



to study hard

Examples :

- You better **hit the books** if you want to pass your exam on Monday.
- I can't go out tonight. I need to **hit the books**.

Idiom

skin and bones

(نحيف جدا)



to be extremely thin

Examples :

- A lot of these fashion models are all **skin and bones**.
- Your brother is just **skin and bones** - has he been sick?

Idiom

a mind like a sieve

(ذَاكِرَتُهُ ضَعِيفَةٌ جَدًّا)



If you have a mind like a sieve, you forget things very easily

Examples :

- John has **a mind like a sieve** - had to leave him three separate reminders about the play tomorrow night!
- He has lost his keys again- he has **a mind like a sieve**.

Idiom

it's early days

ما زال الوقت مبكرا (حتى نحكم)



it is too soon to be sure how a situation will develop

Examples :

- Our progress has been fairly slow so far, but **it's early days**.
- My new business is doing pretty well in terms of profit, but **it's early days**.

Idiom

a long face

(شخص مکتوب او حزین)



if you have a long face, you look sad

Examples :

- Sarah had such **a long face** yesterday after she learned that she failed her exam.
- Why do you have such **a long face**? Is something bothering you?

Idiom

it's all go

(مشغول جدا)



it is very busy

Examples :

- It's all go in the commercial property market.
- It's all go in town today.

Idiom

all talk and no trousers

(كثير الكلام قليل الفعل)



Someone who talks about doing important things, but doesn't take any action.

Examples :

- Politicians are known to be **all talk and no trousers**.
- He says he's going to do something about it but he never will. He's **all talk and no trousers**.

Idiom

with open arms

(بترحاب شديد / بذراعين مفتوحين)



in a very friendly way

Examples :

- He greeted Peter **with open arms**.
- Don't expect her to welcome you **with open arms**. She's still very angry with you.

Idiom

a shot in the dark

(مجرد تخمين)



a guess that you make without having any facts or ideas to support it

Examples :

- My answer to the last question was **a complete shot in the dark**.
- It was **a shot in the dark**, but it turned out to be exactly right.

Idiom

pay through the nose

(دفع ثمننا باسطلا)



to pay too much money for something

Examples :

- We **paid through the nose** to get the car fixed.
- Universities are actually free for citizens in this country, but because I immigrated here I have to **pay through the nose** for my degree.

Idiom

clear the air

(أزال سوء الفهم أو الخلافات)



to discuss a problem or difficult situation with someone in order to make it better

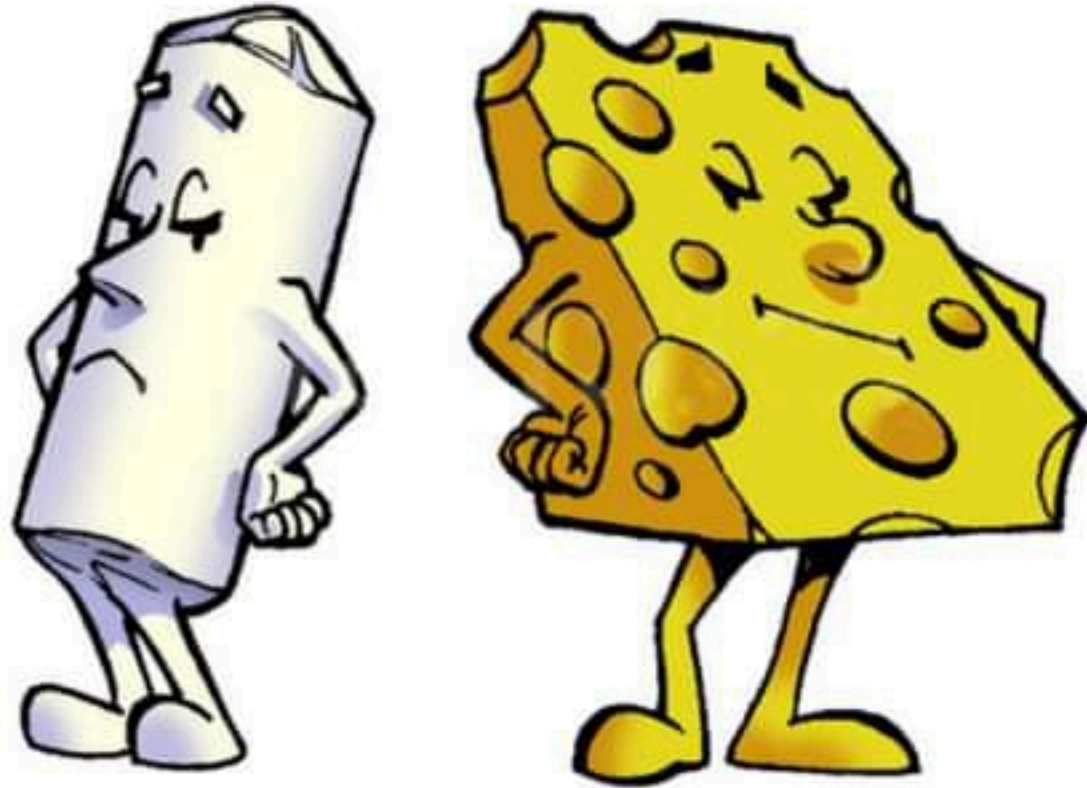
Examples :

- All right, let's discuss this frankly. It'll be better if we **clear the air**.
- In an attempt to **clear the air**, Peter has planned a meeting with employees to discuss the issue.

Idiom

like chalk and cheese

(مختلفان تماماً)



completely different from each other

Examples :

- My brother and I are **like chalk and cheese**.
- His two sons are **like chalk and cheese**.

worried sick

قلق جدا

- extremely worried



Examples :

- The next time you're going to be this late getting home, please call me, because I was **worried sick**!
- Your father and I are **worried sick** about you.

Idiom

(as) clear as mud

غیر واضح

- very difficult to understand



Examples :

- His instructions were **as clear as mud**.
- The computer manual was **as clear as mud**, so we stopped reading it.

shoot yourself in the foot

أذى نفسه/ فعل أو قال ما يضر بنفسه

- to do or say something that causes problems for you



Examples :

- Why does Sarah always **shoot herself in the foot** by saying the wrong thing?
- If we just let him keep talking, pretty soon he's going to **shoot himself in the foot.**

(be) in two minds

غیر قادر علی اتخاذ قرار

- to be unable to decide about something



Examples :

- I was **in two minds** whether or not to come this morning.
- Peter is **in two minds** about what to study at university. He's interested in history, but he also likes the idea of being a lawyer.

chop-chop

أسرع

- used to tell someone to hurry



Examples :

- Come on, **chop-chop**, we're late!
- Let's go, **chop-chop**!

slippery slope

في وضع حرج / وضع خطير

- a bad situation or habit that, after it has started, is likely to get very much worse



Examples :

- You're on a **slippery slope** once you start lying about your age!
- His behavior will lead him down a **slippery slope** to ruin.

tie the knot

حقد قرانه / تزوج

- to get married



Examples :

- She's planning to **tie the knot** with her German fiancé next June.
- They **tied the knot** yesterday.

Idiom

bite off more than you can chew

ان تحمل نفسك فوق طاقتها

- to try to do something that is too difficult for you



Examples :

- I think he's **bitten off more than he can chew** taking all those classes.
- Don't **bite off more than you can chew**. Let someone else organize the party.

keep it under your hat

احتفظ بالسر

- to keep something secret



Examples :

- I've got some interesting news, but you must promise to **keep it under your hat** for the moment.
- I'll only tell you if you promise to **keep it under your hat**.



beat around the bush

تجنب الخوض في الموضوع مباشرة

- to avoid talking about what is important

Examples :

- Don't **beat around the bush** - get to the point!
- Let's stop **beating around the bush** and discuss this matter.

dead duck

شيء او شخص محتمل فشله



- someone or something that is very unlikely to be successful, especially because of a mistake or bad judgment

Examples :

- They knew their plans were a **dead duck**.
- The government is a **dead duck**.

take the bull by the horns



تُعامل مع المشكلة بصورة مباشرة

- to deal with a difficult situation in a very direct way

Examples :

- Why don't you **take the bull by the horns** and tell him to leave?
- It's time to **take the bull by the horns** and get this job done.

idiom

hit it off



to quickly become good friends with someone

"Look how John **hit it off** with Mary. Yes, they really **hit it off**."

"We had similar ideas about the show, and the two of us **hit it off** right away."



English With Karim



idiom

get off on the wrong foot



to start a relationship or activity badly

"Peter **got off on the wrong foot** with my parents by arriving late."

"We **got off on the wrong foot** the first time I met him."



English With Karim



idiom

(be) off your head



to be crazy

"You must be **off your head** going out in this weather!"

"He's **off his head** if he thinks he can get that engine fixed by this weekend."



English With Karim



idiom

go in one ear and out the other



used for saying that someone does not remember what you say or pay attention to it
"I've told him so many times — it just **goes in one ear and out the other.**"

"I don't know why I tell her anything. It just **goes in one ear and out the other.**"



idiom

get the hang of something



**to learn how to do something
or use something**

"I'll teach you how to use the design program – you'll **get the hang** of it after a while."

"It seems difficult at first, but you'll soon **get the hang** of it."



English With Karim



idiom

pull your socks up



to make an effort to improve your behaviour or your work

"Peter needs to **pull his socks up** if he is to make a success of his career."

"He's going to have to **pull his socks up** if he wants to stay in the team."



English With Karim



idiom

get your act together



to start to organize yourself so that you do things in an effective way

"She's so disorganized - I wish she'd **get her act together.**"

"We have to **get our act together**—we have to organize ourselves."



English With Karim



idiom

miss the boat



to fail to take advantage of an opportunity by not taking action quickly enough

"If you don't call the recruiter back right away, you're going to **miss the boat**."

"You should have sold that house a year ago – you **missed the boat**."



English With Karim



idiom

(be) up to your neck



**to be in a difficult situation that is hard
to escape from**

"Sarah **is up to her neck** in debt."

"The Prime Minister **was up to his neck** in scandal."



English With Karim



idiom

have a blast



to have a great time

"You should have come with us last night - we **had a real blast!**"

"The kids are **having a blast** running around the beach all day."



English With Karim



idiom

put a sock in it



used for telling someone in a rude way to be quiet

"Hey, **put a sock in it**, will you? I'm trying to work here."

"Oh, **put a sock in it!** No one wants to hear your complaints anymore."



English With Karim



idiom

see eye to eye



to agree with someone

"I **see eye to eye** with my brother on most things."

"My sisters don't **see eye to eye** with me about the arrangements."



English With Karim



idiom

cabin fever



the feeling of being angry and bored because you have been inside for too long

"I've got **cabin fever**. I've got to get out of here."

"The rain had kept me indoors all weekend and I was beginning to get **cabin fever**."



English With Karim



idiom

bundle of joy



a baby

" Three days after the birth, Paul and Sandra took their precious **bundle of joy** home."

" We are expecting a **bundle of joy** next September."



English With Karim



idiom

not a happy bunny



to be annoyed about a situation

" She was **not a happy bunny** after her work permit application was denied."

" I am receiving around 1,000 virus emails a day. I am **not a happy bunny**."

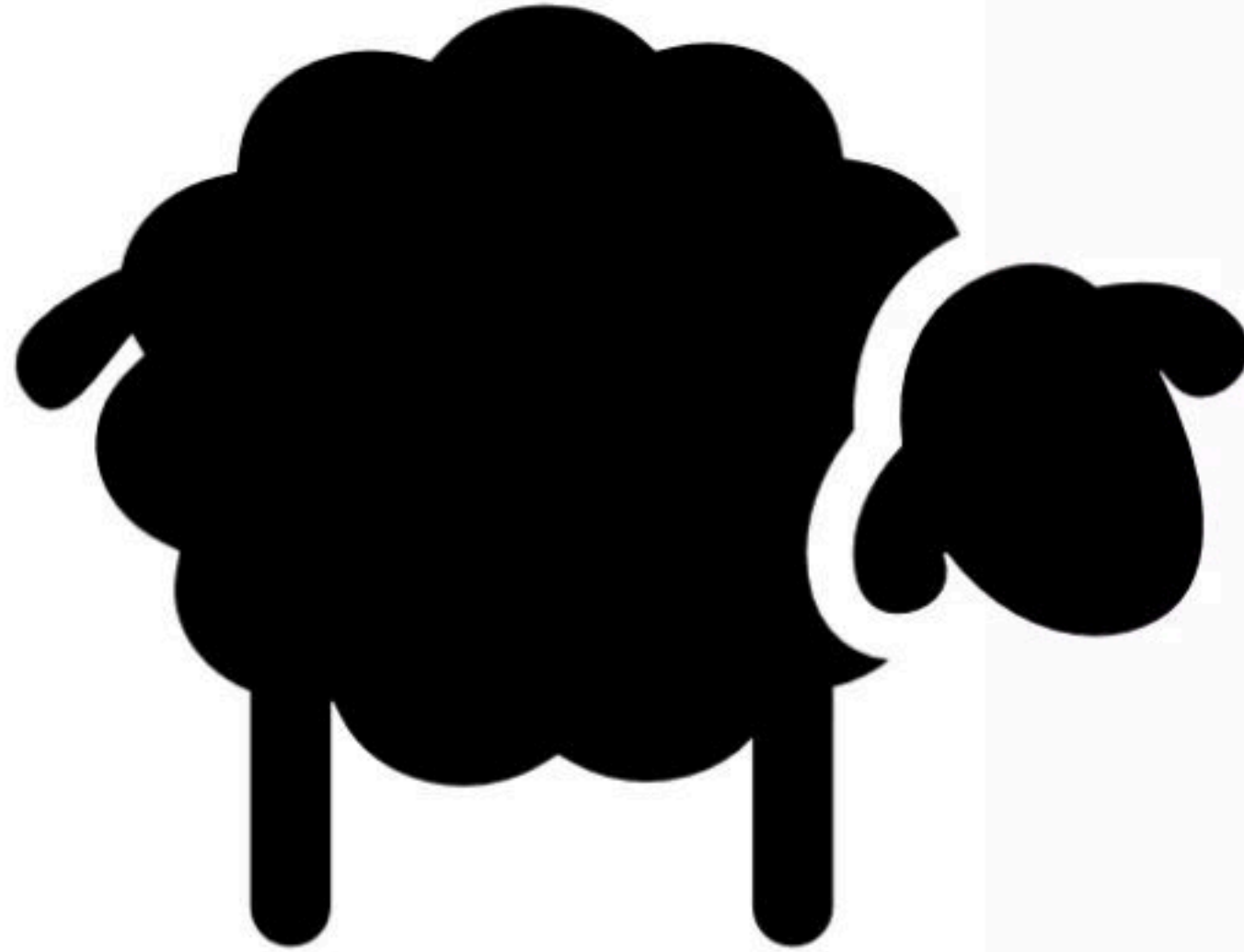


English With Karim



idiom

black sheep



someone who is regarded by other members of their family or group as a failure or embarrassment

"Amy's always been the **black sheep** of the family."

"Everyone likes me because I'm obedient. The same can't be said for my cousin Peter who's been the **black sheep** since we were kids."



English With Karim



idiom

get even with someone



to do something equally bad to someone who has done something bad to you (get revenge)

"I'll **get even with** Peter some day for making those negative comments about me."

"I want to **get even with** Bill for beating me so badly in tennis last time."



English With Karim



idiom

catch the sun



**to get red painful skin because of
being in the sun for too long**

"I made sure to pack you some extra sunscreen so that you don't **catch the sun** on your trip."

"You've **caught the sun** on the back of your neck."



English With Karim



idiom

follow in someone's footsteps



to do the same job or to work or live in the same way as someone else before you, especially someone in your family

"She **followed in her father's footsteps** by becoming a doctor."

"My father was an engineer, and I plan to **follow in his footsteps** and study engineering in college."



idiom

drive someone crazy



to make someone very upset or angry

"We love our daughter, but sometimes she **drives us crazy.**"

"Be quiet! You're **driving me crazy!**"



English With Karim



idiom

(be) in the mood for something



to feel that you would like to do something

"I don't know why, but I'm really **in the mood for** ice cream today."

"I'm **in the mood for** shopping today."



idiom

no laughing matter



something that should be treated seriously

"Boys, this is **no laughing matter**. One of you could have been seriously hurt."

"Your kids' behaviour is an offence. It's **no laughing matter**".



English With Karim



idiom

**avoid someone or something
like the plague**



**to stay away as much as possible from
(someone or something)**

"Your boss is so dirty. If I were you, I'd **avoid him like the plague.**"

"I'm not a fan of parties - in fact I **avoid them like the plague.**"



idiom

cry over spilt milk



to waste time feeling upset about something bad that has happened and cannot be changed

"Yes, we made a mistake, but there's no point in **crying over spilt milk.**"

"Please calm down, you're just **crying over spilt milk.** We already submitted the report, so we can't fix it now."



English With Karim



idiom

(be) mad keen



**to be very interested in or excited
about someone or something**

"Oh, I've seen the way Tim smiles at you—he's definitely **mad keen on** you!"

"I'm **mad keen on** that college, so I really hope they accept me."



English With Karim



idiom

(be) out of the woods



**to no longer be in danger
or difficulty**

"Her surgery went as well as we could have hoped, but she's not **out of the woods** yet."

"The nation's economy is not **out of the woods** yet."



English With Karim



idiom

have a sweet tooth



a strong liking for sweet foods

"She **has a sweet tooth**; she can't resist chocolate cake."

"John eats candy all the time. He must **have a sweet tooth**."

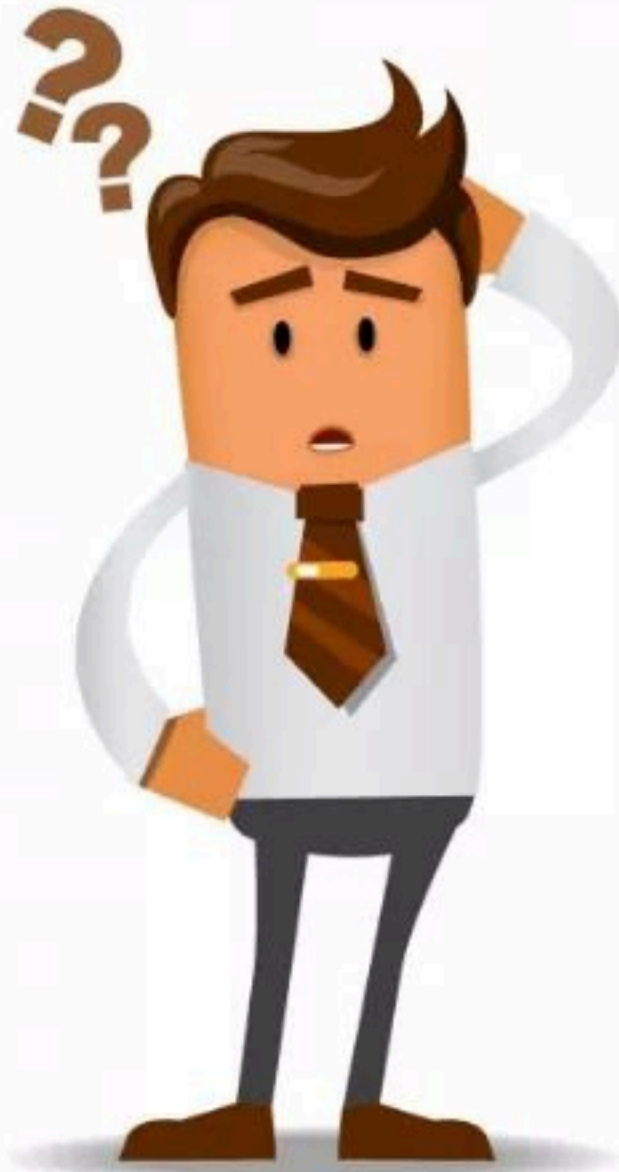


English With Karim



idiom

a mystery to me



something I do not understand

"**It's a mystery to me** why she married him in the first place!"

"**It's a mystery to me** how people know about my private life."



English With Karim



idiom

wet blanket



someone who prevents other people from having fun

"Don't invite Peter to the party. He's such a **wet blanket** that he'll probably just complain the whole time."

"Jack's fun at parties, but his brother's a **wet blanket**."



English With Karim



idiom

eat like a horse



to eat a lot

"Kim is staying for dinner, and she **eats like a horse**, so you better make some extra food."

"My brother **eats like a horse** but never puts on any weight".



English With Karim



idiom

hang in the balance



If the future of something hangs in the balance, it is uncertain.

"The future of the company **hangs in the balance.**"

"Peter's career, much more than mine, **hangs in the balance.**"



English With Karim



idiom

(be) on the right track



**to be doing something in a way
that will bring good results**

"These results suggest that we are **on the right track**."

"After all of those failed experiments, our team is finally
on **the right track now**."



idiom

(have) mixed feelings



**feel both positive and negative
about something/somebody**

"I **had mixed feelings about** leaving home. I was excited but at the same time, I knew I would miss my family."

"I kept leaving her as I **had mixed feelings about** being married to some one older than myself."



idiom

at a snail's pace



extremely slowly

"The roads were full of traffic and we were travelling **at a snail's pace** for two hours."

"The work is progressing **at a snail's pace**."



English With Karim



idiom

as clear as mud



very difficult to understand

"I guess I need to call a lawyer because these legal contracts are **as clear as mud**."

"My teacher's instructions were **as clear as mud**."



English With Karim



idiom

on the mend



to be getting better after an illness

"She's been very ill, but luckily she's **on the mend** now."

"Peter's had flu, but he's **on the mend**."



English With Karim



idiom

go to the wall



to fail, especially when this involves losing all your business and money

"After nine months of massive losses the company finally **went to the wall.**"

"Over the last year, two of the most successful companies in the world have **gone to the wall.**"



English With Karim



idiom

it serves someone right



used for saying that you think someone deserves something unpleasant that happens to them

"I hear his wife is divorcing him." "**It serves him right** after the way he's treated her."

"He won't even talk to me." "**It serves you right** for lying to him."



idiom

as tough as old boots



very strong and able to deal with difficult situations or pain easily

"Don't worry about me. I'm **as tough as old boots.**"

"He might be in his eighties but he's **as tough as old boots.**"



English With Karim



idiom

go cold turkey



**to stop or give up a bad habit
immediately or completely**

"I had to stop smoking, so I **went cold turkey**."

"Peter **went cold turkey** when he gave up caffeine completely."



English With Karim



idiom

(be) made of money



to be very rich

"No, you can't have another car - I'm not **made of money!**"

"I know you want the new phone, but the answer is no. I'm not **made of money.**"



idiom

(be) cut from the same cloth



to have very similar qualities to someone or something else

"Julia and her mother are **cut from the same cloth**, as they are both so kind and sweet."

"We're **cut from the same cloth**, you and I."



idiom

somebody's mind goes blank



someone cannot remember or think of anything

"When he asked me for my number, **my mind went completely blank.**"

"I tried to remember her name, but **my mind went completely blank.**"



idiom

(be) wet behind the ears



to be young and without experience

"He's just finished high school, so he's still **wet behind the ears.**"

"Peter is too young to take on a job like this! He's still **wet behind the ears.**"



idiom

hit the roof



to become extremely angry

"Dad will **hit the roof** when he finds out I sold the car."

"My parents are going to **hit the roof** if they find out we had a party here!"



English With Karim



idiom

live the dream



**to live your life in the way you
have always dreamed of**

"I always wanted to be a famous singer, and now I'm **living the dream.**"

"My brother is **living the dream.** He always wanted to be a pilot."



idiom

(be) a sucker for something/someone



**to like someone or something very much,
especially so that you cannot refuse them**

"I'm a total **sucker for** cakes."

"Mike's a **sucker for** foreign sports cars."



idiom

(be) taken aback



to be very surprised or shocked by something

"When Mary told me the news, I **was taken aback** for a moment."

"When I told my parents I was married, they **were** completely **taken aback**."



English With Karim



idiom

break the ice



make people feel more comfortable

"Someone suggested that we play a party game to **break the ice.**"

"Peter told a few jokes to **break the ice.**"



English With Karim



idiom

from the word go



from the start

"The bridge-building project had problems with funding right **from the word go**."

"It's essential you make the right decisions **from the word go**."



English With Karim



idiom

spill the beans



to tell people secret information

"Does Phillip know about our plan?" "Yes, someone must have **spilled the beans**."

"We had everything organized for Bruce's surprise party, but Kate accidentally **spilled the beans** to him at work."



English With Karim



idiom

no-brainer



something so simple or obvious that you do not need to think much about it

"It should be illegal to drink and drive. That's a **no-brainer**."

"Taking that job over the one I had was a **no-brainer**"



English With Karim



idiom

old hand



someone who is very experienced and skilled in a particular area of activity

"We should be able to trust Silva to negotiate a good deal for us - he's an **old hand** at the game."

"Peter is an **old hand** at such compositions and has never had any trouble with them."



English With Karim



idiom

get something off your chest



to talk to someone about something that has been worrying you, so that you feel better about it

"He came to see me because he wanted to **get something off his chest.**"

"She felt happy when she **got it off her chest.** She had felt guilty for years."



idiom

(be) your own boss



to work for yourself and not be employed by someone else

"I'd really like to **be my own boss**."

"I'm very much **my own boss** and no one interferes with what I do."



idiom

(as) cool as a cucumber



**very calm and relaxed, especially
in a difficult situation**

"Sarah felt nervous, but she acted **as cool as a cucumber**."

"She walked in **as cool as a cucumber**, as if nothing had happened."



idiom

look someone in the eye



to talk to someone in an honest way, to show that what you are saying is true

"I can't believe you can **look me in the eye** and lie to me like that."

"Can you **look me in the eye** and say that you really love him?"



idiom

put yourself on the line



**to do something that has
big personal risks for you**

"Look, I'm **putting myself on the line** for you here. I could get fired if they find out what we're up to!"

"Firefighters always **put themselves on the line** every working day."



English With Karim



idiom

roll up your sleeves



get ready for hard work

"Well, we have a long day ahead, so let's **roll up our sleeves** and start!"

"I know you're disappointed, but you need to **roll up your sleeves** and redouble your efforts."



English With Karim



idiom

(be) in the public eye



to be famous and written about in newspapers and magazines and seen on television

"Celebrities make a lot of money, but being **in the public eye** and getting recognized all the time has its drawbacks."

"The royal family are always **in the public eye**."



English With Karim



idiom

ring the changes



to make major changes to something

"Let's **ring the changes** and repaint the whole house."

"I'm not surprised that Tina showed up with purple hair today—she loves **ringing the changes** with her hair color."



English With Karim



idiom

get/go back to nature



**to spend time living in a simple way
without modern machines, electricity, etc.**

"They went on a camping trip to **get back to nature.**"

"My sister really wanted to **go back to nature**, but I like modern technology too much to do that."



English With Karim



idiom

a change of heart



a situation in which you change your opinion about someone or something

"She was going to sell her house but had **a change of heart** at the last minute."

"The government seems to have had **a change of heart** about nursery education."



English With Karim



idiom

in high spirits



happy, enjoying things

"He seemed sad the last time I saw him, so I'm glad he's **in high spirits** tonight."

"Well, you're **in high spirits**! You must have passed that test you were worried about."



English With Karim



idiom

have kittens



**to be very worried, upset,
or angry about something**

"My mother **had kittens** when I said I was going to buy a motorbike."

"My father **had kittens** when I stayed out late yesterday."



English With Karim



idiom

a little bird told me



**said when you don't want to reveal
the source of your information**

"How did you know the news?"

"Oh, **a little bird told me.**"

"**A little bird told me** that you've got engaged."



idiom

men in blue



the police

"The **men in blue** are chasing the drug dealer."

"We caught a thief in our house, we're just waiting for the **men in blue** to come arrest him."



English With Karim



idiom

I wasn't born yesterday



used for telling someone that you are not stupid enough to believe what they are saying

"I know what's going on. **I wasn't born yesterday.**"

"You say you would pay me back as soon as possible, but I don't believe you. **I wasn't born yesterday**, you know."



idiom

the salt of the earth



**an ordinary person who is respected
because they are honest and good**

“My father is **the salt of the earth**. He works hard and always helps people who are in need.”

“Mrs. Jones is **the salt of the earth**. She is the first to help anyone in trouble.”



idiom

up in the air



if a plan is up in the air, you have not yet decided what will happen

"The whole future of the project is still **up in the air.**"

"Our trip is still very much **up in the air.**"



English With Karim



idiom

live from hand to mouth



to live without a lot of money

"My father earned very little and there were four kids, so we **lived from hand to mouth**."

"The family has been **living from hand to mouth** ever since their father lost his job."



idiom

go Dutch



to agree to share the cost of something, especially a meal

"I don't want you to pay for my ticket. Let's **go Dutch**."

"We **went Dutch** on a meal in the new restaurant in Shaftesbury Avenue."



English With Karim



idiom

get hitched



to get married

"Did you hear? Sarah and David **got hitched** last week!"

"They **got hitched** last year without telling anybody about it."



English With Karim



idiom

(be) back on your feet



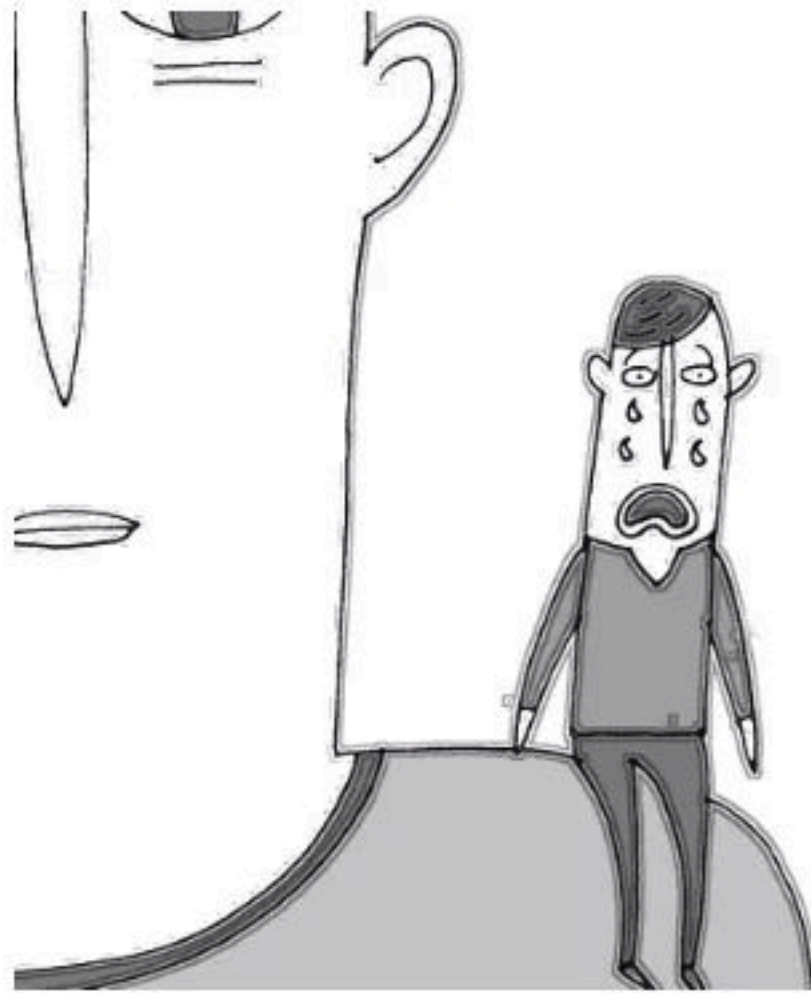
to be healthy again after a period of illness

"Jim's hoping he'll **be back on his feet** by next week."

"Sarah is happy to **be back on her feet** again after her hospital stay."



a shoulder to cry on



someone who listens to you with sympathy
when you talk about your problems

Examples :

- "She was always **a shoulder to cry on** for her friends."
- "Janine needed **a shoulder to cry on** after she lost her job, so she came over to my apartment."



walk on air



to feel extremely excited or happy

Examples :

- "After the delivery of her baby, she was **walking on air**."
- "Since their engagement, he's been **walking on air**."

be at death's door



to be very sick

Examples :

- "Most of the survivors of the airplane crash are still **at death's door**."
- "His skin was so pale, he looked like he was **at death's door**."



have the last laugh



to succeed when others
thought you would not

Examples :

- "She was fired from the company last year, but she **had the last laugh** when she was hired by their main rival at twice the salary."
- "After so many people dismissed her, Lisa **had the last laugh** by moving to Hollywood and becoming a well-known character actress."





to praise someone for doing something good

Examples :

- "My teacher **patted me on the back** for my good marks in the maths test."
- "The coach **patted each player on the back** after the game."



blow your top



to become extremely angry

Examples :

- "My father **will blow his top** when he sees what happened to the car."
- "My mother **blew her top** when I told her I was quitting medical school."



cry your eyes out



to cry a lot

Examples :

- "I was so upset that day, I **cried my eyes out**."
- "She **cried her eyes out** when he left her for another girl."

have butterflies (in your stomach)



to feel very nervous, usually about something you are going to do

Examples :

- "I always **have butterflies in my stomach** before an exam."
- "I almost didn't go on stage and perform tonight because I **had butterflies in my stomach.**"

keep a straight face



to manage to stop yourself from smiling or laughing

Examples :

- " Barbara tried to **keep a straight face**, but in the end she just couldn't help laughing."
- "What went through Tom's mind I can't imagine, but he did manage to **keep a straight face**."



Idiom

I could murder something



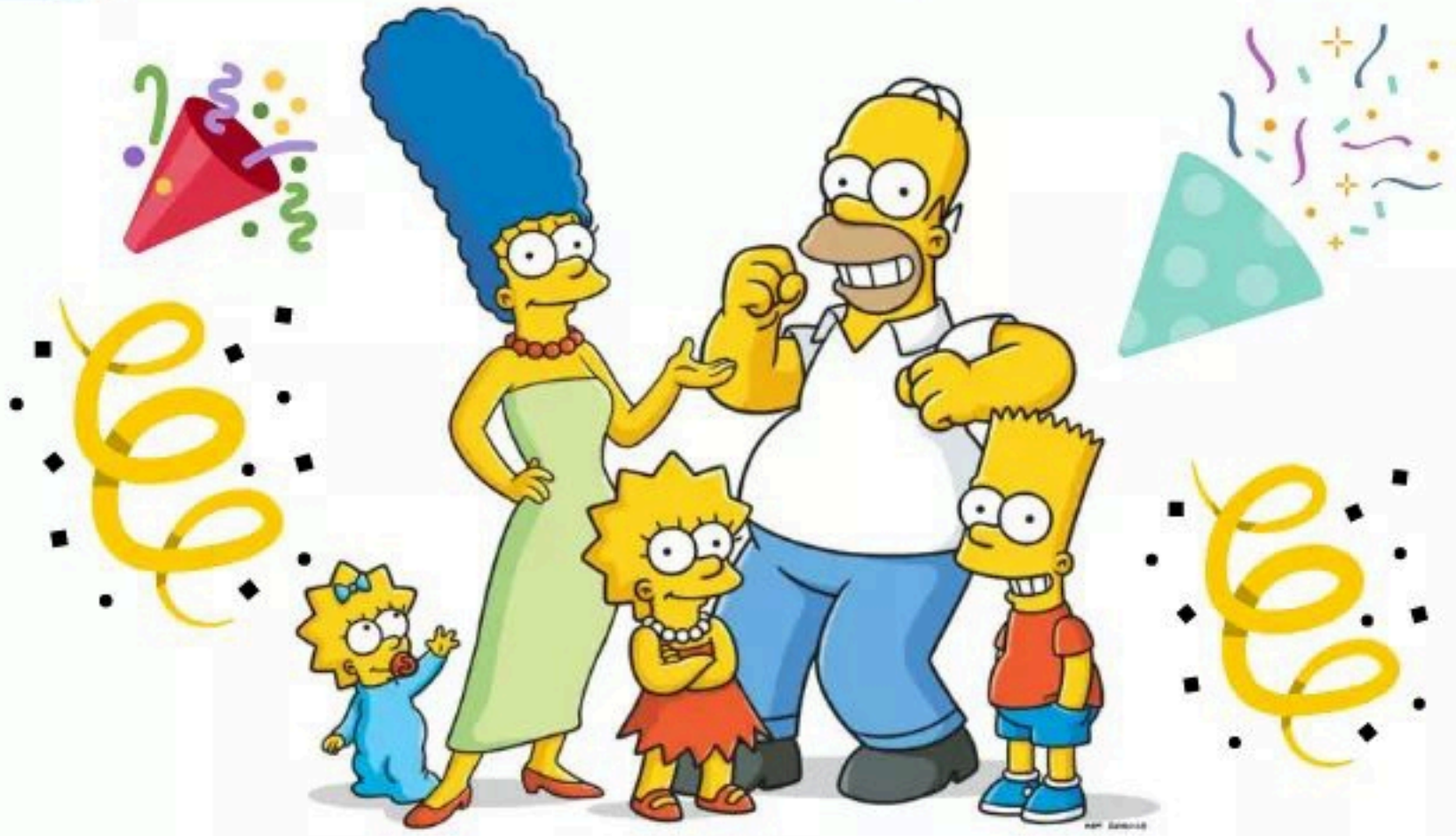
used to say that you are very hungry or thirsty and want a particular food or drink

Examples :

- "I **could murder** a cup of tea!"
- "I'm hungry after that walk. I **could murder** a hamburger right now."



throw a party



to have a party

Examples :

- "Peter **threw a party** for Brad's 18th birthday."
- "Bill **threw a party** for his sister before she went away to college."



from A to Z



including everything, completely

Examples :

- "This book tells the story of her life **from A to Z.**"
- "Peter knows London **from A to Z.**"



party animal



a person who loves parties

Examples :

- "Sarah is a real **party animal** - she likes to dance all night."
- "My boyfriend and I are real **party animals**."

as gentle as a lamb



said about kind, innocent, and gentle people

Examples :

- "Sarah is **as gentle as a lamb**. That's why everybody likes her."
- Peter may seem a bad person, but he's **as gentle as a lamb**. He's actually helped me carry my groceries many times.



(be) on cloud nine



to be extremely happy and excited

Examples :

- "Was Helen pleased about getting that job?" "Pleased? She **was on cloud nine!**"
- He **was on cloud nine** after he passed the exam.

save the day



to rescue someone or a situation
from danger or failure

Examples :

- "The team seemed to be heading for disaster until a late goal **saved the day**."
- "Peter **saved the day** by lending me his suit for the interview."





to punish someone severely

Examples :

- "My parents will **skin me alive** if they see my grades."
- "My mother will **skin me alive** for being so late home."

Idiom

have bigger fish to fry



to have something more important to do

Examples :

- "I can't answer your question. I **have bigger fish to fry.**"
- "I want Chris to help me with this project, but he claims he **has bigger fish to fry** right now."



have money to burn



to spend a lot of money on things
that are not necessary

Examples :

- "Peter seems to **have money to burn**. He always buys his girlfriend extravagant things"
- "I don't know what Sarah's job is but she certainly seems to **have money to burn**."



in bad shape



in bad physical condition

Examples :

- "Bill is **in bad shape**. He needs to exercise regularly and go on a diet."
- "Fred had a little accident, and he's **in bad shape**."



Idiom

give someone a hard time



to make things difficult or unpleasant for someone

Examples :

- "Her kids always **give her a hard time** when she takes them shopping."
- "Sarah left the company because her boss was **giving her a really hard time.**"



marry money



to marry a rich person

Examples :

- "Sarah **married money** and got rich."
- "Peter's sister **married money** — she lives in London now."





To be sold quickly and in large quantities

Examples :

- " The company have **sold** their new game **like hotcakes**."
- " The fancy new cars were **selling like hotcakes**."



feel blue



to feel sad

Examples :

- "Sarah **felt blue** after her divorce."
- "I have been **feeling blue** ever since I have heard that my daughter will be moving abroad for good."



you name it

Apple juice!
Orange juice!
Pineapple juice!
You name it!



used after a list of things to mean that there are many more you could mention

Examples :

- "The camp offers horse riding, tennis, water sports, **you name it.**"
- "Clothes, books – **you name it,** they've got it!"



lose it



to become very angry and upset

Examples :

- "I'd been trying so hard to stay calm but in the end I just **lost it**."
- "Sarah completely **lost it** with one of the kids in class."



Idiom

stab someone in the back



to harm someone who
trusts you

Examples :

- "When I was in trouble, all my friends **stabbed me in the back.**"
- "I thought that she was my friend. I can't believe that she **stabbed me in the back.**"



leave someone in the lurch



to leave someone in a difficult situation without helping them

Examples :

- "My secretary **left me in the lurch** last month and I haven't found a replacement yet."
- "When Janet's husband decided to go on holiday with his friends, he **left her in the lurch** organizing her kid's birthday party."



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give someone the cold shoulder



to intentionally ignore someone or treat someone in an unfriendly way

Examples :

- "I thought she really liked me, but the next day **she gave me the cold shoulder.**"
- "After I got the promotion, a few of my co-workers started **giving me the cold shoulder.**"



Idiom

come out of your shell



to stop being shy and begin to confidently show your real character and feelings

Examples :

- "It took Dan a few weeks to **come out of his shell**, but he's doing well now."
- "Sarah used to be very shy but I think she's **come out of her shell**."



Idiom

(be) nuts about sth/sb



to be very enthusiastic about an object,
activity, or person

Examples :

- "Peter's nuts about books."
- "Sophie's nuts about dinosaurs."



break your back



to work extremely hard

Examples :

- "These days you have to **break your back** to make a business work."
- "He **broke his back** to get the project done on time."

Idiom

(be) green with envy



wishing very much that you had what someone else has

Examples :

- "When I heard about his new job I **was green with envy.**"
- "Peter is heading off to Spain for the week, and I'm **green with envy.**"



do a runner



to leave quickly without paying for something or in order to avoid trouble

Examples :

- "Sarah's dad **did a runner** soon after she was born."
- "They were arrested after **doing a runner** from an expensive restaurant."

bag of bones



someone who is extremely thin

Examples :

- "The child was just a **bag of bones** when we found her."
- "I've lost so much weight that I'm just turning into a **bag of bones**."





to do something harmful to someone else in order to gain an advantage for yourself

Examples :

- "Tommy was caught with the marijuana in his backpack, but he **threw me under the bus** and said it belonged to me."
- "I'm not going to **throw my friend under the bus** for something he did 25 years ago."



so far, so good



used for saying that someone or something has been successful up to this point

Examples :

- "How's the project going?" **"So far, so good."**
- "How's your new job?" **"So far, so good."**

Idiom

(be) long in the tooth



very old

Examples :

- She's a little **long in the tooth** to be wearing shorts, don't you think?
- I think he **is** a bit **long in the tooth** to be a romantic hero in that play.



(be) a chicken



someone who is not at all brave

Examples :

- Don't **be a chicken**. Tell her that you really love her.
- I'm scared of the dark. I'm a big **chicken**.

(be) off



to depart, leave, or go away

Examples :

- "Are you leaving so soon? Yes, **I'm off** to the grocery store before it closes."
- "I'm so excited because **I'm off** to study abroad in England next semester."



go pear-shaped



if things go pear-shaped, they go wrong

Examples :

- We'd planned to go away for the weekend, but it all **went pear-shaped**.
- We started well, but it all **went pear-shaped** and we lost five matches in a row.



a hard nut to crack



a problem that is very difficult to solve or a person who is very difficult to understand

Examples :

- Tom sure is **a hard nut to crack**. I can't figure him out.
- This algebra equation sure is **a hard nut to crack**.

Idiom

to cut a long story short



used to say that you are only going to mention the main facts of something

Examples :

- **To cut a long story short**, he threw them out of the house.
- I took a short-term job with the company and, **to cut a long story short**, I ended up as managing director.



as fit as a fiddle



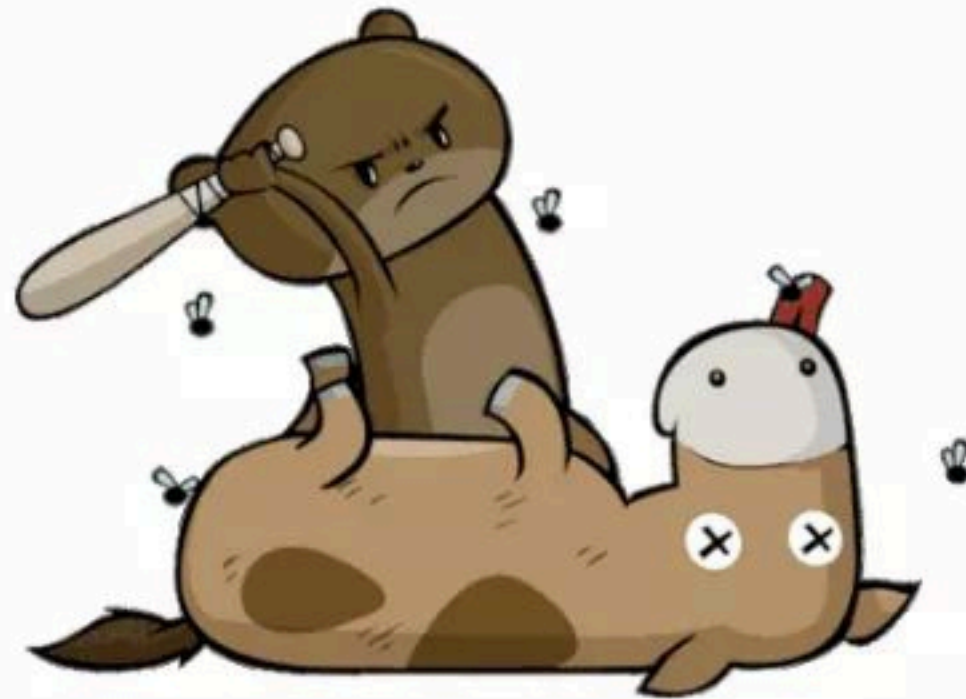
to be very healthy and strong

Examples :

- My grandmother's 89, but she's **as fit as a fiddle**.
- Yes, I did have surgery a few months ago, but I'm **as fit as a fiddle** now.



beat a dead horse



to waste effort on something when there is no chance of succeeding

Examples :

- We've all moved on from that problem, so there's no use **beating a dead horse**.
- There's no use trying to keep this business going. We are **beating a dead horse**.

off the hook



freed from a difficult situation

Examples :

- John's agreed to go to the meeting in my place so that lets me **off the hook**.
- I think I am **off the hook** now.

drop the ball



to make a mistake, especially by doing something in a stupid or careless way

Examples :

- For God's sake don't **drop the ball** on this - we're relying on you.
- Everything was going fine in the election until my campaign manager **dropped the ball**.

thrilled to bits



extremely pleased

Examples :

- I was **thrilled to bits** to hear that I'd been selected for a literary award in New York City.
- She was **thrilled to bits** with her present.

chew the fat



to chat or gossip.

Examples :

- My sister and I haven't seen each other in nearly five years, so we stayed up half the night **chewing the fat**.
- We **chewed the fat** until the early hours of the morning.

in deep water



in a difficult or serious situation

Examples :

- John is having trouble with back taxes. He's in **deep water**
- I am in **deep water** because I lied to my wife.

pay tribute to



to praise someone or something publicly

Examples :

- At the memorial service, I **paid tribute to** his kindness.
- The town **paid tribute to the** firefighters who died in the fire.

food for thought



something worth thinking seriously about

Examples :

- Thank you for your suggestion – it gave us a lot of **food for thought**.
- That meeting really gave me **food for thought**—I might invest in their company after all.



a blessing in disguise



something that at first seems bad, but later turns out to be beneficial

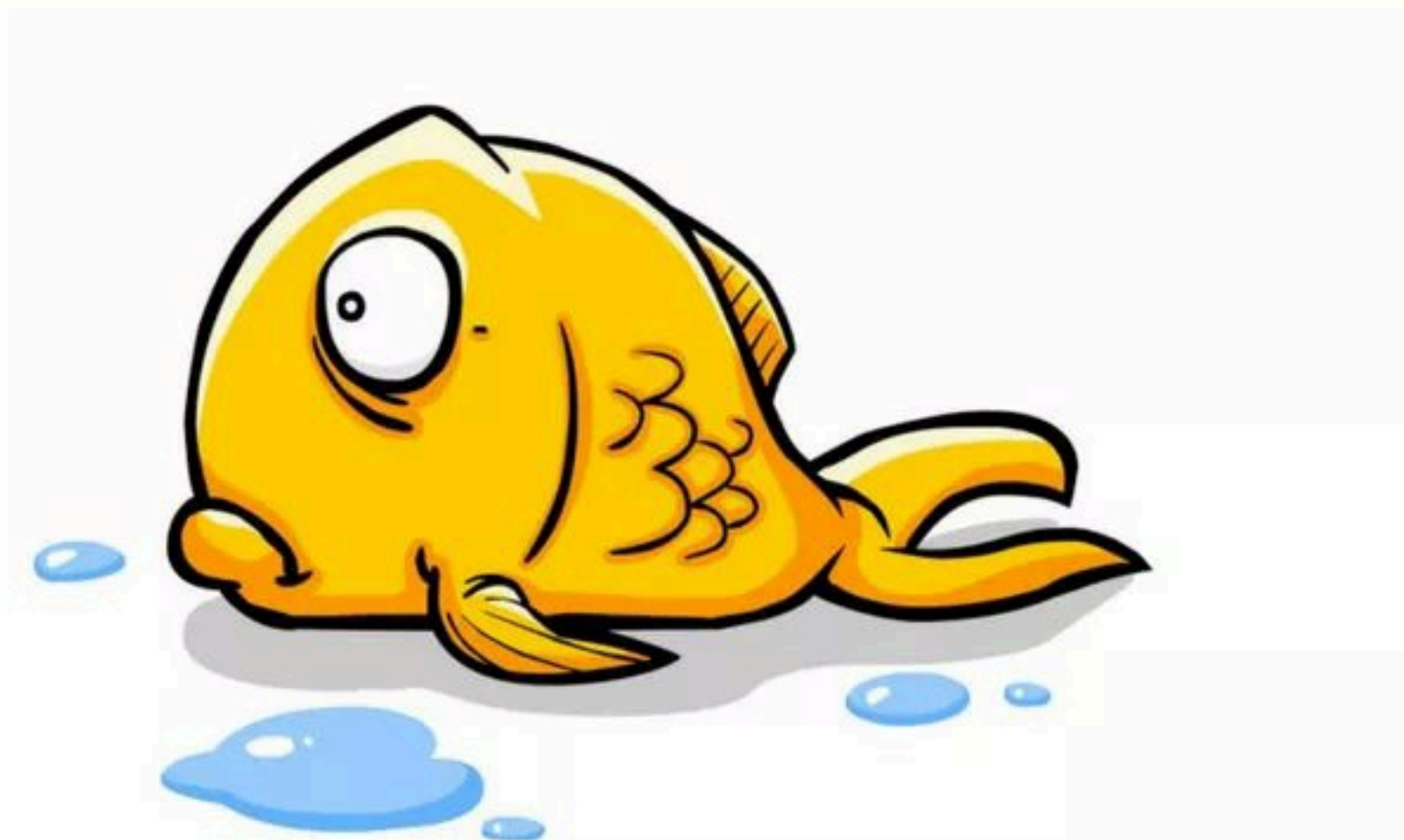
Examples :

- Losing that job was a **blessing in disguise** really.
- Dad's illness was a **blessing in disguise**; it brought the family together for the first time in years.



Idiom

like a fish out of water



someone who is uncomfortable in a specific situation

Examples :

- I felt **like a fish out of water** in my new job.
- When Carla transferred to a new school, she was **like a fish out of water** because she didn't know anyone there.



lose your head



to lose control and become nervous or angry

Examples :

- Everything went dark, and I just **lost my head** and couldn't think what to do.
- She **lost her head** when he told her he wanted a divorce.

egghead



someone who has a lot of knowledge and intelligence and is only interested in academic subjects

Examples :

- The Government was dominated by self-important **eggheads**.
- I think Jane will do well in her exams. She has always been a kind of **egghead** from elementary school all the way through college.



the ball is in your court



It is up to you to make the next decision
or step

Examples :

- Well, they invited you, so **the ball is in your court** now. Do you want to go out with them or not?
- I've done my bit. **The ball is in his court** now.



up to my eyes



to be very busy doing something

Examples :

- There's no way I can take a vacation right now, I'm **up to my eyes** in work at the moment!
- Dinner ! This weekend ! Sorry, Peter but I really can't. I'm **up to my eyes** at the moment. Another time, maybe.



burn the midnight oil



to work late into the night

Examples :

- Chris is asleep after **burning the midnight oil** trying to finish his article.
- I have a big exam tomorrow so I'll be **burning the midnight oil** tonight.



(be) full of beans



to have a lot of energy and enthusiasm

Examples :

- Sarah **was full of beans** after a long sleep.
- I wish I was one of those people who **are full of beans** first thing in the morning.



easy does it



do it slowly and carefully

Examples :

- "Can I put it down now?" "Yes, but it's fragile so **easy does it.**"
- I was on the back of Sarah's motorbike and she was going really fast, so I said "**Easy does it!**"

throw money down the drain



to waste money by spending it on something useless

Examples :

- Don't buy any more of that low-quality merchandise. That's just **throwing money down the drain.**
- That's a worthless investment. He's **throwing his money down the drain.**



all bark and no bite



full of talk, but low on action

Examples :

- John talks big about how much money he'll make someday, but he's **all bark and no bite**.
- He looks rough and dangerous, somewhat like a gangster and talks tough, but he is **all bark and no bite**.

keep your nose clean



to avoid getting into trouble

Examples :

- I'd only been out of prison three months, so I was trying to **keep my nose clean**.
- By avoiding the drug dealers on the corner street, James was making an effort to **keep his nose clean**.



dog days



the hottest days of the summer

Examples :

- "As a kid, I loved lounging in the swimming pool during the **dog days** of summer."
- "During the **dog days** of summer, people prefer to remain indoors and go out as little as possible."



throw in the towel



to quit

to admit defeat or failure

Examples :

- My brother was so fed up of his manager that he **threw in the towel** and quit his job.
- Jim beat me for the fourth time, so I **threw in the towel**.

turn over a new leaf



to change your life by starting to be a better person or stopping a bad habit

Examples :

- He realized he was in the wrong and promised to **turn over a new leaf**.
- She **turned over a new leaf** and began getting to work on time.

Idiom

skeletons in the closet



an embarrassing or shameful secret

Examples :

- He didn't believe me when I said that I didn't have any **skeletons in my closet**.
- That politician has a lot of **skeletons in his closet**. If they are ever revealed, he will not only lose his job-he'll be sent to prison!



know (sth) inside out

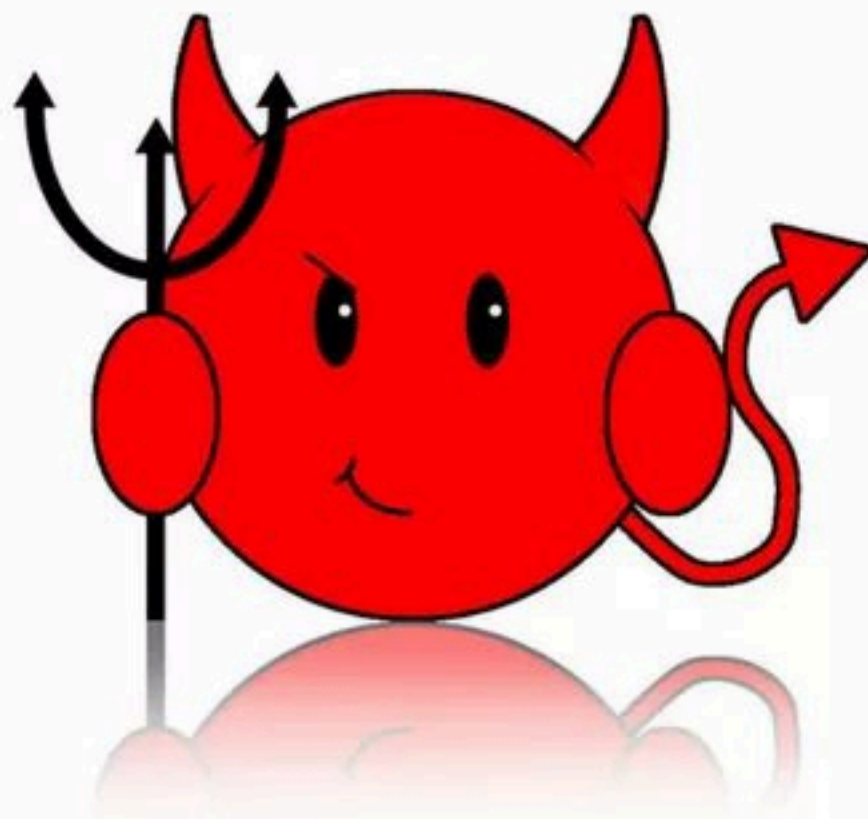


to know everything about a subject

Examples :

- He **knows** that computer program **inside out**.
- She **knows** the business **inside out**.

Speak of the devil



something you say when the person you were talking about appears unexpectedly

Examples :

- "Did you hear what happened to Anna yesterday - oh, **speak of the devil**, here she is."
- "Well, **speak of the devil!** We were just talking about you!"



smell a rat



to believe something is wrong
or suspicious

Examples :

- On observing the thief's actions, the policeman **smelt a rat** and realised that the thief was lying and up to something foul.
- He's been working late with her every night this week -
I smell a rat!



Idiom

pull the wool over somebody's eyes



to deceive someone by not telling the truth

Examples :

- He tried **pulling the wool over our eyes** by hiding the profits in separate accounts, but we were quick to catch onto his scheme.
- Stop trying to **pull the wool over my eyes!** What were you two fighting about just now?



the best thing since sliced bread



a new invention or innovation that is likely to improve people's lives significantly

Examples :

- These waterproof jeans are **the best thing since sliced bread**. I don't have to worry about getting soaked!
- The invention of the internet has changed the way we live; it is **the best thing since sliced bread**.



have a bone to pick with someone



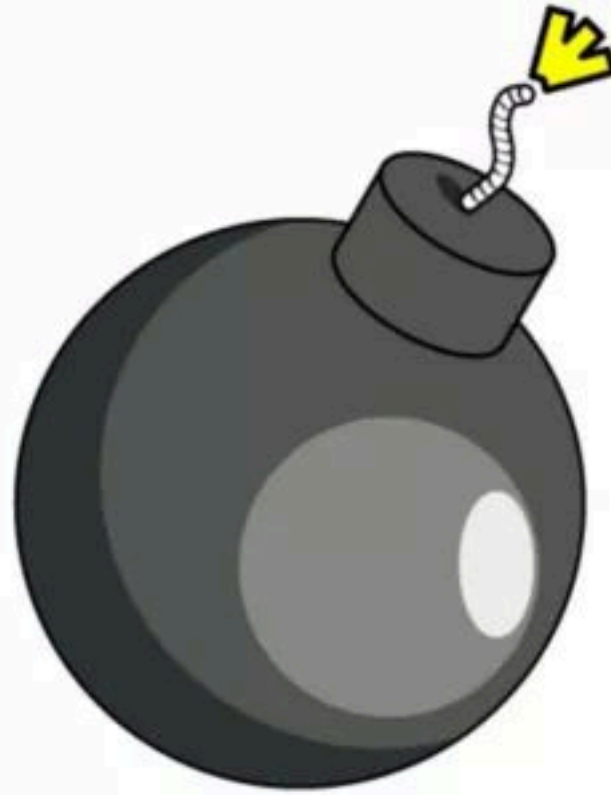
to want to talk to someone about something annoying they have done

Examples :

- I've got a bone to pick with you - you've been using my shaver again.
- Hey, Bill. I've got a bone to pick with you. Where is the money you owe me?



cost a bomb



expensive

Examples :

- A fancy car like that **costs a bomb**, so I definitely can't afford it!
- "Your watch is gorgeous."
"I should hope so, it **cost a bomb**."

full of yourself



to be always talking about yourself or your achievements in a way that annoys other people

Examples :

- I couldn't stand him, he was so **full of himself**.
- I doubt she even thought about what you might need, she's so **full of herself**.



crowded so tightly together in a space
that there is no room to move

Examples :

- We were **packed like sardines** in the rush-hour train.
- We were **packed like sardines** in the ship and could barely move.



Idiom

bury your head in the sand



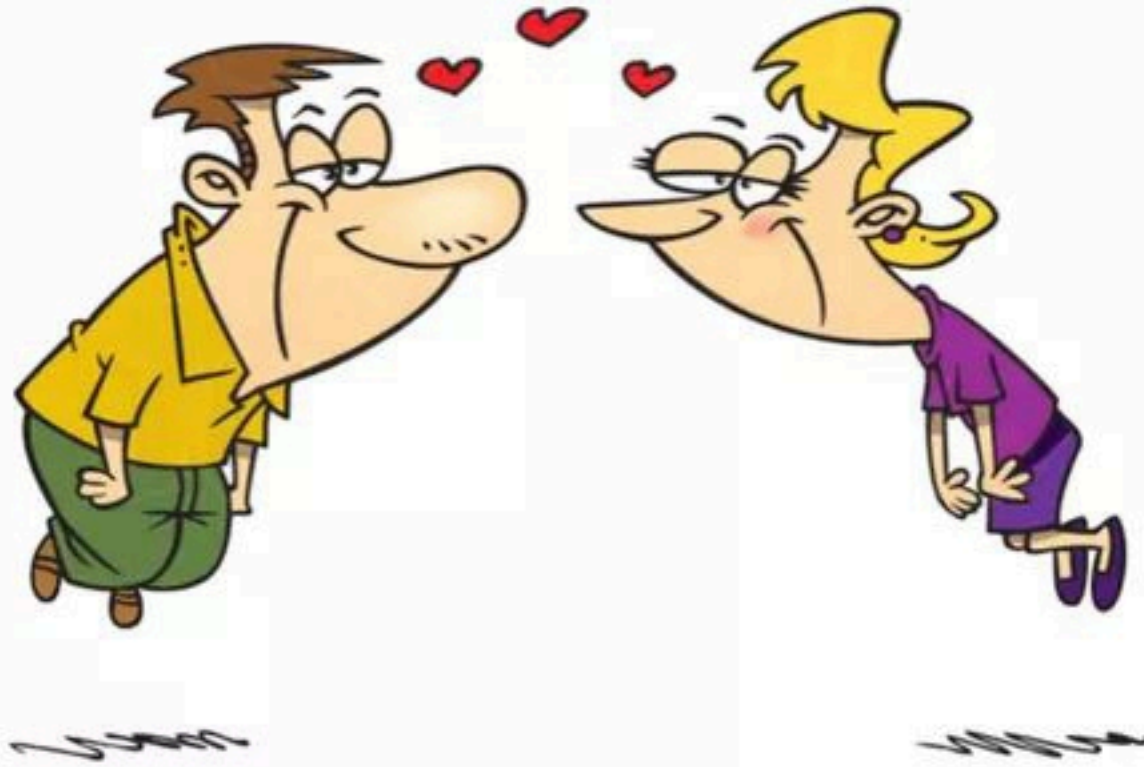
to ignore a problem or an unpleasant situation and hope that it will disappear

Examples :

- You've got to face facts here - you can't just **bury your head in the sand**.
- You'll never solve your problems if you just **bury your head in the sand** - you have to face them.

Idiom

only have eyes for someone



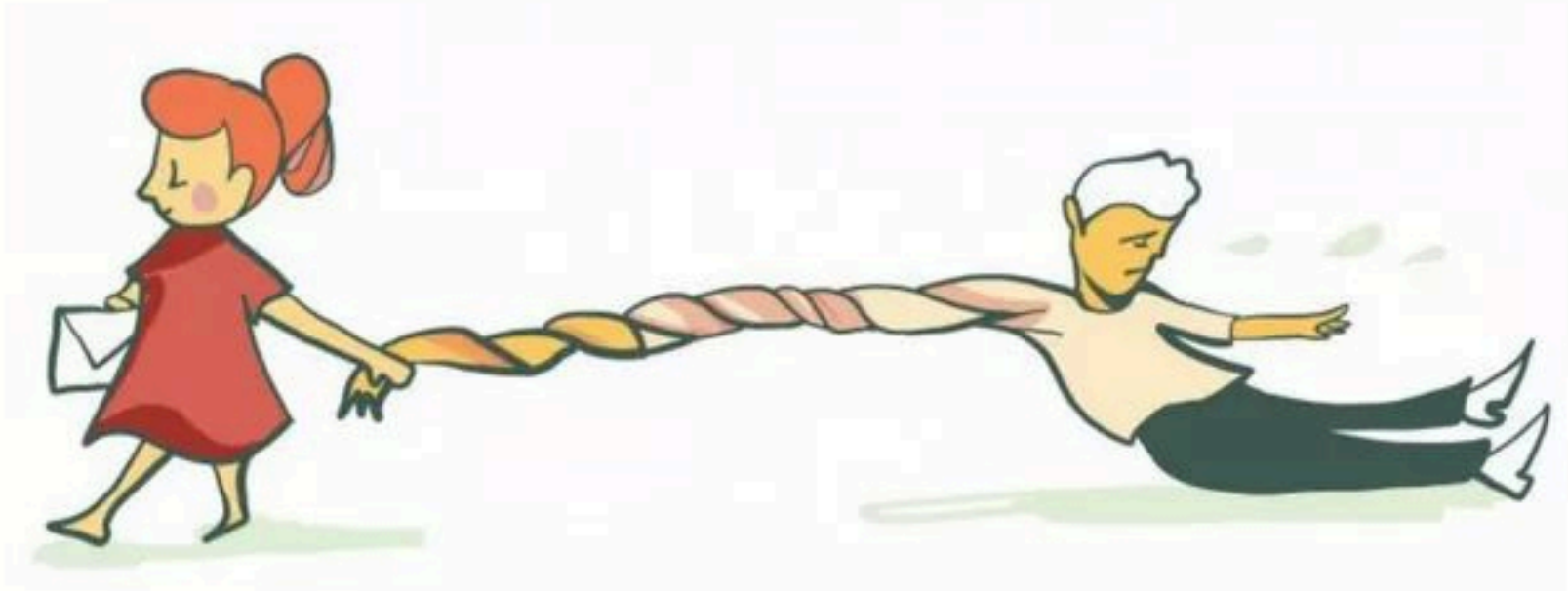
to be interested in or attracted to only one person

Examples :

- Peter **only has eyes for** Sarah. He's not interested in other girls.
- Oh! I doubt Bella would cheat on you—she **only has eyes for** you!

Idiom

twist someone's arm



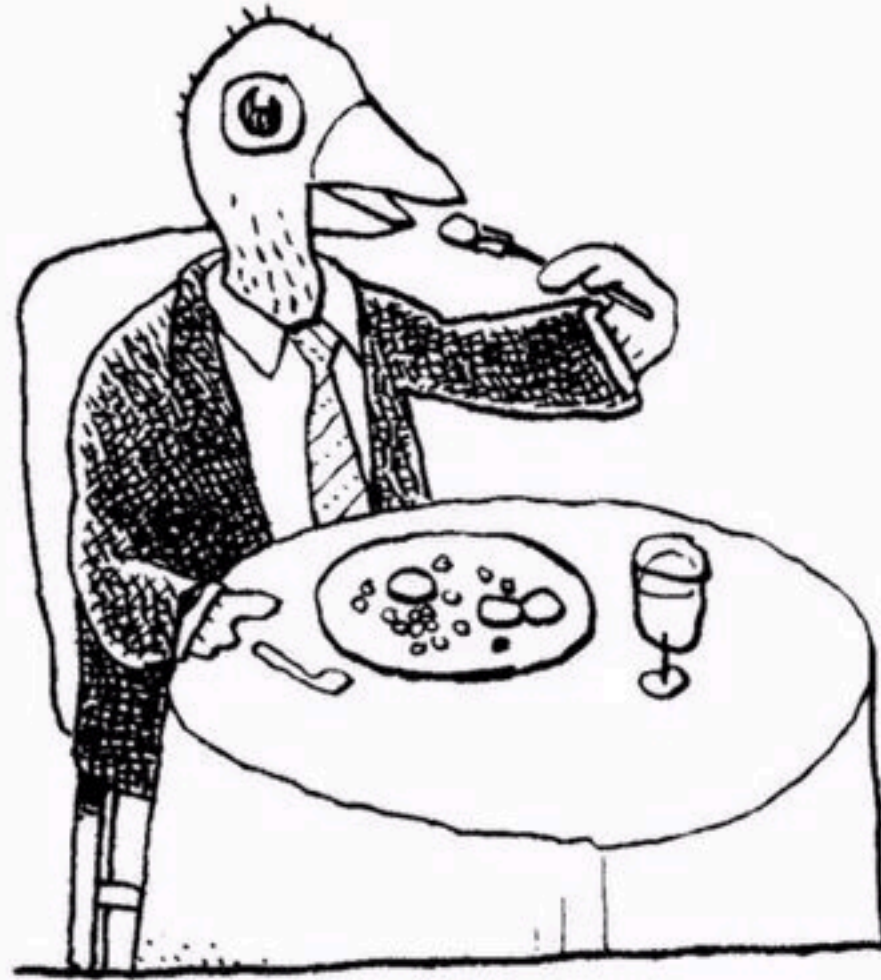
to persuade someone to do something
that they do not want to do

Examples :

- I didn't want to go to the exhibition, but Linda **twisted my arm**.
- I wasn't going to come, but George **twisted my arm**.

Idiom

eat like a bird



to eat very little

Examples :

- Don't worry about making extra food for Kim, she **eats like a bird**.
- You **eat like a bird** – I don't know how you stay healthy.

Idiom

bite the bullet



force yourself to do something
difficult or unpleasant

Examples :

- I hate going to the dentist, but I'll just have to **bite the bullet**.
- If you no longer want to marry Sarah, you need to **bite the bullet** and tell her.

Idiom

a world of difference



used for emphasizing the difference
between two people or things

Examples :

- There's **a world of difference** between the service in the two hotels.
- There's **a world of difference** between high school classes and college classes.

Idiom

not be on speaking terms



be so angry with each other that they refuse to speak to each other

Examples :

- They had an argument last night and now they're **not on speaking terms**.
- He **was not on speaking terms** with his brother or sisters.

Idiom

storm in a teacup



a lot of unnecessary anger and worry about a matter that is not important

Examples :

- My brother and sister had a big argument about the television yesterday, but it was just a **storm in a teacup**.
- I really think you're making a **storm in a teacup** over this. It's just a tiny scratch on the car!

Idiom

get out of bed on the wrong side



used to say that somebody
is in a bad mood

Examples :

- I think Ann **got out of bed on the wrong side** this morning.
- Why is Peter so irritable this morning? Did he **get out of bed on the wrong side** again?

Idiom

pull someone's leg



to tell someone something that is not true, as a joke

Examples :

- Is it really your car or are you **pulling my leg**?
- Stop **pulling my leg** – you didn't have lunch with Bono!

Idiom

like a dog with two tails



very happy and excited

Examples :

- Mary's been **like a dog with two tails** ever since she got her promotion.
- I was **like a dog with two tails** when they told me that I passed the exam.

Idiom

let your hair down



to enjoy yourself and start to relax,
especially after working very hard

Examples :

- The party gave us all a chance to really **let our hair down**.
- We need a place where young folk can **let their hair down** and enjoy themselves.

Idiom

think on your feet



be able to think and react to things very quickly

Examples :

- When you're called on in class, you have to be able to **think on your feet**.
- He can **think on his feet** quicker than anyone I've ever met.

Idiom

one of those days



a bad day, full of problems

Examples :

- It's been **one of those days**. I lost my keys and then I fell over running for the bus.
- I forgot to call her again - it's just been **one of those days**.

Idiom

BARK UP THE WRONG TREE



Making a mistake or a false assumption in something you are trying to achieve.

Examples :

- The police spent three months **barking up the wrong tree** on the murder investigation.
- You're **barking up the wrong tree** if you think Sam can help you.

Idiom

FOR A CHANGE



instead of what usually happens

Examples :

- Why don't you let me drive **for a change**?
- It's nice to hear some good news **for a change**.

on the tip of my tongue



- If something that you want to say is on the tip of your tongue, you think you know it and that you will be able to remember it very soon.

Examples :

- Her name is **on the tip of my tongue**.
- - Can you remember the name of our teacher last week?
 - I think it begins with P. Oh, it's **on the tip of my tongue**.
 - Was it Peter?
 - Yes that was it. Good teacher



10 Ways to Encourage Someone

- You can do it!
- You're doing great.
- Keep up the good work!
- That's a real improvement.
- You're on the right track.
- You've almost got it.
- Don't give up! / Hang in there!

(when someone is currently having difficulties)

- Give it your best shot. (best shot = best try, best effort)
- Nice job! / You did great!

(after the person has done something good)

- That was a nice try.


(say this after someone made a good effort but failed)




Expressions + **ing**

When the following expressions are followed by a verb I
the verb ends in **-ing** :

• It's no use ...

There is nothing you can do about the situation
so **it's no use** worry**ing** about it. 

There is nothing you can do about the situation
so **it's no use** **to worry** about it. 


• It's no good ...

It's no good try**ing** to persuade me. You won't succeed. 

It's no good **to try** to persuade me. You won't succeed. 

• It's (not) worth ...

I live only a short walk from here I so **it's not worth** taking a taxi. 

I live only a short walk from here I so **it's not worth** **to take** a taxi. 

→ You can say that a film is **worth seeing** / a book is **worth reading**
not a film is **worth to see** / a book is **worth to read**.



Phrases for Disagreeing

Expressing disagreement

- I beg to differ.
- I don't think so.
- (**very informal**) No way.
- I'm afraid I disagree.
- I totally disagree.
- Not necessarily.
- That's not always true.
- That's not always the case.
- Yes, but... [**say your opinion**]
- No, I'm not so sure about that.

I don't think so.



Phrases for **Agreeing**

Expressing agreement

- Exactly.
- Absolutely.
- That's for sure.
- No doubt about it.
- **(informal)** I'll say!
- I couldn't agree more.
- I was just going to say that.
- **(informal)** Tell me about it! / You're telling me!
- That's exactly what I think. / That's exactly how I feel.
- **(weak)** I suppose so./I guess so.



Hats off to



- Said to praise and thank someone for doing something helpful.

Examples :

- **Hats off to** Peter , without him we'd have never finished this project on time.
- This new car has the most unusual design on the road, and for that I say **hats off to** the designers.



idiom

hit it off



to quickly become good friends with someone

"Look how John **hit it off** with Mary. Yes, they really **hit it off**."

"We had similar ideas about the show, and the two of us **hit it off** right away."



English With Karim



brain-dead

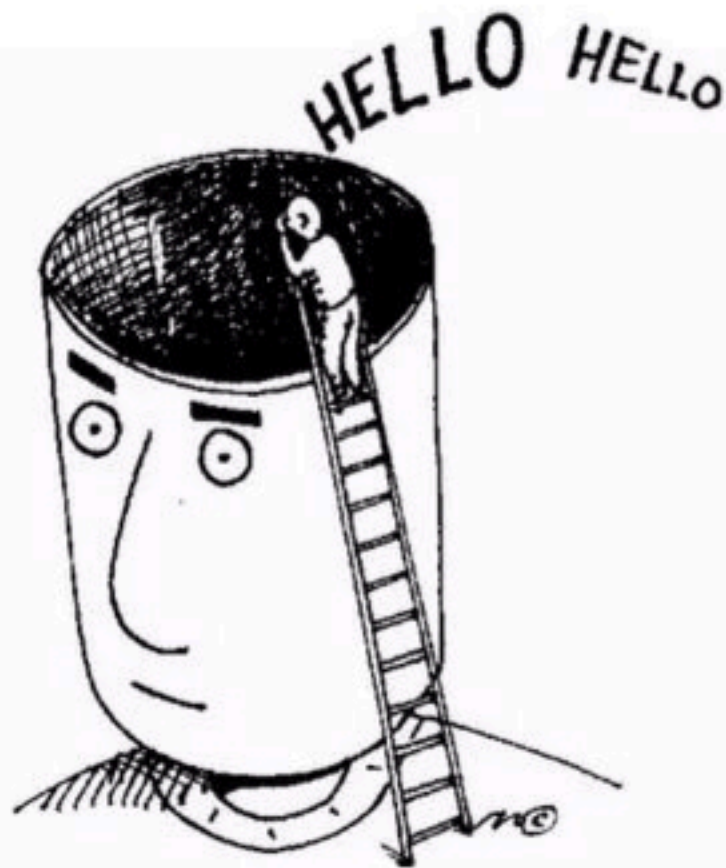


If someone is brain-dead, their mind is not working effectively, usually because they are very tired or very bored

Examples :

- By the time I leave work I'm completely **brain-dead**.
- What's the matter with you? Are you **brain-dead** or something?

brain-dead



If someone is brain-dead, their mind is not working effectively, usually because they are very tired or very bored

Examples :

- By the time I leave work I'm completely **brain-dead**.
- What's the matter with you? Are you **brain-dead** or something?

idiom

(be) in the mood for something



to feel that you would like to do something

"I don't know why, but I'm really **in the mood for** ice cream today."

"I'm **in the mood for** shopping today."



idiom

no laughing matter



something that should be treated seriously

"Boys, this is **no laughing matter**. One of you could have been seriously hurt."

"Your kids' behaviour is an offence. It's **no laughing matter**".



English With Karim



idiom

**avoid someone or something
like the plague**



**to stay away as much as possible from
(someone or something)**

"Your boss is so dirty. If I were you, I'd **avoid him like the plague.**"

"I'm not a fan of parties - in fact I **avoid them like the plague.**"



idiom

cry over spilt milk



to waste time feeling upset about something bad that has happened and cannot be changed

"Yes, we made a mistake, but there's no point in **crying over spilt milk.**"

"Please calm down, you're just **crying over spilt milk.** We already submitted the report, so we can't fix it now."



English With Karim



idiom

(be) out of the woods



**to no longer be in danger
or difficulty**

"Her surgery went as well as we could have hoped, but she's not **out of the woods** yet."

"The nation's economy is not **out of the woods** yet."



English With Karim



idiom

(be) on the right track



**to be doing something in a way
that will bring good results**

"These results suggest that we are **on the right track**."

"After all of those failed experiments, our team is finally
on **the right track now**."



idiom

it serves someone right



used for saying that you think someone deserves something unpleasant that happens to them

"I hear his wife is divorcing him." "**It serves him right** after the way he's treated her."

"He won't even talk to me." "**It serves you right** for lying to him."



idiom

(be) made of money



to be very rich

"No, you can't have another car - I'm not **made of money!**"

"I know you want the new phone, but the answer is no. I'm not **made of money.**"



idiom

(be) cut from the same cloth



to have very similar qualities to someone or something else

"Julia and her mother are **cut from the same cloth**, as they are both so kind and sweet."

"We're **cut from the same cloth**, you and I."



idiom

(be) wet behind the ears



to be young and without experience

"He's just finished high school, so he's still **wet behind the ears.**"

"Peter is too young to take on a job like this! He's still **wet behind the ears.**"



idiom

hit the roof



to become extremely angry

"Dad will **hit the roof** when he finds out I sold the car."

"My parents are going to **hit the roof** if they find out we had a party here!"



English With Karim



idiom

break the ice



make people feel more comfortable

"Someone suggested that we play a party game to **break the ice.**"

"Peter told a few jokes to **break the ice.**"



English With Karim



idiom

no-brainer



something so simple or obvious that you do not need to think much about it

"It should be illegal to drink and drive. That's a **no-brainer**."

"Taking that job over the one I had was a **no-brainer**"



English With Karim



idiom

old hand



someone who is very experienced and skilled in a particular area of activity

"We should be able to trust Silva to negotiate a good deal for us - he's an **old hand** at the game."

"Peter is an **old hand** at such compositions and has never had any trouble with them."



English With Karim



idiom

get something off your chest



to talk to someone about something that has been worrying you, so that you feel better about it

"He came to see me because he wanted to **get something off his chest.**"

"She felt happy when she **got it off her chest.** She had felt guilty for years."



idiom

(be) your own boss



to work for yourself and not be employed by someone else

"I'd really like to **be my own boss**."

"I'm very much **my own boss** and no one interferes with what I do."



idiom

(as) cool as a cucumber



**very calm and relaxed, especially
in a difficult situation**

"Sarah felt nervous, but she acted **as cool as a cucumber**."

"She walked in **as cool as a cucumber**, as if nothing had happened."



idiom

look someone in the eye



to talk to someone in an honest way, to show that what you are saying is true

"I can't believe you can **look me in the eye** and lie to me like that."

"Can you **look me in the eye** and say that you really love him?"



idiom

(be) in the public eye



to be famous and written about in newspapers and magazines and seen on television

"Celebrities make a lot of money, but being **in the public eye** and getting recognized all the time has its drawbacks."

"The royal family are always **in the public eye**."



idiom

a change of heart



a situation in which you change your opinion about someone or something

"She was going to sell her house but had **a change of heart** at the last minute."

"The government seems to have had **a change of heart** about nursery education."



English With Karim



idiom

have kittens



**to be very worried, upset,
or angry about something**

"My mother **had kittens** when I said I was going to buy a motorbike."

"My father **had kittens** when I stayed out late yesterday."



English With Karim



idiom

young at heart



thinking and behaving as if you were young, even though you are old

"Although he is over 80, he still feels **young at heart**."

"Dad may be nearly 90 but he's still **young at heart**."



English With Karim



idiom

young at heart



thinking and behaving as if you were young, even though you are old

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"Dad may be nearly 90 but he's still **young at heart**."



English With Karim



idiom

I wasn't born yesterday



used for telling someone that you are not stupid enough to believe what they are saying

"I know what's going on. **I wasn't born yesterday.**"

"You say you would pay me back as soon as possible, but I don't believe you. **I wasn't born yesterday**, you know."



idiom

the salt of the earth



**an ordinary person who is respected
because they are honest and good**

“My father is **the salt of the earth**. He works hard and always helps people who are in need.”

“Mrs. Jones is **the salt of the earth**. She is the first to help anyone in trouble.”



idiom

up in the air



if a plan is up in the air, you have not yet decided what will happen

"The whole future of the project is still **up in the air.**"

"Our trip is still very much **up in the air.**"



English With Karim



idiom

go Dutch



to agree to share the cost of something, especially a meal

"I don't want you to pay for my ticket. Let's **go Dutch**."

"We **went Dutch** on a meal in the new restaurant in Shaftesbury Avenue."



English With Karim



idiom

men in blue



the police

"The **men in blue** are chasing the drug dealer."

"We caught a thief in our house, we're just waiting for the **men in blue** to come arrest him."



English With Karim

