



IDIOMS AND PHRASES

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<i>It is all one to me</i>	:	just the same without any difference
<i>To be on the alert</i>	:	to be on guard; to be ready to act
<i>In the air</i>	:	prevalent, found everywhere
<i>To agree to differ</i>	:	to give up trying to convince each other
<i>Achilles' heel</i>	:	the one weak spot in someone's circumstance or character
<i>Act as someone/something</i>	:	to perform the actions or functions of (a specified person or thing)
<i>Act for someone</i>	:	to stand in as substitute for them
<i>Act on/upon someone/something</i>	:	to have an effect or influence on them or it
<i>Act on/upon something</i>	:	to follow (advice, etc); to obey (instructions, etc)
<i>Act something out</i>	:	to express (one's feelings, fears, etc) in one's behaviour, usually unconsciously
<i>Act up</i>	:	1. said of a machine, etc: to fail or function erratically 2. to behave badly
<i>To come of age</i>	:	to reach adult status
<i>To have an axe to grind</i>	:	a personal interest in some matter; private ends to serve
<i>To all intents and purpose</i>	:	practically; virtually
<i>To burn one's fingers</i>	:	to cause oneself trouble or harm
<i>To bid fair</i>	:	to seem likely
<i>To be beside oneself</i>	:	to lose self-possession
<i>In the palm of one's hand</i>	:	under one's control or influence
<i>To be in bad books of one</i>	:	to be out of favour with one
<i>To go back on one's word</i>	:	to fail to keep up one's word
<i>In black and white</i>	:	in writing
<i>On the brain</i>	:	constantly in the thoughts
<i>To be born with a silver spoon in the mouth</i>	:	to be born into wealth and luxury
<i>To bring down the house</i>	:	call forth general and loud applause
<i>To be in bad odour</i>	:	to be out of favour; in bad repute
<i>To burn the candles at both ends</i>	:	overtaxing the energies
<i>To bury the hatchet</i>	:	to make peace; to cease fighting
<i>To blow one's own trumpet</i>	:	to praise oneself
<i>To the backbone</i>	:	in every way; to the last bit; completely
<i>A bone of contention</i>	:	a subject of dispute
<i>In one's blood</i>	:	inherent in one's character
<i>To bear a charmed life</i>	:	to be invulnerable
<i>Black sheep</i>	:	bad character(s), scoundrel(s)
<i>Bear down on / upon someone / something</i>	:	to move threateningly towards them or it
<i>To bear fruit</i>	:	to be productive
<i>Bring something to bear</i>	:	to apply or exert (especially pressure or influence) or bring something into operation
<i>Bear on something</i>	:	to affect, concern or relate to it
<i>Bear someone/something out</i>	:	to support or confirm them or it
<i>Bear up</i>	:	to remain strong or brave under strain or difficult circumstances
<i>Bear with someone</i>	:	to be patient with them
<i>Book in</i>	:	1. to sign one's name on the list of guests at a hotel. 2. to report one's arrival at a hotel or conference reception desk, airport
<i>Book someone in</i>	:	to reserve a place or room for them in a hotel, etc.
<i>Book something up</i>	:	to fix and reserve in advance the tickets and other arrangements for (a holiday, show, meal, etc)
<i>At a person's beck and call</i>	:	having constantly to obey a person's orders
<i>To have a bone to pick with</i>	:	to have a cause for quarrel
<i>To have the blood run cold</i>	:	to be horrified
<i>With bag and baggage</i>	:	completely with all belongings
<i>To change hands</i>	:	to go in some other's possession
<i>To come to the front</i>	:	to attain prominence; to become conspicuous
<i>To coin money</i>	:	to make money very quickly
<i>To be in character with</i>	:	in keeping with
<i>To create bad blood</i>	:	to create ill-feeling, bitterness
<i>In cold blood</i>	:	deliberately done in a calculated manner and not in a moment of passion
<i>To change colour</i>	:	to turn pale
<i>To be at cross purposes</i>	:	to misunderstand each other
<i>To be carried off the feet</i>	:	wild with excitement
<i>To the point</i>	:	relevant or relevantly
<i>To cook the accounts</i>	:	to prepare false accounts
<i>To catch red-handed</i>	:	to catch at the moment of committing the crime
<i>To be on the cards</i>	:	not improbable; probably
<i>To carry all before</i>	:	to be completely successful; successful in convincing an audience

<i>To crow over</i>	:	to triumph over; to gloat over
<i>To curry favour</i>	:	to ingratiate oneself
<i>To cut one's own throat</i>	:	to ruin oneself
<i>To cut short</i>	:	to interrupt
<i>To cut off without a shilling</i>	:	to disinherit
<i>To cut a poor figure</i>	:	to make a poor impression
<i>To come to a head</i>	:	to reach a crisis
<i>To catch / clutch / grasp at a straw</i>	:	resort in desperation to an utterly inadequate expedient
<i>Come what may</i>	:	no matter what happens
<i>Cut across something</i>	:	1. to go against (normal procedure, etc) 2. said of an issue, etc: to be more important than, or transcend (the barriers or divisions between parties, etc) 3. to take a short cut through it, eg a field, etc
<i>Cut back on something</i>	:	to reduce spending, etc
<i>Cut something down</i>	:	to fell a tree, etc
<i>Cut down on something</i>	:	to reduce one's use of it; to do less of it
<i>Cut in</i>	:	1. to interrupt 2. (said of a vehicle) to overtake and squeeze in front of another vehicle
<i>Cut something off</i>	:	1. to separate or isolate it 2. to stop (the supply of gas, electricity, etc) 3. to stop it or cut it short
<i>Cut someone off</i>	:	to disconnect them during a telephone call
<i>Cut out</i>	:	1. (said of an engine, etc) to stop working 2. (said of an electrical device) to switch off or stop automatically, usually as a safety precaution
<i>Cut something out</i>	:	1. to remove or delete it 2. to clip pictures, etc out of a magazine, etc 3. to stop doing it 4. to exclude from consideration 5. to block out the light or view
<i>Cut into someone</i>	:	(said of the driver or a vehicle) to drive in front of (another vehicle) in a dangerous manner
<i>Cry something down</i>	:	to be critical of it
<i>Cry off</i>	:	to cancel an engagement or agreement
<i>Cry out for something</i>	:	to be in obvious need of it
<i>Cry someone or something up</i>	:	to praise them or it
<i>Crack down on someone/something</i>	:	to take firm action against them or it
<i>Crack up</i>	:	to suffer an emotional breakdown
<i>On the rest of a wave</i>	:	at the most favourable moment in one's progress
<i>Carry something forward</i>	:	to transfer (a number, amount, etc) to the next column, page or financial period
<i>Carry something off</i>	:	1. to manage (an awkward situation, etc) 2. to win (a prize, etc) 3. to take something away by force
<i>Carry on</i>	:	1. to continue; to keep going 2. to make a noisy or unnecessary fuss
<i>Carry weight</i>	:	be influential or important
<i>Carry on with someone</i>	:	to have a love affair with them
<i>Carry something out</i>	:	to accomplish it successfully
<i>Carry something over</i>	:	1. to continue it on the following page, etc; to carry forward 2. to postpone it
<i>Carry someone through</i>	:	to help them to survive a difficult period, etc
<i>Carry something through</i>	:	to complete or accomplish it
<i>To die in harness</i>	:	to continue to the last in business or profession
<i>To draw one out</i>	:	to elicit information out from one
<i>At the drop of a hat</i>	:	given the slightest excuse
<i>To be a dead letter</i>	:	to be no longer in force
<i>To draw the line</i>	:	to fix the limits
<i>At daggers drawn</i>	:	have strained relations
<i>Dog in the manger</i>	:	a person who prevents others from using something, although he has no use for it
<i>Do away with someone / something</i>	:	to abolish; to murder
<i>Do someone / something down</i>	:	to speak of them or it as if unimportant or not very good
<i>Do or die</i>	:	persist regardless of danger
<i>Do someone in</i>	:	to kill them
<i>Dos and Don'ts</i>	:	rules of behaviour
<i>Do someone out of something</i>	:	to deprive them of it especially by trickery
<i>Do oneself up</i>	:	to dress up
<i>Do something up</i>	:	to repair, clean or improve the decoration of a building
<i>Do without something</i>	:	to manage without it
<i>Draw back</i>	:	to retreat; to recoil
<i>Draw a person's fire</i>	:	attract hostility, criticism etc. away from a more important target
<i>Draw in</i>	:	said of nights; to start earlier, making days shorter

<i>Draw on something</i>	:	to make use of assets from a fund or source, draw on reserves of energy
<i>Draw someone out</i>	:	to encourage them to be less shy or reserved
<i>Draw up</i>	:	to come to a halt
<i>Draw oneself up</i>	:	to lift oneself into an upright position; to straighten up
<i>Draw something up</i>	:	to plan and write (a contract or other document)
<i>Could do with something/someone</i>	:	would benefit from having them or it
<i>Draw in one's horns</i>	:	become less assertive or ambitious
<i>To be all ears</i>	:	to pay deep attention
<i>To be all eyes</i>	:	to eagerly watch
<i>To eat a humble pie</i>	:	to apologize humbly
<i>To eat one's words</i>	:	to take back what one has said
<i>To end in smoke</i>	:	to end without any result
<i>To be every inch</i>	:	entirely; completely
<i>Eat something away or eat away at something</i>	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to gnaw it 2. to eat into it
<i>Eat in</i>	:	to eat at home rather than in a restaurant, café, etc
<i>Eat into/through something</i>	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to use it up gradually 2. to waste it 3. to destroy its material, substance or form, especially by chemical action; to corrode it
<i>Eat out</i>	:	to eat at a restaurant, café, etc rather than at home
<i>Eat up</i>	:	to finish one's food
<i>Eat something up</i>	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to finish (one's food) 2. to destroy it 3. to absorb; to listen with real interest
<i>Be eaten up with something</i>	:	to be consumed by (jealousy, etc)
<i>To have an eye to the main chance</i>	:	have the main objective of making money
<i>Of flesh and blood</i>	:	human nature
<i>To a fault</i>	:	excessively
<i>Not fit to hold a candle</i>	:	not to be named in comparison with
<i>To foot the bill</i>	:	to pay for it
<i>To fall foul of</i>	:	to quarrel with
<i>To fight tooth and nail</i>	:	with all the power
<i>At the first blush</i>	:	at the first sight
<i>To be in full swing</i>	:	very active
<i>To fight shy of</i>	:	dislike; to avoid
<i>To fall short of expectations</i>	:	to disappoint
<i>To feel like a fish out of water</i>	:	to be in a strange situation; like one out of his element
<i>By fits and starts</i>	:	irregularly; capriciously
<i>To feather one's own nest</i>	:	to make money unfairly
<i>To fall flat</i>	:	to produce no effect; to cause no interest; to become a fiasco
<i>Far and away</i>	:	by a very large amount
<i>A far cry</i>	:	a long way off; no easy transition
<i>Fall about</i>	:	to be helpless with laughter
<i>Fall apart</i>	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to break into pieces 2. to fail; to collapse
<i>Fall away</i>	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. (said of land) to slope downwards 2. to become fewer or less 3. to disappear
<i>Fall back</i>	:	to move back; to retreat
<i>Fall back on something</i>	:	to make use of it in an emergency
<i>Fall behind or fall behind with something</i>	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to fail to keep up with someone, with one's work, etc 2. to be late in paying instalments, rent, etc
<i>Fall down (on)</i>	:	perform poorly
<i>Fall foul of</i>	:	come into conflict with
<i>Fall for someone</i>	:	to become infatuated with them, or fall in love with them
<i>Fall for something</i>	:	to be deceived or taken in by it; to be conned by it
<i>Fall in</i>	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. (said eg of a roof) to collapse 2. said of a soldier, etc: to take his or her place in a parade
<i>Fall into place</i>	:	begin to make sense
<i>Fall in with someone</i>	:	to chance to meet or coincide with them
<i>Fall in with something</i>	:	to agree to it; to support it
<i>Fall off</i>	:	to decline in quality or quantity; to become less
<i>Fall on/upon someone</i>	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to attack them 2. to embrace them passionately
<i>Fall out</i>	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. said of soldiers: to come out of military formation 2. to happen in the end; to turn out
<i>Fall out with someone</i>	:	to quarrel with them, and then not talk to them or have contact with them for a period of time

<i>Fall through</i>	:	(said of a plan etc) to fail; to come to nothing
<i>Fall to someone</i>	:	something that becomes one's job
<i>After a fashion</i>	:	to a certain degree; not satisfactorily
<i>To have at one's finger's ends</i>	:	to know thoroughly
<i>To gain ground</i>	:	to become more widely influential
<i>To get into hot water</i>	:	to get into trouble
<i>To get the better of one</i>	:	to overcome someone
<i>To get it into one's head</i>	:	firmly believe or maintain
<i>To go out of hand</i>	:	to lose control; to go out of control
<i>A gift of the gab</i>	:	a talent for speaking
<i>To give oneself airs</i>	:	to behave arrogantly
<i>To go home to one</i>	:	to have the desired impact, to deeply affect
<i>To be in the good books</i>	:	to be in favour with
<i>Get the worst of it</i>	:	be defeated
<i>To give a piece of one's mind to</i>	:	to scold
<i>To be as good as</i>	:	practically
<i>To be as good as one's word</i>	:	to keep one's promise
<i>To be as good as gold</i>	:	to be very good
<i>To get the better of</i>	:	to gain advantage over
<i>To be Greek and Latin</i>	:	something that is not understood
<i>To give chapter and verse</i>	:	full and precise reference to authority
<i>To give a false colouring</i>	:	to misrepresent
<i>To give a cold shoulder</i>	:	to treat in a cold and distant manner
<i>To give a person in charge</i>	:	to hand a person over to police
<i>To cast the gage at</i>	:	to reject with loathing
<i>To give a handle to</i>	:	to furnish an occasion for
<i>Get about/around</i>	:	1. to travel; to go from place to place 2. said of a rumour, etc: to circulate
<i>Get something across</i>	:	to make it understood
<i>Get ahead</i>	:	to make progress, to be successful
<i>Get along with someone</i>	:	to be on friendly terms with them
<i>Get out of</i>	:	avoid or escape (a duty etc)
<i>Get at something</i>	:	1. to reach or take hold of it 2. to suggest or imply it
<i>Get away</i>	:	1. to leave or be free to leave 2. to escape 3. an exclamation: used to express disbelief, shock, etc
<i>Get away with something</i>	:	to commit (an offence or wrongdoing etc) without being caught or punished
<i>Get back at someone</i>	:	to take revenge on them
<i>Get by</i>	:	1. to manage to live 2. to be just about acceptable
<i>Get someone down</i>	:	to make them sad or depressed
<i>Get something down</i>	:	1. to manage to swallow it 2. to write it down
<i>Get down to something</i>	:	to apply oneself to (a task or piece of work)
<i>Get something in</i>	:	1. to gather or harvest it 2. to succeed in doing or making it before something else occurs
<i>Get round to</i>	:	deal with (a task) in due course
<i>Get into something</i>	:	to develop a liking or enthusiasm for it
<i>Get in with someone</i>	:	to become friendly with them, often for selfish reasons
<i>Get off/get someone off</i>	:	1. to escape, or cause them to escape, with no punishment or with only the stated punishment 2. to fall asleep or send (eg a child) to sleep.
<i>Get off something</i>	:	to stop discussing or dealing with (a subject)
<i>Get round/around</i>	:	successfully coax especially to secure a favour
<i>Get on</i>	:	to make progress; to be successful
<i>Get on at/someone</i>	:	to pester or criticize them continually
<i>Get on to someone</i>	:	1. to make contact with them 2. to begin dealing with them
<i>Get on to something</i>	:	1. to find out the truth about it 2. to start dealing with a matter
<i>Get on with someone</i>	:	to have a friendly relationship with them
<i>Get out of</i>	:	said of information: extracted from someone
<i>Get something out</i>	:	1. to manage to say it, usually with difficulty 2. to publish it
<i>Get out of something</i>	:	to avoid having to do it
<i>Get over someone/something</i>	:	to be no longer emotionally affected by them or it, to recover from something (an illness, disappointment, etc.)
<i>Get something over</i>	:	to explain it successfully; to make it understood
<i>Get something over with</i>	:	to deal with (something unpleasant) as quickly as possible
<i>Get round</i>	:	(said of information, a rumour, etc) to become generally known

<i>Get round someone</i>	:	to persuade them or win their approval or permission
<i>Get round to something/someone</i>	:	to deal with it or them eventually
<i>Get through something</i>	:	1. to complete (a task, piece of work, etc) 2. to use it steadily until it is finished 3. to pass (a test, etc)
<i>Get someone through</i>	:	to help someone pass (a test, etc)
<i>Get through to someone</i>	:	1. to make contact with them by telephone 2. to make them understand
<i>Get through</i>	:	pass or assist in passing
<i>Get oneself up</i>	:	to get dressed up
<i>Get something up</i>	:	1. to arrange, organize or prepare it 2. to learn it by deliberate effort 3. to increase and maintain (speed)
<i>Get someone up</i>	:	to make them get out of bed
<i>Get together</i>	:	to assemble, especially for a specified purpose
<i>Get up to something</i>	:	to do or be involved in it, especially when it is bad, unwelcome or not approved of
<i>To come to grief</i>	:	to fail; to ruin
<i>To go out of the way</i>	:	to take special trouble
<i>To go hard with</i>	:	to suffer severely; to prove a serious matter
<i>To hold water</i>	:	to stand scrutiny
<i>By hook or by crook</i>	:	by any means - fair or foul
<i>To hang together</i>	:	to be consistent; to keep united
<i>With a high hand</i>	:	oppressively; having some power
<i>To be hand and glove</i> (also <i>hand in glove</i>)	:	to be deeply involved (negative connotation) on very intimate terms
<i>To hope against hope</i>	:	to hope even when the result seems to be futile.
<i>To hit the nail on the head</i>	:	to state the truth exactly
<i>To have one's heart in the right place:</i>	:	be of a kindly and sympathetic disposition
<i>To be in high spirits</i>	:	to be cheerful; joyful
<i>To be in hand</i>	:	to be under control
<i>To have one's hands full</i>	:	to be very busy
<i>To have a hand</i>	:	to be involved in or concerned with
<i>To harp on the same string</i>	:	dwell tediously on the same subject
<i>To be hard of hearing</i>	:	slightly deaf
<i>Heads i win, tails you lose</i>	:	in any case I will be the winner
<i>To do the handsome thing</i> <i>by somebody</i>	:	to behave in a magnanimous manner towards somebody
<i>To hang in the balance</i>	:	to be undecided
<i>To go to heart</i>	:	to touch deeply
<i>To hold good</i>	:	to be valid; to remain deliberation
<i>To be head and shoulders above</i>	:	be much above
<i>To hang on somebody's lips/words:</i>	:	to listen eagerly to somebody's words; to give close admiring attention to somebody
<i>To hang fire</i>	:	be slow in taking action or in progressing
<i>To heap coals of fire on the</i> <i>head of enemy</i>	:	to return good for evil and make the enemy ashamed of enmity.
<i>A hard nut to crack</i>	:	a difficult problem to solve
<i>To be in hot water</i>	:	to be in trouble
<i>Hobson's choice</i>	:	no choice at all
<i>Hoist with (or by) one's own petard:</i>	:	affected adversely by one's schemes against others
<i>Hang about/around</i>	:	1. to waste time; to stand around doing nothing 2. to stay or remain
<i>Hang about or around with someone:</i>	:	to spend a lot of time in their company
<i>Hang back</i>	:	to be unwilling or reluctant to do something
<i>Hang on</i>	:	1. to wait; "I'll hang on for a bit" 2. to carry on bravely, inspite of problems or difficulties
<i>Hang on something</i>	:	1. to depend on it. Eg. It all hangs on the weather 2. to listen closely to it. Eg. Hanging on her every word
<i>Hang something on someone</i>	:	to blame them for it
<i>Hang on to something</i>	:	to keep a hold or control it
<i>Hang out</i>	:	1. to lean or bend (eg of a window, etc) 2. (said of clothes) to hang up outside to dry 3. to frequent a place. Eg. He hangs out in local bars
<i>Hang something out</i>	:	to hang up (washing) outside to dry
<i>Hang together</i>	:	make sense
<i>Hang over someone</i>	:	(said of an unresolved problem, decision, etc) to overshadow or threaten them
<i>Hang over something</i>	:	to project over or lean out from it
<i>Hang together</i>	:	1. (said of two people) to be united and support each other 2. (said of ideas etc), to be consistent
<i>Hang up</i>	:	to finish a telephone conversation by replacing the receiver
<i>Hang something up</i>	:	to hang something on a hook, hanger, etc

<i>To have an old head on young shoulders</i>	:	to be wise beyond one's age
<i>To be at issue</i>	:	to be in dispute
<i>To be ill at ease</i>	:	uncomfortable; uneasy; anxious
<i>The ins and outs of</i>	:	the full details of
<i>To have too many irons in the fire</i>	:	to engage oneself into many works at the same time
<i>To keep pace with</i>	:	to progress at an equal rate (speed)
<i>To keep in the dark</i>	:	to keep in ignorance; to hide
<i>To keep in touch with</i>	:	to have knowledge of
<i>To keep one's own counsel</i>	:	to preserve a discreet silence; not sharing details of one's plans with others
<i>To kick up a row</i>	:	to make a great noise
<i>Of a kind</i>	:	of the same type
<i>In kind</i>	:	in the same way; in the same measure
<i>To know a thing or two</i>	:	to be wise or cunning
<i>To keep a good table</i>	:	to provide luxurious food
<i>To keep one's head above water</i>	:	to keep out of debt
<i>To keep at arm's length</i>	:	to keep at a distance
<i>To keep up appearances</i>	:	to keep an outward show of prosperity
<i>To know what one is about</i>	:	to be far-sighted and prudent
<i>To keep the wolf from the door</i>	:	to keep away from starvation
<i>To keep on tenterhooks</i>	:	to keep in a state of suspense and anxiety
<i>Keep a stiff upper lip</i>	:	to show no emotion or worry when faced with difficulties
<i>Knock about/around</i>	:	1. to wander about (a place) in a casual and aimless way; to lie about unused; to die knocking about the streets 2. to travel about, roughing it and having varied experience. Eg. He knocked about Europe for the summer
<i>Knock someone about/around</i>	:	to treat them roughly; to hit or batter them
<i>Knock about with someone</i>	:	to associate or go about with them
<i>Knock someone back</i>	:	1. to cost them (a specified amount) Eg. Knocked me back 500 quid 2. surprise, dismay, or disappoint them 3. to rebuff or reject them; to turn them down
<i>Knock someone down</i>	:	to strike them to the ground, knocked down by a car
<i>Knock something down</i>	:	1. to demolish (a building) 2. to reduce its price
<i>Knock together</i>	:	put together hastily
<i>Knock into someone</i>	:	to meet them by chance or unexpectedly
<i>Knock into someone/something</i>	:	to collide with them
<i>Knock something into someone</i>	:	to teach it to them forcefully
<i>Knock off</i>	:	1. to finish work 2. strike off with a blow
<i>Knock something off</i>	:	1. to produce it or them at speed or in quick succession, apparently quite easily 2. to deduct (a certain amount) 3. to rob or steal it 4. to copy and distribute illegally 5. (often in commands) to stop it
<i>Knock someone out</i>	:	1. to make them unconscious, especially by hitting them 2. boxing to make them unconscious or render them incapable of rising in the competition 3. to amaze them; to impress them greatly
<i>Knock someone sideways</i>	:	to come as a severe shock to them; to devastate or disconcert them
<i>Knock something together</i>	:	to make it hurriedly
<i>Knock up</i>	:	to exchange practice shots with one's opponent before a match
<i>Knock someone up</i>	:	1. to wake them by knocking 2. to exhaust them 3. coarse slang to make them pregnant
<i>Know a thing or two</i>	:	be experienced or shrewd
<i>Kick about/around</i>	:	1. to lie around unused and neglected 2. to be idle; to go about aimlessly
<i>Kick someone/around</i>	:	to treat them badly or roughly
<i>Kick something about/around</i>	:	to discuss (an idea, etc) informally among several people
<i>Kick in</i>	:	to take effect
<i>Kick off</i>	:	1. to start, or restart, a football game by kicking the ball away from the center
<i>Kick something off</i>	:	to begin (a discussion, etc)
<i>Kick someone/something out</i>	:	to dismiss or get rid of them or get rid of it, especially using force
<i>To lose ground</i>	:	to become less powerful or acceptable
<i>To live from hand to mouth</i>	:	satisfying only one's immediate needs
<i>In the long run</i>	:	eventually; ultimately
<i>To live by one's wits</i>	:	to live by deceit or fraud
<i>To the letter</i>	:	exactly with adherence to every detail
<i>To lord over</i>	:	to dominate
<i>The long and the short of it</i>	:	the simple fact; the whole matter in a few words

<i>To leave no stone unturned</i>	:	to adopt all possible means
<i>To be on last legs</i>	:	on the verge of ruin
<i>To lie in the bed that one has made:</i>	:	to take the consequences of one's own acts; suffer for one's misdeeds
<i>To lay hands on</i>	:	to catch hold of
<i>To leave for good</i>	:	to leave permanently
<i>To lay at the door</i>	:	to impute blame
<i>To let the grass grow under one's feet:</i>	:	to remain idle; to procrastinate
<i>Leave a person cold</i>	:	not impress or excite a person
<i>To leave one in the lurch</i>	:	to desert one in difficulties; to leave one in a helpless condition
<i>To be led by the nose</i>	:	to follow submissively
<i>Let someone or something down</i>	:	to disappoint or fail to help them at a crucial time.
<i>Let someone in for something</i>	:	to involve them in something difficult or unpleasant
<i>Let someone in on something</i>	:	to share a secret, etc with them
<i>Let off</i>	:	let go without punishment
<i>Let someone/something off</i>	:	to release them or it from work, duties, etc
<i>Let up</i>	:	to stop or to become less strong or violent
		Eg. The rain let up at last
<i>Lay something aside</i>	:	1. to put it to one side, especially for later use or treatment 2. to discard or abandon it
<i>Lay something by</i>	:	to put away for future use
<i>Lay something down</i>	:	1. to put it on the ground or some other surface 2. to give it as a deposit, pledge, formulate or device 3. to give up or sacrifice (life) 4. to formulate or device (law) 5. to store (wine) in a cellar 6. to begin to build (a ship or railway) 7. to put (music) onto tape, CD, etc
<i>Lay something in</i>	:	to get and store a supply of it
<i>Lay hands on</i>	:	seize or attack
<i>Lay into something</i>	:	to eat it quickly and with enthusiasm
<i>Lay someone off</i>	:	to dismiss (an employee) when there is no work available
<i>Lay a charge</i>	:	make an accusation
<i>Lay off someone</i>	:	to leave them alone
<i>Lay something on</i>	:	to provide a supply of it
<i>Lay someone out</i>	:	1. to knock them unconscious 2. to prepare (a dead body) for burial
<i>Lay something out</i>	:	1. to plan and arrange (especially land or natural features) 2. to spread it out or display it 3. to spend it
<i>Lay someone up</i>	:	to force them to stay in bed or at home
<i>Lay something up</i>	:	1. to keep or store it 2. to put (a ship) out of use, especially for repairs
<i>To bring to light</i>	:	to disclose
<i>The long and short of it</i>	:	the eventual outcome
<i>Lock, stock and barrel</i>	:	the whole of a thing
<i>To make both ends meet</i>	:	to live within one's income
<i>To meet half-way</i>	:	to compromise
<i>To make one's mark</i>	:	to be of the same opinion
<i>To make up one's mind</i>	:	to decide; to resolve
<i>To make a clean breast of</i>	:	to confess without reserve
<i>A man of straw</i>	:	a man of no substance or consequence
<i>To make neither head nor tail</i>	:	to make nothing of
<i>To be a mare's nest</i>	:	a worthless thing
<i>To make light of</i>	:	to treat lightly without taking serious note of
<i>To make the most</i>	:	to use to the best advantage
<i>To mean business</i>	:	to be in earnest
<i>To make the blood creep</i>	:	to fill with horror (anger)
<i>To make common cause with</i>	:	to side with and give support
<i>To make the flesh creep</i>	:	to horrify
<i>To move heaven and earth</i>	:	to make every possible effort
<i>To make a pile</i>	:	to make a fortune
<i>A man of his words</i>	:	a trustworthy man
<i>To make over</i>	:	to transfer the possession of (a thing) to a person
<i>To make shift</i>	:	to get along as best as one can
<i>To a man</i>	:	everyone without exception
<i>To be beside the mark</i>	:	not to the point; irrelevant
<i>To make good the loss</i>	:	to compensate the loss
<i>Not to mince matters/words</i>	:	to speak unreservedly and frankly
<i>To make ducks and drakes of</i>	:	to squander
<i>In the nick of time</i>	:	just at the right moment; opportunely
<i>Nip in the bud</i>	:	to make it fail before it could mature

<i>To be neither here nor there</i>	:	irrelevant;
<i>To a nicety</i>	:	exactly
<i>To nail one's colours to the mast</i>	:	refuse to surrender or climb down
<i>Not to be in one's line</i>	:	not to be in one's province or area of activities
<i>Off and on</i>	:	
<i>(sometimes used as "on and off")</i>	:	now and then; occasionally
<i>The order of the day</i>	:	the prevailing state of things
<i>To be out of date</i>	:	obsolete
<i>To be out of spirits</i>	:	gloomy; sad
<i>To be out of the question</i>	:	not to be thought of, impossible
<i>Over the heads of</i>	:	above the comprehension of
<i>To be over head and ears</i>	:	to be deeply immersed or involved
<i>To be out of the way</i>	:	strange; eccentric; abnormal
<i>To be at one with</i>	:	to be of the same opinion
<i>To be out of pocket</i>	:	to have no money
<i>To be with open arms</i>	:	to be ready for a warm welcome
<i>To put on one's mettle</i>	:	to rouse a person to do his best
<i>To play fast and lose</i>	:	to say one thing and do another; be unreliable
<i>To pay off old scores</i>	:	to take revenge
<i>To put a spoke in the wheel</i>	:	to thwart; to stop
<i>To put one's foot down</i>	:	to take a resolute stand
<i>To put one's foot in something</i>	:	to blunder
<i>To put one's foot down</i>	:	to remain firm (at one decision)
<i>To put a finger in the pie</i>	:	to do something with the affair; to mix up in the affair
<i>To put heads together</i>	:	to consult one another
<i>To pay back in one's own coin</i>	:	to treat one in the same way he has treated
<i>To play false</i>	:	to deceive; to betray
<i>To pocket affront</i>	:	to receive or submit to something without protest
<i>To put on the market</i>	:	to offer for sale
<i>Pass muster</i>	:	accept as satisfactory
<i>To put a good face on</i>	:	to bear up courageously
<i>To play with fire</i>	:	to trifle with matters liable to cause trouble
<i>To put one's hand in one's pocket</i>	:	to give money in charity
<i>To put one's heart in the right place</i>	:	be faithful and true-hearted
<i>To put two and two together</i>	:	to reason logically; to draw correct inference
<i>To put the screw on</i>	:	to bring pressure to bear on
<i>In the pink</i>	:	in the best of health
<i>In the palm of one's hand</i>	:	in one's power
<i>Palm something off on someone/</i>	:	
<i>palm someone off with something</i>	:	to give them something unwanted or unwelcome, especially by trickery
<i>Play about/around</i>	:	to behave ineffectively or irresponsibly
<i>Play about/around with someone</i>	:	to behave irresponsibly towards them, their affections, etc
<i>Play about/around with something</i>	:	to fiddle or meddle with it
<i>Play someone along</i>	:	to manipulate them, usually for one's own advantage
<i>Play along with someone</i>	:	to co-operate with them for the time being; to humour them
<i>Play at something</i>	:	1. to make a pretence of it, especially in play, eg., play at being cowboys 2. to indulge in it trivially or flippantly, eg. play at politics 3. (ironic) to try to achieve it, eg. what are they playing at?
<i>Play something back</i>	:	to play (a film or sound recording) through immediately after making it
<i>Play something down</i>	:	to represent it as unimportant, to minimize, make light of or discount it
<i>Play off</i>	:	1. to replay a match, etc after a draw 2. (golf) to play from the tee
<i>Play one person off against another</i>	:	to set them in rivalry, especially for one's own advantage
<i>Play on something</i>	:	1. to exploit (someone's fears, feelings sympathies, etc) for one's own benefit 2. to make a pun on it. eg. played on the two meanings of 'batter'
<i>Play something on someone</i>	:	to perpetrate (a trick or joke) against them
<i>Play something out</i>	:	to act out in real life a part, scene, etc that is so predictable that it could have come from a play
<i>Play out/across something</i>	:	(said of light, facial expression, etc), to flicker over, across, etc (a surface, etc)
<i>Play up</i>	:	1. to behave unco-operatively 2. to cause one pain or discomfort, e.g., His stomach is playing up again 3. (said of a machine etc) to function faultily 4. to try one's hardest in a game, match, etc
<i>Play something up</i>	:	to highlight it or give prominence to it
<i>Play up to someone</i>	:	to flatter them; to ingratiate oneself with them
<i>Play with someone</i>	:	1. said especially of children: to spend time in recreation with them 2. to joke with them at their expense
<i>Play with something</i>	:	to contemplate (an idea, plan, etc), e.g., played with the idea of becoming a writer
<i>Pick at something</i>	:	1. to eat only small quantities of (one's food) 2. to keep pulling at (a scab, etc) with one's fingernails

<i>Pick a quarrel</i>	:	start an argument or fight deliberately
<i>Pick on someone</i>	:	1. to blame them unfairly 2. to bully them 3. to choose them for an unpleasant job
<i>Pick on something</i>	:	to choose it
<i>Pick someone out</i>	:	1. to select them from a group 2. to recognize or distinguish them among a group or crowd
<i>Pick on</i>	:	to find faults
<i>Pick over</i>	:	select the best from
<i>Pick up</i>	:	said of a person, a person's health, or a situation: to recover or improve
<i>Pick up or pick something up</i>	:	to resume
<i>Talk the hind leg off a donkey</i>	:	talk continuously
<i>Talk nineteen to the dozen</i>	:	talk continuously
<i>Talk through one's hat</i>	:	1. talk nonsensically 2. exaggerate
<i>To be up-to-date</i>	:	modern; recent
<i>Up to the mark</i>	:	quite satisfactory
<i>An ugly customer</i>	:	formidable person to deal with
<i>Under one's nose</i>	:	in the very presence of one
<i>Upto the eyes</i>	:	completely; to its full extent
<i>Upto the mark</i>	:	in excellent health; completely prepared or fit
<i>To be under the thumb of</i>	:	to be completely under the influence or control of
<i>Under false pretences</i>	:	by giving a deliberately misleading impression
<i>Make a virtue of necessity</i>	:	derive some credit or benefit from an unwelcome obligation
<i>With one voice</i>	:	unanimously
<i>Not worth his salt</i>	:	quite worthless
<i>To win one's laurels</i>	:	to acquire glory
<i>To win one's spurs</i>	:	to make reputation or to gain distinction
<i>Without reserve</i>	:	fully; implicitly
<i>To wash one's hands off something</i>	:	refuse to be involved any more
<i>To be within an ace of</i>	:	on the point of, within the reach of
<i>To be well-balanced</i>	:	to be reasonable; moderate
<i>A wild-goose chase</i>	:	a foolish and fruitless search
<i>Wash one's hands of</i>	:	renounce responsibility
<i>A wolf in sheep's clothing</i>	:	a hypocrite
<i>To wash one's dirty linen in public</i>	:	discussing unpleasant private matters before strangers
<i>To be on the wrong side of sixty</i>	:	to be more than sixty years of age
<i>White elephant</i>	:	an item that is expensive to maintain
<i>For want of something</i>	:	in the absence of it
<i>In want of something</i>	:	needing it
<i>Warm to someone</i>	:	to gain in affection or approval from them
<i>To be at wit's ends</i>	:	to be quite puzzled; not knowing what is to be done
<i>Lay waste</i>	:	ravage
<i>Whistle in the dark</i>	:	pretend to be unafraid
<i>Within a stone's throw</i>	:	at a short distance from
<i>To do yeoman service</i>	:	to do an excellent service