

A dictionary of confusable phrases more than 10 000 idioms and collocations

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The Ultimate Guide to Idioms and Phrases in Dictionaries**

What are Idioms and Phrases?

An idiom or phrase is a fixed expression that has a figurative meaning that is different from the literal meaning of its individual words. For example, "kick the bucket" means "to die," while "raining cats and dogs" means "to rain heavily."

What is the Number 1 Dictionary for Idioms?

The Oxford English Dictionary (OED) is considered the most authoritative and comprehensive dictionary for idioms and phrases. It contains over 600,000 entries, including over 100,000 idioms and phrases.

How to Find Idioms in a Dictionary

To find idioms in a dictionary, look for the following symbols:

- **Indefinite article "a":** Indicates a noun phrase that can be used in a variety of contexts.
- **Double hyphens "--":** Delimits an idiom or phrase.

For example, in the OED entry for "kick the bucket," you would see:

a -- *kick the bucket*. To die.

How to Find Idioms and Phrases

In addition to dictionaries, there are other sources for idioms and phrases:

- **Books:** There are many books that focus specifically on idioms and phrases, such as "The Idiom Dictionary" by Ralph Keyes.
- **Online databases:** Websites such as IdiomConnection.com and PhraseFinder.com provide searchable databases of idioms and phrases.
- **Native speakers:** The best way to learn and use idioms is to interact with native speakers.

What is the Basic Use of Idioms and Phrases in English?

Idioms and phrases are used to make language more colorful, concise, and expressive. They can also add humor or sarcasm to speech or writing.

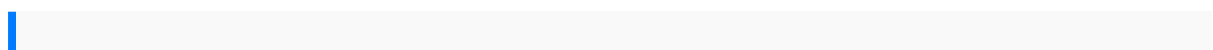
How to Effectively Use Idioms and Phrases

When using idioms and phrases, it's important to:

- Understand their literal and figurative meanings.
- Use them correctly in context.
- Avoid overuse, as they can become clichéd.

Conclusion

Idioms and phrases are an essential part of the English language. By understanding how to find and use them effectively, you can improve your communication skills and enhance your understanding of English culture.



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