



IIT Madras

BSc Degree

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PHRASES & IDIOMS- PART 2

KARTHIKA SATHYANATHAN

COMMON PHRASES

1. Add insult to injury – to act in a way that makes bad situation worse
2. At the eleventh hour – at the last moment
3. Out of shape – Not physically strong, not fit, not in a healthy condition
4. Out of the loop – uninformed, not having the information that everyone else has
5. Apple of ones eyes – lovable
6. Crocodile tears – false tears
7. Hold ones tongue – remain silent
8. White elephant – A costly but useless possession
9. Out of touch – Not communicating with each other
10. Barking up the wrong tree – to be wrong about the way to achieve something or the reason for something

COMMON PHRASES

1. To call it a day – to stop what you were doing because you think you have done enough or do not want to do anymore.
2. Take the law into ones hand – to punish someone according to ones own idea of justice
3. Take the bull by horns – to face difficulties in a direct way (difficult and dangerous situations)
4. Burn the candle at both ends – to work extremely hard
5. Break the ice – to make people who have not met each other before feel more relaxed and comfortable.
6. A nine days' wonder – short-lived
7. The ball is in your court – it is your turn to make the next step or decision
8. Cost an arm and a leg – to be very expensive
9. Put the cart before the horse – to do things wrongly
10. Get your act together – to organise yourself so that you can do things in an effective way.

COMMON PHRASES

1. Put all your eggs in one basket – to depend for success on a single person or plan
2. Every cloud has a silver lining – every negative has a positive
3. To get out of hand – become difficult to control
4. To cry wolf – to call for help when you don't need it
5. It takes two to tango – actions or communication needs more than one person
6. To get something out of your system – to get rid of a wish or emotion especially a negative one, by allowing yourself to express it
7. To sit/ be on the fence – undecided / taking a neutral stand / not take sides
8. To step up ones game – to start performing better
9. To sell someone out – to snitch on someone or let their secret out
10. To be all Greek – be not understood