



### WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PHRASE AND AN IDIOM?

A Phrase is a group of words without a Subject and a Finite Verb. But it is used as a 'Part of Speech' in a sentence. However, an Idiomatic Phrase expresses a special meaning beyond its literal meaning.

[ Phrase হল এমন একরকম শব্দগুচ্ছ (Group of Words) যাতে কোনো Subject বা Finite Verb থাকে না। যাই হোক, Idiomatic Phrase বা বাগ্‌ধারা তার আক্ষরিক অর্থকে অতিক্রম করে একটি ব্যঙ্গনর্থ প্রকাশ করে। ]

**ABC** (primary knowledge, প্রাথমিক জ্ঞান)—He does not know even the *ABC* of music.

**Above all** (more than anything else, সর্বোপরি)—*Above all*, be careful of your health.

**Above board** (beyond doubt, সংশয়হীনভাবে নির্দোষ)—His activities are open and *above board*.

**Achilles' heel** (weak point, দুর্বলতা বা ত্রুটি)—Hankering for votes is the *Achilles' heel* of the so-called leaders of our country.



**After all** (in spite of everything, সব কিছু সত্ত্বেও)—*After all*, he is a patriot.

**All at once** (suddenly, হঠাৎ)—*All at once* a tiger came out of the forest.

**All on (of) a sudden** (suddenly, হঠাৎ)—*All on (of) a sudden* a tiger came out of the bush.

**All but** (nearly, প্রায়)—The poor villagers are *all but* ruined.

**All in all** (supreme, সর্বসর্বা)—Mr. Sen is *all in all* in his office.

**Apple of discord** (matter of dispute, বিবাদের বিষয়)—The paternal property has become an *apple of discord* between the two brothers.

**As if** (as it would be, যেন)—He swims so beautifully *as if* he is the water-god.

**As it were** (like, যেন)—The sun is, *as it were*, the lamp of the universe.

**As usual** (habitually, যথারীতি)—He is late *as usual*.

**At a loss** (puzzled, হতবুদ্ধি, কিংকর্তব্যবিমূঢ়)—He was *at a loss* and sought help from me.

**At all** (primarily, আদৌ)—He does not know French *at all*.

**At all events** (in all cases, যাই ঘটুক সব ক্ষেত্রেই)—I shall stand by him *at all events*.





**At a low ebb** (declining, নিম্নমুখী)—His fame is *at a low ebb* now.

**At arm's length** (at a distance, দূরে)—Try to keep the bad boy *at arm's length*.

**At a stretch** (without break, একটানা)—He can run ten kilometers *at a stretch*.

**At bay** (in a tight corner, কোণঠাসা)—The tiger was *at bay* in the bush.

**At one's finger-tips/ends** (ready at hand, নখদর্পণে)—All these facts are *at his finger-tips/ends*.

**At daggers drawn** (at enmity, খড়্গাহস্ত)—The two brothers are now *at daggers drawn*.

**At home** (skilled, comfortable, দক্ষ, ঘরের মতো আরামপ্রদ)—He is *at home* in Mathematics. (Or) I feel *at home* in your house.

**At large** (free, স্বাধীন)—The antisocials are still *at large*.

**At last** (in the long run, অবশেষে)—I got my missing book *at last*.

**At least** (at the lowest, অন্তত)—*At least* a hundred boys will come to school today.

**At one's wit's end** (puzzled, হতবুদ্ধি)—He was *at his wit's end* and turned to me for help.

**At random** (without any aim, বেপরোয়া বা এলোমেলো)—He hit the ball *at random*.

**At sixes and sevens** (scattered, বিশৃঙ্খল অবস্থায়)—All the furniture in the room were *at sixes and sevens*.

**At stake** (in danger, বিপন্ন)—His life is *at stake* now.

**At one's beck and call** (obedient, বাধ্য)—He is always *at my beck and call*.

**At one's own sweet will** (according to one's wishes, খুশিমতো)—He still does it *at his own sweet will*.

**At the eleventh hour** (at the last moment, শেষ মুহূর্তে)—The doctor came to the patient *at the eleventh hour*.

**Bad blood** (ill-feeling, মনোমালিন্য)—Now there is *bad blood* between the two brothers.

**Bag and baggage** (with all belongings, তল্লিতল্লাসহ)—He left the place *bag and baggage*. [not, *with bag and baggage*.]

**Beat about the bush** (talk irrelevantly, কাজের কথায় না এসে আজবাজে কথা বলা)—Please come to the point without *beating about the bush*.

**Bed of roses** (comfortable condition, আরামদায়ক অবস্থা)—Life is not a *bed of roses*.

**Birds of a feather** (persons of similar nature, একরকম স্বভাবের লোক)—*Birds of a feather* flock together.

**Beat black and blue** (beat severely, প্রচণ্ড প্রহার করা)—They *beat the thief black and blue*.

**Black sheep** (person of bad character, কুলাঙ্গার)—He is a *black sheep* in the family.

**Beggar description** (cannot be described, বর্ণনা করা যায় না)—The beauty of the Taj *beggars description*.

**Bolt from the blue** (some sorrowful event quite unexpected, সম্পূর্ণ অপ্রত্যাশিত)—The news of his father's death came to him as a *bolt from the blue*.



**Bid fair** (have the possibility of prospering, ভালো কিছু আশা করা)—He *bids fair to* be a good doctor.

**Big gun** (a leading man, নেতৃস্থানীয় ব্যক্তি)—He is a *big gun* of our locality.

**Bird's-eye view** (a over-all/rough idea, মোটামুটি ধারণা)—He took a *bird's-eye view* of the flood-stricken area from an aeroplane.

**Bone of contention** (matter of dispute, বিবাদের বিষয়)—The paternal property is the *bone of contention* between the two brothers.

**Bookworm** (one who always reads books only, গ্রন্থকীট)—Don't be a *bookworm*.

**Bosom friend** (intimate friend, অন্তরঙ্গ বন্ধু)—Salil is my *bosom friend*.

**Breathe one's last** (die, মারা যাওয়া)—The old man *breathed his last* on Sunday last.

**Bring to light** (make open, প্রকাশ করা)—At last all the facts were *brought to light*.

**Bring to book** (punish, শাস্তি দেওয়া)—He should be *brought to book* for his misconduct.

**Build castles in the air** (indulge in idle vision, আকাশকুসুম রচনা করা)—Don't idle away your time in *building castles in the air*.

**Burning question** (matter of strong debate, তীব্র বিতর্কের বিষয়)—The problem of the dowry system is the *burning question* of the day.

**By all means** (in all possible ways, সর্বপ্রকারে)—Try to do it *by all means*.

**By and by** (soon, শীঘ্র)—He will come here *by and by*.

**By the bye** (in course of talking, প্রসঙ্গক্রমে)—*By the bye* I came to know that he was ill.

**By chance** (by accident, দৈবাৎ)—I met him on the way *by chance*.

**By fits and starts** (irregularly, অনিয়মিতভাবে, মাঝে মাঝে)—He works *by fits and starts*.

**By no means** (in no way, কোনো ভাবেই না)—I shall *by no means* call on him.

**By hook or by crook** (by fair means or foul, যে কোনো উপায়ে)—You must do this work *by hook or by crook*.

**By far** (in all respects, সর্বাংশে)—He is *by far* the best boy in the class.

**By leaps and bounds** (very rapidly, অতি দ্রুতগতিতে)—The population of India is increasing *by leaps and bounds*.

**By and large** (mostly, প্রধানত)—People in our village are *by and large* farmers.

**Call to mind** (remember, স্মরণ করা)—I cannot *call* your name *to mind*.

**Call in question** (doubt, সন্দেহ করা)—No one can *call* his honesty *in question*.

**Call a spade a spade** (to speak plainly, অপ্রিয় সত্য কথা বলা)—I have no hesitation in *calling a spade a spade*.

**Carry the day** (win victory, জয়লাভ করা)—Amal, the best player of the school, *carried the day* in the annual sports.

**Catch red-handed** (catch with the stolen articles, হাতেনাতে ধরা)—The thief was *caught red-handed*.





**Cats and dogs** (rain very heavily, মুষলধারে)—It was raining *cats and dogs*.

**Chip of the old block** (a worthy son of a worthy father, বাপকা বেটা)—Mr. S. P. Mukherjee is a *chip of the old block*.

**Cock and bull story** (absurd story, গাঁজাখুরি গল্প)—Who will believe your *cock and bull story*?

**Crying need** (urgent need, জরুরি প্রয়োজন)—Mass education is the *crying need* of India.

**Crocodile tears** (pretended cry, মায়াকান্না)—He shed *crocodile tears* at our misery.

**Come to light** (become known, প্রকাশিত হওয়া)—Their private talk has *come to light* at last.

**Come off with flying colours** (win a victory, জয়লাভ করা)—Our school-team *came off with flying colours*.

**Curry favour** (be favourite through flattery, তোষামোদ করে প্রিয় হওয়া)—He knows how to *curry favour* with officers.

**Cut a sorry figure** (make bad results, খারাপ ফল করা)—He *cuts a sorry figure* in the examination.

**Cut to the quick** (be hurt, মর্মান্বিত হওয়া)—I was *cut to the quick* by this words.

**Dead against** (bitterly against, তীব্র বিরোধী)—I am *dead against* this proposal.

**Dead language** (a language which is no longer in use, যে ভাষা এখন আর কথা নয়)—Sanskrit is a rich language, but it is now a *dead language*.

**Dead of night** (midnight, মধ্যরাত্রি)—The wolves began to howl at *dead of night*.



**Die in harness** (die while in service, কর্মরত অবস্থায় মারা যাওয়া)—Dr. Sen *died in harness*.

**Do yeoman's service** (render valuable service, বিশেষ উপকার করা)—Raja Rammohun Roy has *done yeoman's service* to our country.

**End in smoke** (fail, ব্যর্থ হওয়া)—All his plans *ended in smoke*.

**Fall flat** (have no effect, ফলপ্রসূ না হওয়া)—My advice *fell flat* on him.

**Fight shy** (avoid, এড়িয়ে চলা)—Why do you *fight shy* of your teacher?

**Fish out of water** (in an uneasy situation, অস্বস্তিকর অবস্থায়)—When he came to the village, he felt like a *fish out of water*.

**Fish in a troubled water** (take advantage of disturbed situation, এলোমেলো অবস্থার সুযোগ নেওয়া)—He made a lot of money by *fishing in a troubled water*.

**Far and wide** (everywhere, সর্বত্র)—His fame as a scholar spread *far and wide*.

**Far and near** (everywhere, সর্বত্র)—His fame as a scholar spread *far and near*.

**Flesh and blood** (human body, রক্তমাংসের শরীর)—*Flesh and blood* cannot bear with such insults.

**For good** (for ever, চিরকালের জন্য)—He left the country *for good*.

**From hand to mouth** (live by hard labour, দিন আনে দিন খায়, বা, বহু কষ্টে জীবনধারণ করে)—The poor man lives *from hand to mouth*.

**From A to Z** (from the beginning to the end, প্রথম থেকে শেষ পর্যন্ত)—The statement is true *from A to Z*.



**Gala day** (a day of festivity, উৎসবের দিন)—The 'Holy' is a *gala day* to the Indians.

**Gala dress** (উৎসবের পোশাক)—They are on their *gala dress* on the 'Id'.

**Get rid of** (be free from, মুক্তি পাওয়া)—Try to *get rid of* that rogue.

**Gift of the gab** (power of delivering speech, বাক্পটুতা)—An advocate should have the *gift of the gab*.

**Hard and fast** (rigid, বাঁধাধরা)—There is no such *hard and fast* rule in this matter.

**Hard nut to crack** (a difficult problem, কঠিন সমস্যা)—The problem of adult education is really a *hard nut to crack*.

**Head and ears** (completely, সম্পূর্ণরূপে)—He is over *head and ears* in debt.

**Heart and soul** (with all energy, সর্বান্তঃকরণে)—Try *heart and soul* and you will succeed.

**Hold water** (be effective, ধোপে টেকা / ফলপ্রসূ হওয়া)—This policy will not *hold water* in this situation.

**Hold good** (apply, প্রযুক্ত হওয়া)—This rule will not *hold good* here.

**Hue and cry** (a noise, শোরগোল)—The villagers raised a *hue and cry* to see the thief.

**Hush money** (bribe money, ঘুষ)—He offered a *hush money* to suppress the murder.

**Household word** (familiar name, সকলের পরিচিত নাম)—Mickey Mouse has now become a *household word*.

**In a fix** (in a difficult position, মুশকিলে পড়া)—He is *in a fix* and does not know what to do.

**In fine** (in conclusion, পরিশেষে)—*In fine* he declared his plan.

**In full swing** (in full activity, পুরোদমে)—The school is now *in full swing*.

**In time** (in proper time, ঠিক সময়ে)—He reached the station *in time*.

**In order to** (with the object of, উদ্দেশ্যে)—He came here *in order to* meet my brother.

**In lieu of** (instead of, পরিবর্তে)—Give me this pen *in lieu of* that.

**In black and white** (in writing, লিখিতভাবে)—Put down the statement *in black and white*.

**In cold blood** (without provocation, ঠাণ্ডা মাথায়)—They committed this murder *in cold blood*.

**In no time** (soon, শীঘ্র)—He will finish the work *in no time*.

**In the nick of time** (in right time, ঠিক সময়ে)—The school team arrived *in the nick of time*.

**Ins and outs** (full details, খুঁটিনাটি সব কিছু)—I know the *ins and outs* of the matter.

**In vogue** (in fashion, চালু)—Polygamy is not *in vogue* now.





- In force** (in activity, বলবৎ)—This law is *in force* now.
- In a nutshell** (very briefly, খুব সংক্ষেপে)—Tell the story *in a nutshell*.
- In a hurry** (very quickly, তাড়াহড়োর মধ্যে)—Don't do the work *in a hurry*.
- Instead of** (in exchange of, পরিবর্তে)—Give me a book *instead of* that.
- In the meantime** (in the time between, ইতিমধ্যে)—Lila will come here tonight. *In the meantime* you should get her room ready.
- In one's teens** (between thirteen and nineteen years of age, তেরো থেকে উনিশ বছর বয়সের মধ্যে)—She is yet *in her teens*.
- In the long run** (ultimately, পরিশেষে)—You will have to suffer *in the long run*.
- In vain** (fruitless, বৃথা)—All his attempts were *in vain*.
- Irony of fate** (by bad luck, ভাগ্যের পরিহাস)—He could not succeed by *irony of fate*.
- Lion's share** (major part, সিংহভাগ)—He took the *lion's share* of the profit.
- Lame excuse** (bad/weak plea, বাজে ওজর)—This *lame excuse* will not do.
- Kith and kin** (near relatives, নিকটাত্মীয়)—He has no good relation with his *kith and kin*.
- Maiden speech** (first speech, প্রথম বক্তৃতা)—His *maiden speech* fell flat on the audience.
- Man of letters** (a scholar, পণ্ডিত লোক)—Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee was a *man of letters*.
- Man of straw** (worthless man, অপদার্থ লোক)—We do not care a fig for a *man of straw* like him.
- Make both ends meet** (live within means, আয়-ব্যয় মেলানো)—I cannot *make both ends meet* with my small income.
- Moot point** (an undecided matter, অমীমাংসিত বিষয়)—Dowry system is still a *moot point* in India.
- Nip in the bud** (destroy in the initial, অঙ্কুরে বিনষ্ট করা)—All his hopes were *nipped in the bud*.
- Null and void** (invalid, বাতিল)—The deed has been *null and void* now.
- Now and then** (occasionally, মাঝে মাঝে)—He comes here *now and then*.
- Of course** (certainly, অবশ্যই)—*Of course*, you know what that means.
- On the contrary** (just opposite, বিপরীত পক্ষে)—I do not hate him; *on the contrary*, I love him.
- On the wane** (declining, হ্রাসমান)—His fame is *on the wane* now.
- On the whole** (generally speaking, মোটের ওপর)—*On the whole*, his conduct is good.
- On the spur of the moment** (under the impulse of the moment, মুহূর্তের উত্তেজনায়)—He did it *on the spur of the moment*.
- Out-of-date** (out of fashion, অপ্রচলিত)—This fashion is now *out of date*.
- Out of doors** (outside, বাইরে)—It is rather cold *out of doors*.

**Out of sorts** (not well, ঈষৎ অসুস্থ)—He is *out of sorts* now.

**Out of order** (defective, বিকল)—This car is *out of order*.

**Out of temper** (angry, ক্রুদ্ধ)—He is *out of temper* now.

**Out of the wood** (free from danger, বিপদমুক্ত)—He is not yet *out of the wood*.

**Part and parcel** (an integral part, অবিচ্ছেদ্য অংশ)—Discipline is *part and parcel* of administration.

**Pros and cons** (details, খুঁটিনাটি)—You should consider the *pros and cons* of the system.

**Rank and file** (common men, সাধারণ লোক)—We should pay attention to the *rank and file* of the country.

**Red letter day** (memorable day, স্মরণীয় দিন)—The 15th August is a *red letter day* in the history of India.

**Red tape** (official formalities, লাল ফিতার বাঁধন/আমলাতান্ত্রিকতা)—*Red tapism* causes delay in official work.

**Read between the lines** (understand the significance, তাৎপর্য বোঝা)—Try to *read between the lines* of the letter.

**Round the clock** (twenty-four hours, সমস্ত দিন)—He is working *round the clock*.

**Set free** (liberate, মুক্ত করা)—The prisoners were *set free*.

**Slow coach** (one who is lazy, অলস প্রকৃতির লোক)—You cannot expect much from a *slow coach* like him.

**Slip of the pen** (slight mistake in writing, লেখায় অসতর্কতাবশত সামান্য ভুল)—This mistake is due to a *slip of the pen*.

**Slip of the tongue** (a slight mistake in speaking, বলায় সামান্য ভুল)—This is a *slip of the tongue*; don't lay much stress on it.

**Square meal** (full meal, পেটভরা আহার)—He is too poor to have a *square meal* everyday.

**Steer clear of** (avoid, এড়িয়ে চলা)—You must *steer clear of* evil company.

**Stone's throw** (within a very short distance, অতি নিকটে)—Our school is at a *stone's throw* from our house.

**Take to heart** (cut to the quick, মর্মান্বিত হওয়া)—He *took* his remark *to heart*.

**Take to one's heels** (to run away, ছুটে পালানো)—The thieves *took to their heels* to see the police.

**Three R's** (elementary education, প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা)—The majority of our people have not yet learnt the *three R's*—*READING, WRITING, ARITHMETIC*.

**To and fro** (hither and thither, এদিক-ওদিক)—Being unable to make up his mind the man is walking *to and fro*.

**Take one to task** (rebuke, তিরস্কার করা)—He was *taken to task* for negligence of duty.

**Tooth and nail** (strongly, তীব্রভাবে)—He fought *tooth and nail* against his enemy.





**Through thick and thin** (through all difficulties, অবস্থা-বিপর্যয় বা বাধা-বিপত্তির মধ্য দিয়ে)—Sita followed her husband *through thick and thin*.

**To the backbone** (to the core, হাড়ে হাড়ে)—The boy is wicked *to the backbone*.

**To the contrary** (against what someone had said, কারও বক্তব্যের বিপর্যয়ে)—In the court he said nothing *to the contrary*.

**To the letter** (in all details, অক্ষরে অক্ষরে)—He followed my advice *to the letter*.



**Turn over a new leaf** (begin a new phase of life, নতুনের সূচনা)—After he joined the circus the monkey *turned over a new leaf*.

**Turn a deaf ear to** (pay no attention, মনোযোগ না দেওয়া)—He *turned a deaf ear to* my proposal.

**Turn down** (refuse, প্রত্যাখ্যান করা)—He *turned down* my proposal.

**Up and doing** (active, উদ্যোগী)—Be *up and doing* and then you will succeed in life.

**Ups and downs** (rise and fall, উত্থানপতন)—There are *ups and downs* in everyone's life.

**White elephant** (a costly unprofitable undertaking, অলাভজনক, ব্যয়বহুল ব্যক্তি বা বস্তু)—At last the department proved to be a *white elephant*.

**Weal and woe** (joy and sorrow, সুখ-দুঃখ)—Human life is full of *weal and woe*.

**Wild goose chase** (useless pursuit, পণ্ডশ্রম)—Do not waste time in *wild goose chase*.

**Widow's mite** (small contribution of a poor man, দরিদ্রের ক্ষুদ্র দান)—A *widow's mite* is no less important than a large contribution of a rich man.

### EXERCISE

**Replace the italicised word or words by idiomatic expressions :** (বাঁকানো হরফে লেখা শব্দ বা শব্দগুলির পরিবর্তে idiom ব্যবহার করো।)

- (1) His activities are *beyond doubt*. (2) The paternal property is the *matter of dispute* among the brothers. (3) The sun is *like* the lamp of the universe. (4) His popularity is *declining*. (5) The two brothers are now *at enmity*. (6) He feels *comfortable* at his friend's house. (7) He is *skilled* in Mathematics. (8) He is beating the bush *without any aim*. (9) He reached there *at the last moment*. (10) He left the place *with all belongings*. (11) The beauty of the Taj *cannot be described*. (12) He will come here *soon*. (13) Lila dances *irregularly*. (14) The price of rice is increasing *rapidly*. (15) The dowry system is the *matter of strong debate* nowadays. (16) Mass education is the *urgent need* of India. (17) I do not know why he *avoids* me. (18) Human body *cannot tolerate* such insults. (19) Tell me the story very *briefly*. (20) He comes here *occasionally*.

