

Defer: to post pone  
 The examinations were deferred due to unconditional circumstances.  
 Pious: very religious  
 Mohsin is very pious in offering prayers five times a day without fail  
 Abduct: kidnap  
 The son of President, A2 ProtecH was kidnapped for a hefty ransom.  
 Insist: maintain something until you get it  
 She insisted that he was wrong.  
 Pacify: to calm down  
 The angry crowd was pacified when their requests were granted

Edible: that can be eaten  
 The seeds of some fruits are edible.  
 Preach: elders giving advice  
 The monks preached that simplicity is way towards happiness in Life.  
 Acquit: to clear the blame  
 The court acquitted the criminals as there was no evidence to prove their guilt  
 Assent: agree to something  
 She will never assent to their marriage.  
 Extort: obtain something by force  
 The villains extorted money from the hawkers on the road.

Shrewd : very thrifty about money. (kanjoos)  
 The village Sarpanch was a shrewd man.  
 Drowsy: very tired and sleepy  
 He seems to be always drowsy when asked to study  
 Insane: really out of mind  
 He was totally insane when he bought a pair of shoes for \$6500  
 Recruit: to enroll  
 The Army recruited young healthy boys into their services  
 Pretend: to act  
 The children pretended to be suffering from stomach ache to miss the school

Predict: to tell about future  
 The Mayan Astronomers predicted that Earth would perish by 2012  
 Restore: give something back  
 The diamond was restored in the museum after the thieves were caught.  
 Endorse: to sign a check  
 The check was endorsed by the President.  
 Enhance: improve  
 Matrix enhances the child intellectual ability  
 Condone: to forgive or overlook somebody's mistake  
 The police officer condoned the thief, expecting him to change his ways.

Narrate: to tell about an incident or story  
 He narrated how he met with an unfortunate accident  
 Exhaust: tire somebody out or use something up  
 He was quite exhausted after his practice exercises.  
 Prevail: be unbeaten and in control  
 He prevailed over his enemies  
 Elegant : stylish and graceful  
 A suit can be as expensive as you like; it's the wearer who makes it look elegant.  
 Abscond: run away  
 After killing five people, the criminal was absconding.

Inspire: stimulate somebody to do something  
 My teacher always inspires me to do unfinished work promptly.  
 Obstruct: block  
 The view through the window was obstructed by the tree.  
 Accurate: precise and exact.  
 The accurate value of "pi" is difficult to compute.  
 Admonish: to scold or reprimand.  
 The child was admonished for his rude behavior by his father.  
 Diagnose: identify illness in patient  
 My friend was diagnosed with cancer after the lab tests.

Humiliate: degrade  
 My friend was humiliated by the teacher for obtaining fewer marks.  
 Interrupt: cause something to stop  
 The school parade was interrupted by the rain.  
 Miserable: very unhappy  
 The old man was very miserable because of his difficulties.  
 Eradicate: get rid of something completely  
 Chicken pox can be eradicated by vaccination.  
 Persuade: convince somebody of something  
 The mother persuaded her little child to go to school.

Dominate: control and be prominent  
 Usually the monitor dominates in the class.  
 Prohibit: forbid somebody or something  
 Cigarette smoking is prohibited in public places.  
 vast : very big  
 The village farmers had a vast land to cultivate crops.  
 foil : to fail or spoil efforts  
 The experiments on plants were foiled with the rain pouring suddenly.  
 Reap: obtain a result; gather crop  
 You shall reap the benefits of hard work slowly but surely.

Allot: to give  
 The teacher allotted him some assignment to be done.  
 Emit: to give out something  
 Light and heat are emitted by the Sun.  
 Grasp: to hold  
 She grasped the glass vessel in her hand firmly.  
 Harsh: to be very rude or unkind  
 The teacher's harsh behavior made students dislike her.  
 Hefty: heavy or very much  
 The bag was too hefty to be lifted.

Seize: to take control of  
 The Government seized Satyam Corporation after it fudging with their Stock Pricing.  
 Plead: to request earnestly  
 He pleaded the king to forgive his son and let him go without the punishment  
 Noble: having good qualities  
 My teacher is a very highly noble lady.  
 Erode: to remove or loose form the surface  
 The top surface of the soil erodes during high winds.  
 Rouse: to incite or raise feelings or opinion  
 The unfair treatment by the king roused hatred in his people.

Claim: to say or declare that you own something.  
 The Manager claimed that the stolen car was his.  
 Cease: to stop  
 Due to very high blood pressure, heart ceases to function.  
 Decay: to disintegrate or loose.  
 Radioactive substances decay and emit Alpha rays.  
 Immerse: to put into something.  
 He immersed the inverted glass into the water.  
 Frank: to be very free in conversation  
 My sister is usually very frank in expressing her opinion in politics.

Dread: great fear  
 The tales of Lion dreaded the hunters to enter the woods.  
 Annoy: to cause trouble  
 The student annoyed the teacher greatly asking her stupid questions.  
 Douse: immerse something in liquid  
 A cloth doused in kerosene can easily catch fire.  
 Enact: to act like or to follow  
 The students enacted a scene from the movie.  
 Deport: to send out of country  
 Dalai Lama, a Buddhist monk was deported to Tibet

Reject: not accept something  
 The MLA rejected the offer to become Agriculture minister.  
 Bitter: strong and sharp in taste or very harsh in behavior  
 She behaved very bitterly towards her sister in front of the guests  
 Fulfill: achieve something desired(wish)  
 He fulfilled his father's wishes by becoming a doctor.  
 Assert: claim or insist on rights  
 She asserted that she had never seen the man before.  
 Enroll: to enter on registering with an institution  
 Please enroll the children in school as soon as possible

Assort: to sort things by type or category  
 He assorted the books according to the authors  
 Verbal: using words  
 They both usually have verbal fights.  
 Assure: to make somebody confident  
 I can assure you that every word I said is true.  
 Define: give meaning of word  
 Lincoln defined Democracy as Government for the people, by the people and to the people"  
 Secure: a safe place or to make something safe  
 The house is secure with guards around the house.  
 The Army secured the building after it was hijacked by terrorists.

Insure: to protect against risk  
 He was not in loss when his shop was on fire as he had insured it.  
 Feeble: very weak  
 The old man was too feeble to walk  
 Steady: to be stable and remaining same  
 The machine is stable if the electric connection is secure.  
 Imbibe: absorb ideas  
 Students need to imbibe good qualities right from a tender age  
 Invest: to buy something  
 My father invested money in Reliance shares

Kindle: to start burning  
 We all need to kindle our spirits to achieve something big in our lives.  
 Clarify: make something clear  
 It is better to clarify your doubts immediately after the class.  
 Initial: in the beginning  
 The initial velocity of the car when it started was 36 Kmph.  
 Revolt: uprising against government  
 The people in France revolted to dethrone the King.  
 Impair: weaken something  
 Bad maintenance impaired my grinding machine

Remote: distant  
My relatives live in a remote village in Andhra Pradesh.

Assume: suppose  
Let us assume that the value of 'x' is 19.  
Impose: to put a mandatory(compulsory) condition  
A very huge tax was imposed on the farmers during the British rule.  
Incline: motivated to do something  
I am inclined to listen to my father's preaching.  
Evolve: develop gradually  
We all evolved from monkeys to humans over a million of years.

Mutual: for each other  
If the teacher teaches well and students learn well, then both shall have mutual benefit.  
Detach :separate  
Siamese twins are detached from each other after an exhaustive surgery.  
Inhibit: to stop  
Some chemicals inhibit growth in plants.  
Sincere: very honest  
The soldiers are expected to render sincere services for their motherland  
Diverse: many  
There are diverse religions practiced in India

Specific: particularly something special ( good or bad )  
There is something specific about Radium since it emits light in dark.  
Ennoble: make somebody noble  
My bitter friends were ennobled after the accidental death of our classmate.  
Isolate: to separate from a mixture  
The impurities in water can be isolated by a water filter  
Evident: very clear  
It was very evident from his lies that Paul is the thief.  
Perish: to disappear or die  
The soldiers perished one after the other after cholera broke out.

Involve: to be a part of something  
His parents asked him not to involve with those bad guys  
Deprive: to take something away from somebody  
They have no right to deprive you of your own property  
Execute: to do or kill somebody  
The convict was executed early in the morning  
He executed the plan very masterfully  
Attempt: to try  
I attempted to answer the Quiz question first.

Audible: to be able to listen  
The speaker was boring as his voice was not audible  
Exploit: to make advantage of somebody  
Children were exploited in industries to work for lower wages.  
Decline: to reject  
He declined job offer from Dell Corporation  
Assault: to beat badly  
The boy was assaulted by some bullies in his school  
Mature: acting or seeming like an adult  
Philip is only 12 but he's very tall and already quite mature

Extinct: no longer in existence  
This custom has for many years been almost extinct  
Nervous: uneasy  
When Pearl was called on the stage she was feeling nervous to speak.  
Average: typical amount or usually how much is present  
The average temperature in India ranges from 35<sup>0</sup>-47<sup>0</sup> C  
Utilize: make use of something  
It is a good virtue to utilize time during leisure periods  
Confine: keep somebody or something within limits  
Please confine your comments to the matters at hand.

Visible: able to be seen  
The buttons on his shirt are so tiny that they are not visible  
Collide: crash into something  
The lorry collided with the parked car and killed him.  
nourish: give food to  
The owners nourished their dogs with expensive pet-food.  
Virtual: not real.  
Some people imagine themselves to be living in virtual worlds  
Amplify: increase, to become larger or more  
The sound was amplified using a woofer speaker.

Legible: able to read  
His handwriting is quite horrible  
Emanate: come from  
The light emanating from radium is harmful.  
Perform: fulfill or accomplish  
Athletes perform best under pressure  
Inspect: look at something carefully and critically  
She took the cheese and inspected for mould.  
Immense: very large  
The blue whale is an immense creature

Curious: eager to know something  
 I'm curious to know how they found out about the party.  
 Our supplies of Petroleum will be exhausted  
 Conceal: hide person or thing  
 The evidence was carefully concealed  
 Distinct: noticeable and different  
 There is something distinct about his character that draws people towards him  
 Official: of a governmental or authority  
 No official report has been issued on yesterday's earthquakes yet.

drip: some liquid falling in drops  
 The raindrops were dripping from the roof.  
 capable: can be able to do something  
 My horse is capable of winning this race.  
 nurture: to care with good food or bringing up something.  
 Parents want to know the best way to nurture and raise their child to adulthood.  
 intimate: NOTIFY or to very close  
 The PM'S death was intimated through Television.  
 gallop: jumping of an animal.  
 The horse galloped quickly down the street.

resemble: to look similar.  
 You resemble Sada very much.  
 embrace: to accept or take in into one's arms.  
 The saint embraced his follower to advise him to lead a pious life.  
 appoint: to put someone in a job or responsibility  
 Krishna Madhuri was appointed the Secretary of the company.  
 enclose: to close something within some other thing  
 Radioactive materials are always enclosed within Lead container.  
 intense: very high or more in quantity.  
 Normal X rays are not harmful. But intense X Rays can cause cancer.

divine: something related God.  
 He experienced a divine feeling when he read the Quran.  
 morbid: unhealthy or unpleasant  
 Her house is really morbid.  
 recoil: to move back as a reaction( like when you fire a gun)  
 The shooter recoiled after firing the machine gun.  
 utilize: to make use of  
 The light from the Sun is utilized in as solar energy in solar cookers.  
 struggle: to fight for a cause.  
 My parents struggled very much to get me educated.

rigorous: quite harsh and hard  
 The prisoner was sentenced with seven year rigorous punishment in Tihar jail.  
 precious: something that has very high value  
 Diamond is a precious jewelry.  
 transmit: to send  
 Lasers transmit information in form of light.  
 assemble: to collect things (or people at one place)  
 The ministers assembled in the Lok Sabha building.  
 portable: that which can be carried anywhere easily.  
 Now a days technology is so advanced we have portable TVs DVD players and cooking stove

flourish: very successful and developing quickly  
 The business flourished in the first year itself.  
 consider: to think or assume that something is like that  
 Consider if ministers were not corrupt, then India would be a rich nation.  
 liberate: to free something big or to release  
 The African countries were liberated from the France after the revolution.  
 Hydrogen gas is liberated in this reaction.  
 imminent: that which will come for sure  
 Considering the cloudy condition, heavy rain is imminent.  
 terrible: very bad  
 The food in this restaurant is very bad.

proclaim: to announce  
 It was proclaimed that the king had won the battle.  
 commence: to start  
 Examinations commences from 19 Feb 2010  
 comprise: to have in it.  
 The machine comprises of four cylinders, two spark plugs and one motor.  
 peculiar: something particular.  
 There is something peculiar about your brother's character.  
 rational: to be reasonable and practically possible  
 It is not rational to believe in superstitious beliefs  
 Scientists declared the superstitious beliefs of tribal people are not rational.

coincide: to come together or happen at same time  
 My birthday and your Marriage date coincides.  
 abundant: available in large numbers  
 Coal is abundant in Orissa.  
 hesitate: to feel uneasy in doing something  
 She hesitated to ask the teacher to explain the sum once aging.  
 glorious: very beautiful and impressive  
 The Greeks have a glorious history.  
 decipher: to solve a mystery, problem or code  
 The historians deciphered the Egyptian text on the sculptures.

domestic: related to home or one's own country.

Illiterate girls usually do domestic work.

All domestic flights fares have increased.

initiate: to start

the angry crowd initiated hunger strike inform of the CM's house.

splendid: excellent

The performance shown by the athlete was splendid.

estimate: to guess value of something

Experts estimated the price of one barrel petrol to rise up to \$140.

offensive: very bad in manner or language

The employee spoke in an offensive manner to his officer.

hilarious: very funny, can make anybody keep laughing

The Comedy Show on Star TV is really hilarious.

authentic: real

The pearls were authentic as they were certified.

malicious: harmful

Computer viruses are nothing but malicious programs

aggregate: collective or assembled together

Your aggregate marks include Practical totals and Theory totals.

determine: to find out

The inspector asked the constables to determine who the real criminal

benevolent: charitable, kind, benign

Mr. Bill Gates was benevolent in donating 33 million dollars to the AIDS research.

illuminate: to decorate with lights

The house was illuminated on Diwali with lamps

manipulate: change something while operating it.

The fraud manager manipulated the cheque number to draw more money.

formidable: having fear when you face something great or impressive

The fighter was worried on looking at his formidable opponent was very strong.

annihilate: destroy

A huge nuclear explosion can annihilate the entire human race on earth.

commercial: related to business

The land was used for commercial activity.

accumulate: to collect or amass

The money accumulated in your bank account can be 5 lakh rupees in the next two years.

collaborate: to join and do some big work together

The University and the Industry should collaborate together on this research.

significant: very important

The role of a father in family is significant.

disseminate: to spread or distribute

Knowledge should be disseminated free of cost.

demonstrate: to show how something works

The new water purifying machine was demonstrated by the salesman.

mysterious: no one clearly knows

A mysterious man always appeared on the mountain.

equivalent: being the same

The cars cost is equivalent to a man's 70 year's earning.

incredible: very surprising or unbelievable

The taste of the food at the new restaurant was incredible.

fundamental: basic

Right to Education is a fundamental right

spontaneous: happening in seconds very fast

She spoke spontaneously on the topic on the stage.

# Vocabulary: Nouns

Jury: the group of judges

The jury acquitted the accused prisoner.

Hoax: some big talk or hip hype or fake

The employees received a hoax call that there was a bomb planted in Genpact

Span: time period

Eucalyptus trees grow very tall in a span of five years.

Villa: a small house

My villa is on the beach shore where we go in week ends.

Vault: a bank safe where money or jewelry is kept

The robbers broke opened the vault and stole the cash worth 10 rupees!

Alibi: evidence that a person was somewhere else when the crime was committed.

The accused was acquitted because he had an alibi saying that he was in Chennai when murder took place on Friday.

Peril: a great danger

Looking at the storm coming up, Ulysses did not know how to save his soldiers from this peril.

Kiosk: small structure for advertising

The Pepsi advertisements were really looking good

Guilty: feeling that what we did was a wrong thing and feeling bad about it.

I had a guilty feeling after I spoke rudely to my father.

Mettle: mental strength

He is of a strong mettle to be defeated.

Carton: plastic or cardboard container

They discarded the used milk cartons in the dustbin.

Advent: the coming of someone or something

The advent was Christianity in Europe was welcomed readily.

Novice: someone learning or doing something for first time

He was a novice in guns and rifles as evident when he missed that shot.

Elixir: a medicine that make you immortal.

Due to the immense benefits of water, it is claimed as elixir of life.

Laurel: praise or awards

You need to get laurels for your school being a Cabinet member.

Solace: relief from emotional distress

Her relatives' presence brought solace to her mind when her mother expired.

Tycoon somebody powerful especially in business

Sam Pitroda, the father of Indian Telecom Industry, is a very famous business tycoon

Turmoil: a great confusion and problem

The minister was put in turmoil by th reporter for asking about his black money in public press conference

Verdict: judgement

The verdict was given by the jury that Smoking needs to be banned in all public places.

Autopsy: post moterm, examination to find cause of death

The autopsy report revealed that he died of inhaling poisonous gases.

Precept: a moral principle

His precept was to forgive his enemies when they have realized their mistakes mistaken belief or idea:

fallacy: mistaken belief or idea

the seventh mandarin made the king realize about the fallacy of flying kites

gesture: body movement

I understood form his gestures that he was not feeling comfortable sitting in that chair.

Ascetic: like a saint, somebody who leads austere life

The Sufi saints during the Bhakthi movement were ascetics

Essence: basic nature of something

Lack of time is the essence of the problem

Session: meeting

Did you all attend the Matrix Personality Development session?

Offence: legal or moral crime

Treating animals with inhumanity is an offence.

Blunder: stupid mistake

It was my blunder to prepare the lunch before the guests arrived.

Cynosure: centre of attention

Dressed in his blue suit he was the cynosure in the party as everybody eyes were on him.

Applause: clapping of hands

He was given a loud applause for securing first rank.

Heritage: something passing from generation to generation

Celebrating Sankranthi after the crops harvest is South Indian heritage.

jeopardy: danger

He was in jeopardy when faced with a tiger in the middle of woods.

Aperture: opening through lens or mirror

When exposed to l8ights the aperture of our eye increases.

Altitude: height or high place

At higher altitude the air pressure is very low.

Campaign: planned actions for a special purpose

The Polio campaign was conducted to eradicate the disease.

Carnival: public celebration

There was a carnival held in Rome after the successful journey of sailors.

Laureate: award winner

Professor VenkatRaman Ramakrishnanan is Nobel Laureate.

Argument: a fight with words

There was an argument among the brothers on who should take the property.

Instinct: strong natural impulse

Mother Teresa's instincts directed her towards social service.

Preamble: introductory explanation

The preamble of our Constitution states that India is Socialist, Republic, Secular and De-mocratic country.

Courtesy: polite or considerate behavior

It considered as courtesy to listen to the person speaking.

notary: a lawyer, who has legal authority to the signing of documents in order to make them legally valid

The land papers were signed by the notary to make them legally approved.

Obituary: announcement of death

His uncle's obituary appeared in the newspaper.

Audience: people watching live performance

The audience was impressed with the magician's feats.

Accolade: sign of praise, public recognition

The teen age boy received the accolades after he saved the child from drowning in the river.

Metaphor: symbol

Mother is a metaphor of love and care.

Variation: something differing slightly

The variation in the question paper pattern made the students feel it hard.

Symbiosis: mutually beneficial relationship, both benefit from each other.

The symbiosis between algae and fungi is called as Lichens.

Snakes and farmers live in symbiosis by helping each other. The snakes kill and eat rat thus saving the crops of the farmers

Soliloquy: talking when alone

His soliloquy helped him to overcome his fear speaking in public.

Matrimony: married state

His matrimony status was "married" in the official register.

Integrity: possession of firm principles

We all need to behave with integrity towards our peers and colleagues.

Hindrance: something in the way, obstruction of progress

Poor training and lack of money was posing as a hindrance to his success in hockey.

demagogue: emotive dictator

The political was a leader a demagogue and people liked him whenever he visited their place.

Casualty: accident victim

The Railway minister enquired immediately about the number of casualties after the Train accident.

Colleague: fellow worker

My colleagues and I usually work for a longer time in office.

Introvert: reserved person, shy person who tends not to socialize much

Raju being an introvert does not talk much in class or with his friends.

Biography: account of somebody's life

Gandhiji's biography is "My Experiments with the Truth".

Procedure: established method

The procedure to perform this experiment is given the text book.

Platitude: a statement usually repeated but is useless.

The leader were only giving platitudes to farmers like "don't loose hope, we will soon have rains".

Prosperity: Success

The elders blessed her with good luck and prosperity on her birthday.

Enthusiasm: excited interest

The students showed enthusiasm in preparing for teacher's Day celebrations.

Pestilence: epidemic of disease

All the beggars were thrown out of the city as they were considered as the source of pestilence spreading in the city.

Conjecture: guess work

All the answers given by the student in Maths paper were conjectures.

Palindrome: text reading the same backward and forward

"121" and "madam" are examples of palindromes.

Phenomenon: something experienced, particular incident or happening

The phenomenon of light bending its path as it enters a different medium is called refraction.

Providence: good judgment and management

The President displayed providence in taking care of people and in handling his ministers.

Transition: process of change

The company was undergoing a transition after following some improvement methods.

Application: usefulness

The application of laser technology in medicine field helped to discover new healing methods.

Constituent: ingredient present inside

The constituents of the earth are crust, mantle and core.

Equilibrium: balance or stability.

The man walking on the rope uses a long stick to maintain his equilibrium.

Encyclopedia: comprehensive reference book with detailed information.

The website "www.wikipedia.com" is an Encyclopedia.

Emancipation: act of freeing

President Lincoln helped in the emancipation of Black slaves from their masters.

Idiosyncrasy: some particular belief of an individual.

It was Mr. Fred's idiosyncrasy to drink water before having his coffee.

Philanthropist: a goo human being

Many philanthropists donated to the University to fund research for Swine flu vaccination.

Characteristic: defining feature

Severe cough, bluish nails, high fever and vomiting are characteristics of Swine flu.

Circumlocution: indirect way of saying something

The police wanted the thieves to come to their mother-in-laws' house. The circumlocution was they were taken to jail.

Hallucination: false sense perception

The doctors convinced him that he did not see any ghost but it was his hallucination.

faith: intense trust

Some people have faith superstitious beliefs.

staff: people working in an institution

The Director assembled the staff for the Annual Meeting.

grief: sorrow

The parents had immense grief after losing their son in the accident.

charm: some effect

Mother Teresa had some special charm on people she approached for help.

fault: mistake

It was the teacher's fault to let the children make more noise.

zephyr: gentle wind

I enjoying walking in the park feeling the zephyr in the month of July.

zealot: someone who forces something on others very forcefully

The priests were zealots in following Sati with the widows.

source: from where something is obtained

Sand is the source for silica and rock salt.

decree: a strict order from the authority

The king passed a decree to tax all farmers in the kingdom.

flight: to be in state of flying

Some birds make "V" formation in their flight.

bauble: cheap ornament or jewellery

It is a fake diamond jewellery, it is just a bauble.

orchid: plants with bright colored flowers

My father has a farmland with lots of orchids.

relics: things kept in memory of someone or something

The watch, bible and the compass were his relics of the sea voyage.

device: an instrument or machine.

Computer is an electronic device

meadow: field with grass and flowers growing

It was a good view to look at the village meadows through the window from the train.

feature: some characteristics

The features on his face always show him to be harsh.

opinion: view

I usually take my dad's opinion before investing in the share market.

gallery: a place where something of particular value is collected.

The art was filled with art lovers and enthusiasts.

antique: an old thing but has great money value in present

My great grand father's furniture was sold as antique.

torrent: continuous flow of water

The raft was drifting faster along with the torrent.

conceit: pride or a great feeling that you have achieved or succeeded.

She was a genius and she had no conceit about that fact.

augment: to add something to make it look larger or more powerful (increase)

The Medals on the uniform augments the respect and honor of a soldier.

stealth: to do something surely

The entire rescue operation from the hijackers done in stealth.

foliage: the leaves of a plant or tree

The foliage of the big Banyan tree provide shelter to the travelers in the jungle.

purpose: work or intention

I visited my uncle with a purpose to invite him to the inauguration event.

leisure: extra time where you have no work to do

I spend my leisure drawing pictures.

treatise: a long writing(research) on some subject

The doctors published a treatise on Bloodless surgeries.

exposure: to put something towards it.

X Rays' exposure can cause skin cancer.

tendency: a feeling to do something immediately

I feel the tendency to dance when listen that song on TV.

auction: a public space where goods are sold to the person who offers highest price.

The old house was sold in auction for twenty lakhs.

province: a large section of a country which has its own administration.

The Chinese empire was extended till the Xinhua province.

prospects: chances

The prospects of your getting the job this company can be more if you worked hard.

conquest: the conquering of a kingdom or something

The Emperor arranged a grand feast to celebrate the conquest of Atlanta.

travesty: bad thing about something

It would be a travesty to the school's name if no student secured above 500 marks in this academic year.

verbiage: using too many words

The newspaper article was confusing as it had verbiage.

prestige: self respect, dignity

To protect the prestige of his family, he sacrifice his job and helped his father in farming.

oblivion: the state where something is forgotten

Tigers are almost in oblivion as their numbers are rapidly decreasing.

survival: to be able to live

The survival of the animals depends on the availability of water in deserts.

creation: the process of making or creating something

The creation of Universe can be explained by the Big BANG Theory.

hermitage: a place where a person lives alone from the society(hermit)

The saints built a hermitage in the middle of the jungle to stay peacefully



miniature: a small model of something big

Miniature of Taj Mahal are usually gifted as symbol of Love.

franchise: an authority to sell goods or services of some other company

Coca Cola makes Sprite. So, Coca Cola is the franchise owner of Sprite

coalition: mixing of two or more entities

The coalition party was formed by the BJP, PRP and BSP to lead opposition in the Assembly.

principle: rules\laws

The principle behind working of a rocket is " every action has an equal and opposite reaction"

hierarchy: the line of ancestors or line of people in a company according to their position

The hierarchy of positions for promotion is from Junior assistant to senior assistant to manger to director and finally to the CEO.

battalion: a unit of army

The Army Chief commanded ten battallion units out of 100 to attack the village.

enclosure: things which are closed within something

The birth certificate and filled-in registration form are the enclosures being sent along with this letter.

salvation: to attain the highest goodness(moksha)

The hermits went into deep mediation for salvation

departure: the leaving of a [place

The departure of the Mumbai Express is scheduled at 6 p.m.

indolence: laziness

You will be fired from this job if you continue with your indolence.

editorial: an article written by the editor newspaper magazine

The editorials of the Hindu are of high standards.

composure: the cool state of mind

He maintained his composure although he was tensed during the fight.

confluence: joining of two things

The confluence of these two rivers takes place at the sea.

fraternity: people who are closely linked with each other (at work or some other place)

The teaching fraternity of the school decided to conduct a seminar in the auditorium.

suspicion: a feeling that someone has done something wrong

The police had a suspicion that the neighbor was the murderer.

misogynist: a man who dislikes woman

If you continue doing things which I hate, I might just become a misogynist.

dormitory: a hostel room

The students were accommodated in the College Dormitory.

medicament: a medicine prepared for a special purpose

Neem leaves are used as medicament for constipation.

enterprise: a small or medium sized company

The film was produced by Lakshmi Ganapathi Enterprises.

missionary: an institution with a mission or person working in it.

Mother Teresa named her missionary as "Missionaries of charity"

disposition: character

It is a gentleman's disposition to welcome the guest on their arrival.

revolution: a very big and radical change

With the machines replacing man, it caused a revolution in the production of goods.

orientation: inclination towards a particular direction or person

The Chinese had orientation towards Mathematics right from the beginning.

misanthrope: who does not like another people

Well my grandfather is a misanthrope as he tries to keep himself away from people always.

benediction: a kind of Christian prayer seeking blessings

The family attends the benediction prayer meeting every Sunday in the church.

terminology: list of terms or words

The scientific terminology used in naming plants and animals is usually in Latin.

expenditure: spending of something(usually money)

The expenditure towards the train ticket for the journey was Rs. 500/-

discrepancy: errors

If there are any discrepancies in ID CARD details, contact Mr. Jeff at 9784599332

keep up: stay on the required schedule  
You have to keep up if you want to work here.  
keep down: not vomit, not throw up, keep in one's stomach  
If I ate that, I don't know if I could keep it down.  
kick back: sit or lie back (to relax)  
After work, I like to kick back in front of the TV and relax.  
kick in: begin taking effect  
The medicine takes one hour to kick in.  
let down: disappoint  
I felt let down when I didn't receive a birthday card from my sister.

let down: lengthen (pants in sewing)  
My uncle is a tailor, so he can let your pants down.  
lie with: be decided by  
Whether or not you can go to the party lies with your father.  
make out: decipher  
I can't make out your handwriting. What does this say?  
make out: progress  
How is your son making out in his new job?  
make over: do again  
The teacher made me do my homework over.

name after: name a child using another family member's name  
I was named after my grandfather.  
nose around: sneak around  
I hate it when my mother noses around my room.  
take in: deceive a person  
He was taken in by the con artist.  
take off: when a plane or rocket leaves the ground  
My stomach felt funny when the plane took off.  
take off: remove  
In many cultures, it is appropriate to take off your shoes when entering a house.

tell off: criticize a person severely, reprimand (inf.)  
Carolina told me off when she found out I was gossiping about her.  
think over: consider  
Think over the offer before you sign the contract.  
turn up: increase the volume or intensity of a TV, or other machine  
Turn up the TV. I can't hear what they're saying.  
turn up: find unexpectedly  
My keys turned up in the bedroom.  
check by: go to a place to see if everything is OK  
We need to check by the office to see if the documents are ready.

save up: accumulate (money)  
I hope I will be able to save up enough money to go to school.  
put off: postpone  
Don't put off your work - do it now!  
rule out: eliminate  
I wouldn't rule out the possibility of moving to another country if I get a good job  
run into: meet unexpectedly  
I ran into my English teacher at the movies last night. She's so nice!  
see about: arrange or consider something  
My dad said he was going to see about buying me a car.

see through: finish something despite difficulties  
Are you going to be able to see your studies through now that you have a baby?  
set up: arrange  
I set up an appointment with my doctor at 3:30 this afternoon.  
show up: make someone seem inferior  
He's always trying to show up his co-workers in order to get ahead.  
slow down: make move more slowly  
Because Mary's level in English is lower than the rest of the students, she slows the class down.  
stand for: represent  
SCUBA stands for "self contained underwater breathing apparatus."

ask over: invite to one's home  
Why don't we ask the Johnsons over for dinner?  
call off: order to stop  
He called off the dogs when he saw it was his neighbor.  
break up: break into pieces  
I broke the cracker up into pieces and put it in the soup.  
break up: disperse (a crowd), stop (a fight)  
The police broke the demonstration up before it got out of control.  
break up: end a relationship  
Sam and Diane broke up again. What a rocky relationship.

bring about: cause to happen  
Democracy brought about great change in the lives of the people.  
carry out: complete and/or accomplish something  
The secret agent carried out his orders exactly as planned.  
check out: leave a hotel, hospital  
It's already eleven. We need to check out.  
cheer up: make someone feel cheerful  
The party really cheered me up.  
cheer up: become cheerful  
Cheer up. Everything will be all right.

come by: get, receive

How did you come by that new Mercedes?

come by: visit a person at their house

I'll come by later this afternoon.

come through: do what is needed or expected

Terry really came through for us in the end.

crack up: laugh uncontrollably, laugh a lot

When I told the joke, they all cracked up.

cut out: remove

He cut the bone out of the steak.

cut out: stop an action

Cut it out! You're bothering me.

take over: take control of

Who is going to take over the family business when Aretha's father dies?

take up: occupy space

This couch takes up too much space in the living room.

talk over: discuss

I hope my parents talk their relationship problems over before they get divorced.

tear down: destroy

The county decided to tear down the dilapidated school and build a new one.

touch up: make the final improvements

We didn't paint the whole kitchen, we just touched up the cabinets.

turn in: go to bed (inf.)

It's getting late. I think it is about time to turn in.

wipe out: cause to be very tired

After surfing all day, I was completely wiped out.

take down: remove (from a high place)

The city government made the shop take down their bright, neon sign.

play up: to flatter someone for your personal advantage

She has been playing up to the boss because she wants a promotion.

take back: retract something you said

I demand that you take back what you said.

show off: boast, draw attention to oneself

Young boys show off in order to impress girls.

stand by: wait

I need you to stand by and answer the phone when my broker calls.

take after: resemble a parent or relative

I take after my father. Who do you take after?

open up: share feelings

I'm glad that John feels comfortable enough around me to open up.

mix up: blend

We need to mix up these different kinds of nuts before we put them in

mix up: make lively (a party)

Let's mix up this party with a little disco music.

lay into: scold or criticize severely

I saw Reto's mom lay into him when he came home late last night.

lay off: suspend someone from a job (during a slow period)

The company was losing money, so they had to lay off 100 workers.

look up: search for (in a dictionary)

I takes time to look up new vocabulary words.

look up: locate and visit

If you ever travel to California, you should look me up.

bawl out: criticize, reprimand (inf.)

She bawled him out for arriving late.

bear up: withstand

I didn't think he would bear up so well in that situation.

blow up: destroy using explosives

The terrorists blew the bridge up.

blow up: suddenly become very angry

When Joan heard the news, she blew up and rushed out of the room.

calm down: make someone relax

You can calm the baby down by rocking her gently.

break off: end something

Sally broke her engagement to John off.

burn down: destroy by setting fire to

The children burned the house down while playing with matches.

burn down: burn until completely gone (building)

Two buildings burnt down in the fire.

break in: enter a place unlawfully

The burglar broke in between midnight and 3 AM.

check on: make sure something is OK

Let's check on the baby again before we go to sleep.

check with: ask a person for confirmation

He needs to check with his parents before he goes.

clean up: tidy

Susan cleaned the mess up before she left.

come along: accompany someone

If you want, you can come along.

come up: with: produce or create (an idea, a plan)

She came up with a great proposal for the new advertising campaign.

cut down: on: decrease the amount of  
You need to cut down on your fat intake.

break down: stop working properly  
The truck broke down in the desert.

break down: become mentally ill  
She broke down after her husband died.

bring away: learn or gain (from an experience)  
My journey was difficult, but I brought life away from the experience.

come across: discover by accident  
They came across some lost Mayan ruins in the jungle.

die down: diminish in intensity  
The controversy about the president's affair finally died down.

draw up: create ( a contract)  
Let's draw an agreement up before we go any further with this project.

drop in: visit someone unexpectedly  
Meg dropped in yesterday after dinner.

figure up: calculate  
I need to figure my expenses up before I give you an estimate.

get along: have a good relationship  
Do you and your sister get along?

get by: survive without having the things you need or want  
I lost my job, so I am having a hard time getting by this year.

get off: leave (a bus, plane, train, boat)  
We need to get off the bus at the next stop.

get through: complete  
We will never get through all of these boxes by 0.375 PM.

look on: observe as a spectator  
Everybody just looked on as the two men fought.

look out: be careful, pay attention, heed a certain danger  
Look out, there's a black widow spider on the wall.

look over: examine, review  
When I'm camping, I look my shoes over before I put them on.

pass away: die  
After battling cancer for several years, he finally passed away at the age of 87

pass on: not accept (an invitation to eat or do something)  
Jennifer passed on the invitation to join us for dinner.

pass out: distribute  
We need to pass out these flyers for the concert tomorrow.

look after: take care of (a child, a house, a pet)  
When my sister goes on vacation, I look after her dog.

live up: to keep a standard  
It would be hard to live up to her parent's expectations.

give up: surrender  
Never give up learning English!

go by,: go past, go close to: visit quickly  
We go by the coffee shop everyday.

go for: try to achieve  
Our team is going for the gold medal in the Olympics.

go into: discuss in detail  
I really don't want to go into that now.

go over: review  
Do you usually go over your notes before class?

grow up: mature  
Your brother needs to grow up and start thinking about his future.

hand down: give as an inheritance  
When my clothes got too small for me as a child, I handed them down

Hand over: relinquish control of  
hang your car keys over. You're too drunk to drive.

hang out: stay in a place for fun  
Let's go hang out at the mall tonight.

have on: wear  
Do you have your hiking boots on?

jump in: enter a conversation  
Feel free to jump in at any moment while we are talking.

keep at: not give up (an activity), to persevere  
You should keep at your studies.

hand in: submit  
I have to hand in an offer by March 12

hand out: distribute  
We should hand the concert fliers out at school.

hear from: receive news from (a letter, an e-mail)  
Have you heard from Steve lately?

hear of: know about something or somebody  
Have you heard of chocolate covered ants?

go with: match (clothing)  
That shirt doesn't go with those pants.

grow under: go out of business  
The restaurant went under after it lost its liquor license.

go through: examine in detail, study carefully  
I need to have my lawyer go through this contract before I sign it.

hand back: return

Is the teacher going to hand back our tests today?

hit on: find on accident

I hit on the idea while watching the show.

hook up: make the electrical connections required for a machine or information service

Can you hook up the fax machine for me?

jack up: to raise

We need to jack up the car before we change the tire.

joke around: to be humorous

Mike is always joking around at work.

go over: review

Do you usually go over your notes before class?

get out: of exit (a small boat, car, an enclosed area)

I fell into the water when I tried to get out of the canoe.

throw out: remove by force from (a room, school, a house, etc.)

Mary threw out her roommate because she stopped paying rent.

get away: escape

The bank robbers got away.

live down: live in a way that a shameful or embarrassing event is forgotten

Jose will never live down singing that song at the karaoke bar.

come out: appear

I didn't see the car at first. It came out of nowhere.

have on: wear

Do you have your hiking boots on?

put in: officially submit a request (in the armed forces or public services)

He put in for a transfer to the division in Los Angeles.

stand up: to defend oneself against someone or something

I think you should stand up to your older brother and tell him to stop pushing you around.

turn down: refuse an offer; reject an application

She turned down the new job in New York, because she didn't want to move.

let out: release

I am happy my brother was let out of prison early.

point out: indicate

I'd like to point out that figures in column two might be outdated.

talk back: to respond in an impolite way to an adult

Children should not talk back to their parents.

turn up: find unexpectedly

I can't hear what they're saying.

fall back: on be able to use in case of emergency

Yuki can fall back on her degree in biology if she doesn't succeed in her career.

slow up: make move more slowly

Because Mary's level in English is lower than the rest of the students, she slows the class up.

get up: rise (from sitting position or a bed)

What time did you get up this morning?

turn away: refuse to deal with or give service

They turned us away at the border because we didn't have visas.

work out: solve

I hope you two can work out your problems.

come to: regain consciousness

Don't worry! She faints all the time. She always comes to after a few minutes.

get off: leave

It's dangerous to sit on the roof. Get off!

stand out: be very noticeable

Tina is so beautiful! She really stands out in a crowd.

wind up: finish

If he doesn't get his act together, he is going to wind up in jail.

put on: deceive

I didn't believe a thing he said. I think he was putting me on.

fill in: complete

Don't forget to fill in all the blanks on the application.

check with: ask a person for confirmation

He needs to check with his parents before he goes.

pick up: try to initiate a relationship with someone (often in a bar)

Some weird guy tried to pick Patricia up at the bar.

put down: insult, say bad things about

She always puts down people who don't share her opinions.

catch up: make up for lost time

I will never catch up. I am too behind in my work.

die off/out: become extinct

Whales are in danger of dying off.

let up: weaken in intensity

I told her NO a thousand times, but she won't let up.

bring over: bring to someone's house

When you visit me, why don't you bring over your son.

get off: remove

Can you get this spider off my shirt?

check through: send luggage to a destination

Your luggage will be checked through to Paris.

pay off: to bribe

Don't try to pay the police officer off if you get pulled over for speeding.

bear down: on take strong measures against  
The U.S.A. is bearing down on drug traffickers.

come off: fall off, break off

The handle came off the suitcase when I picked it up.

fall off: decrease

Interest in the project fell off when they realized it wouldn't be profitable.

keep at: not give up (an activity), to persevere

You should keep at your studies.

look into: investigate

The police are looking into the murder.

bear on: have to do with

This information may bear on this case.

break in: on interrupt (a conversation)

Jane broke in on the conversation and told us to get back to work.

pull through: barely survive

I didn't think she was going to make it, but she pulled through in the end.

wind up: cause an animal or a child to behave wildly

The kids always get wound up when Uncle Henry comes over.

figure out: solve something, understand

I finally figured the joke out. Now I understand why everybody was laughing.

take up: begin a new hobby

Have you taken up any new hobbies since you moved here?

dress down: dress casually

I am dressing down because we're going to a barbecue by the beach.

keep out: prevent from entering

Keep the dog out of the garden; he keeps digging up the flowers.

brush off: ignore something or someone (inf.)

Mary brushed her ex-boyfriend off at the party.

get through: penetrate

We need a stronger drill to get through this wall.

hand over: relinquish control of

Hand your car keys over. You're too drunk to drive.

pick out: choose

Diane picked out a lovely dress for the dance.

take after: resemble a parent or relative

I take after my father. Who do you take after?

hook up: make the electrical connections required for a machine or information service

Can you hook up the fax machine for me?

mix up: confuse

I sometimes mix the verb tenses up.

take down: write down what is said

Would you mind taking down my messages while I am on vacation?

close in: on approach and threaten

The rebels were closing in on the capital, so the government called in the army.

make out: write a check or other document

Who should I make this check out to?

hold back: not allow to advance in school

The teacher held Frank back a year, so he couldn't enter fifth grade.

get along: with have a good relationship

Giovanna doesn't get along with her two brothers.

watch out: for be careful of

Watch out for snakes while you are hiking in the desert.

make up: reconcile

You two have been friends for so long that I think you should make up.

hang out: stay in a place for fun (inf.)

Let's go hang out at the mall tonight.

run down: trace

Have you run down those phone numbers I asked for last week?

go over: be well received, succeed

That didn't go over well.

use up: use all of something

I used up all of the soap, so we need to buy some more.

come along: with progress

How are you coming along with the research paper.

wear out: cause to be very tired

If you wear the same shoes everyday, you'll wear them out.

leave out: not include, omit

Why did your parents leave you out of their vacation plans?

hang out: stay in a place for fun

What are you doing? -- I'm just hanging out.

shut up: make quiet

Would someone shut him up! He's talking so loudly that we're going to get in trouble.

yammer on: to talk in an annoying way or complain

They yammered on and on and on.

make out: progress

How is your son making out in his new job?

burn down: destroy by setting fire to

The children burned the house down while playing with matches.

go through: endure; experience challenges, difficulties or traumas

She has gone through so much in her life.

let down: lengthen (pants in sewing)

My uncle is a tailor, so he can let your pants down.

die away: diminish in intensity

The applause died away after 5 minutes.

drop out: of quit an organized activity (school)

It's difficult to get a good job if you drop out of high school.

carry on: about continue in an annoying way

He kept carrying on about how much money he makes.

bring up: mention

I didn't want to bring up the fact that she was unemployed.

cut up: cut into small pieces

He cut the beef up and put the pieces in the soup.

keep up: continue

You are doing a great job! Keep it up.

crack up: laugh uncontrollably, laugh a lot

When I told the joke, they all cracked up.

take off: remove

In many cultures, it is appropriate to take off your shoes when entering a house.

lay away: save for the future

Why don't you lay away your wedding outfit?

look up: to respect, admire someone

He looks up to his father.

go through: examine in detail, study carefully

I need to have my lawyer go through this contract before I sign it.

wash up: clean

If we work together, we can wash the kitchen up in a few minutes.

keep down: not vomit, not throw up, keep in one's stomach

If I ate that, I don't know if I could keep it down.

turn over: give to authorities

They turned the wallet over to the police.

take over: take control of

Who is going to take over the family business when Aretha's father dies?

show off: show to everybody with a lot of pride

He always shows off his new things.

shut off: stop from functioning

If you don't pay your electric bill, your power is going to get shut off.

come over: visit someone at their house

Why don't you come over after work for dinner.

think up: create or invent a FALSE story

I need to think up an excuse for not going to her party.

cut off: interrupt someone while they were speaking

She cut him off before he said something he would regret later.

hold off: restrain

Mr. Johnson held the dog off while we crossed the yard.

put away: return to the proper place of storage

I told you kids to put your toys away.

put up: have a guest stay in your house for a short time

Can you put me up while I'm in town.

add up: make sense

Her story doesn't add up. I think she is lying.

go on: with continue

I think we should go on with the meeting and stop wasting time.

come into: inherit

He came into a large sum of money when his aunt died.

run off: leave quickly

Why did you run off after the party?

keep to: continue, persist in (an activity)

Everybody said she would never finish the puzzle, but she kept to it until it was done.

pass on: not accept (an invitation to eat or do something)

Jennifer passed on the invitation to join us for dinner.

zoom in: focus

You need a telephoto lens to zoom in.

come along: accompany someone

If you want, you can come along.

throw away: discard

Don't throw away those bottles; we can recycle them.

take off: leave work or school for a period of time

I was sick last week, so I took a few days off of work.

run away: leave home permanently before you are a legal adult

The child ran away because her parents beat her.

throw out: discard

I asked him not to throw out the Sunday newspaper because I wanted to save an article.

wash up: clean oneself

Make sure you wash up before dinner.

do away: with abolish

Some Americans want to do away with the death penalty.

yak on: to continue talking in an annoying way

He just yakked on and on and on.

break out: use something extravagant for celebration

He broke out the champagne to celebrate his promotion.

hold on: to grasp tightly

Make sure you hold on to the hand rail as you walk down the stairs.

give out: distribute

I earn extra money by giving out brochures on the street.

close down: close a place permanently

The corner market closed down because they didn't have many customers.

live up: to keep a standard

It would be hard to live up to her parent's expectations.

check for: try to find

They checked for termites before they bought the house.

let out: make bigger (in sewing)

I need to let out this skirt because I have gained weight.

take off: leave

We took off after dinner.

write down: record

Write down the directions so you don't forget them.

play down: make less important (inf.)

The President played down his affair with the intern.

add up: to equal an amount

The total expenses added up to \$325.00.

break in: enter a place unlawfully

The burglar broke in between midnight and 3 AM.

pass out: become unconscious

He passed out because the room was too hot.

go with: have a boyfriend/girlfriend

I am going with Yuri.

turn into: become something different, transform

When she kissed the frog, it turned into a handsome prince.

wipe out: massacre or destroy

The tidal wave wiped out the small fishing village.

call on: invite someone to speak in a meeting or a classroom

Professor Tanzer called on Tim to answer the question.

look over: examine, review

When I'm camping, I look my shoes over before I put them on.

find out: discover

You will never find out all my secrets!

go away: leave

I yelled at the dogs to make them go away.

pay off: complete payment on a debt

It took me ten years to pay off my credit card debt.

work out: be successful

I am glad your new catering business is working out.

bring out: highlight, stress

Your new shirt brings out the color of your eyes.

hand in: submit

I have to hand in an offer by March 12.

break down: become mentally ill

She broke down after her husband died.

break down: analyze in detail

We need to break this problem down in order to solve.

break out: of escape

The murderer broke out of the prison.

close up: close temporarily

They are closing the ski resort up for the summer.

give off: release (a smell, light)

That white flower gives off a beautiful smell.

check out: investigate, take a look at

He checked out the new restaurant down the street.

come out: with produce and distribute a product

Sony is coming out with a new video game system next month.

drive back: repulse

The invaders were driven back by the army.

fill in: substitute

Who is going to fill in while you're gone?

kick in: begin taking effect

The medicine takes one hour to kick in.

get away: with do something against the rules and not get caught

My sister gets away with everything!

give away: give something without asking for anything in exchange

Why did Nancy give all of her furniture away?

bring off: succeed at something difficult or unexpected

You robbed the bank! I can't believe you brought that off.

go off: explode

The bomb could go off at any moment.

out to: verb try to

She is out to get revenge now that her husband left her for another woman.

pick up: learn something without effort

It's possible to pick up enough English in two weeks to get by on your trip to Los Angeles.

turn out: end up being

She turned out to be the murderer after all.



think over: consider

Think over the offer before you sign the contract.

chew up: chew into small pieces

The dog chewed up my shoe.

go off: become angry

Maria went off last night after I told her about losing her bike.

nod off: fall asleep

The movie was so boring that I nodded off before it was finished.

light up: illuminate

Let's get some candles to light this room up.

blow in: visit unexpectedly (inf.)

My cousin blew in unexpectedly with his entire family.

touch on: talk about for a short time

The presidential candidates touched on the subject of health care during the debates.

wind up: tighten the spring of a watch or similar machine

He wound up the toy dog and set it on the floor.

get off: How does he justify saying that?!

Where does he get off saying that?!

get in: enter

Get in. I will give you a ride to school

check by: go to a place to see if everything is OK

We need to check by the office to see if the documents are ready.

come along: progress

How's the research paper coming along.

settle on: make a decision after a period of time

I settled on the job at the oil company.

take away: remove, seize or capture

The soldiers took the captives away.

do over: repeat

You made many mistakes, so I want you to do the report over.

hear from: receive news from (a letter, an e-mail)

Have you heard from Steve lately?

blow over: pass without creating a problem

All this negative publicity will blow over in a couple of weeks.

do without: manage without something one wants or needs

I couldn't do without a car in California.

give back: return something you borrowed

When are you going to give that book back to your teacher?

run out: of not have any more of something

We ran out of milk this morning, so we need to go to the store.

lay out: arrange

Why don't we lay the pieces of the table out before we put it together.

pick up: grow, increase (inf.)

Business is really picking up this quarter.

hold back: restrain

The police held the demonstrators back while the politicians entered the building.

come up: with produce or create (an idea, a plan)

She came up with a great proposal for the new advertising campaign.

nose around: sneak around

I hate it when my mother noses around my room.

turn out: audience members to a function

Over 100,000 people turned out for the concert.

turn on: start the function of a TV, a radio, a machine

Turn on the TV. The baseball game starts in a few minutes.

back up: give support

You need examples to back up your opinion.

hand down: pronounce formally

The president is going to hand his decision down on health care tonight.

turn off: stop the function of

Don't forget to turn off the iron before you leave the house.

chop up: chop/cut into small bits

He chopped the meat up into little pieces.

light up: to smoke

Do you have to light up another cigarette? I thought you were trying to cut down.

clear up: tidy

Susan cleared up the mess before she left.

pull down: earn

He pulls down about \$300,000 a year.

get around: go many places

It's easy to get around town with public transportation.

make up: put on cosmetics

It takes me 10 minutes to make my face up.

disagree with: cause to feel sick due to food or drink

Spicy food disagrees with me.

pay back: repay

If I loan you money, will you pay me back.

make up: invent ( a story)

Don't believe anything she says. She always makes things up.

sell out: tell on someone

My partner in crime sold me out for a reduced jail sentence.

go off: begin, start (used with signals, alarms, warning sounds)

The alarm clock went off at 6:00 AM.

take for: consider, view as

Do you take me for an idiot?

carry on: continue (a conversation, a game)

Please, carry on. I didn't mean to interrupt you.

run down: criticize

My boss runs everyone down.

keep away: prevent access to, hold back

Keep the kids away from the cookies.

take in: deceive a person

He was taken in by the con artist.

back down: stop defending your opinion in a debate

Jane never backs down. She always wins arguments.

give out: become very tired (inf.)

I hope this car doesn't give out in the middle of the desert.

put out: spend (usually used with unreasonably large sums of money)

Don't use water to put out a grease fire.

pan out: be successful, turn out well

The trip to Vegas didn't pan out.

save up: accumulate (money)

I hope I will be able to save up enough money to go to school.

make up: for compensate for

Allen made up for being late by getting me flowers.

add up: calculate a sum

I added up the receipts and it totaled \$135.46.

get on: put on (clothes)

You should get your jacket on because it's going to be cold.

turn down: lower the volume or intensity of a TV, radio, or other machine

I'm studying! Please turn down the TV.

turn up: increase the volume or intensity of a TV, or other machine

Turn up the TV. I can't hear what they're saying.

back out: not keep (a promise, agreement, deal)

Sam backed out at the last second.

fall behind: in go slower than scheduled, lag

She is falling behind in her homework after missing school for so many days

make over: do again

The teacher made me do my homework over.

play up: highlight something (inf.)

She played up her part in the new movie, but it was actually a very small role.

turn out: produce

The weavers can turn out two or three rugs a month.

tell on: report a crime to the police or bad behavior to a parent

Every time I did something wrong when I was a child, my sister would tell on me.

turn on: attack unexpectedly

The pit bull suddenly turned on the small child.

get through: penetrate

The door was jammed, so we couldn't get through.

put off: postpone

Don't put off your work - do it now!

stay over: spend the night at a person's house

It takes you so long to take the bus home, so why don't you just stay over?

break off: end something

Sally broke her engagement to John off.

go into: discuss in detail

I really don't want to go into that now.

occur to: pop into one's mind, come to one's mind

It didn't occur to us that we had left the iron on.

rule out: eliminate

I wouldn't rule out the possibility of moving to another country if I get a good job offer.

keep in: keep in a particular place, have something in a specific location

When I am not using it, I keep my passport in this drawer.

pass away: die

After battling cancer for several years, he finally passed away at the age of 87.

bring away: learn or gain (from an experience)

My journey was difficult, but I brought life away from the experience.

go by: go past, go close to, visit quickly

We go by the coffee shop everyday.

yak on: about to continue talking in an annoying way about something

She just yakked on and on about her husband's new job.

take up: discuss (at a later date)

We should take this issue up in the meeting tomorrow.

break in: wear or use something new until it is comfortable

I need to break these shoes in before I go hiking.

pass on: die

I am afraid Professor Johnson has passed on.

feel up: to have the energy to do something

I don't feel up to going out tonight because I had a long day at work.

get by: survive without having the things you need or want

I lost my job, so I am having a hard time getting by this year.

hand out: distribute

We should hand the concert fliers out at school.

run across: find or meet unexpectedly

I ran across some old photos while I was cleaning my house.

take back: return an item to a store

The dress my grandmother bought for me didn't fit, so I took it back and exchanged it for a pair of pants.

get over: recover

Jennifer still hasn't gotten over her breakup with Peter.

write up: prepare a report

He wrote up a business proposal in order to get a loan.

check over: closely examine the condition of something

He checked over the old car to see if it was worth buying.

zip around: move quickly from place to place

I zipped around town after work today.

check into: investigate, look for (often through a service)

We are checking into discount flights to London.

spell out: to explain something in a detailed way

He's so stupid that you have to spell everything out for him.

drop over: visit someone casually

Drop over any time you feel like talking.

check off: make a mark next to (an item on a list)

Check each name off the list.

turn out: switch off a light

Turn out the light before you go to bed.

calm down: make someone relax

You can calm the baby down by rocking her gently.

break out: appear violently

Violent protests broke out in response to the military coup.

break down: stop working properly

The truck broke down in the desert.

face up: to acknowledge something difficult or embarrassing

I'll never be able to face up to my colleagues after getting so drunk last night at the work party.

bring up: raise ( a child)

Sam was brought up in South Carolina.

get through: to make contact

It's hard to get through to Janet because her telephone line is always busy.

lie down: on rest, recline ( on a couch, bed)

I'm going to lie down on the sofa for a while.

buy out: buy the shares of a company or the shares

Pacific Inc. was bought out by a company from Oregon.

go back: return

When are you going back to your house?

stick to: persevere, keep trying

Even though Chinese is a hard language to master, you must stick to it!

see to: make sure something happens, arrange

I'll see to it that Mr. Smith gets your message.

bear with: be patient

Please bear with me while I fill out the paperwork.

come up: to approach; to equal

The job offer didn't come up to her expectations.

think through: consider carefully

You need to think this through carefully before you make a decision.

die down: diminish in intensity

The controversy about the president's affair finally died down.

yammer on: about to talk in an annoying way about something or complain about

He just yammered on and on about how horrible the waiter was.

check in: enter a hospital, hotel etc.

They need to check in before noon.

come away: leave a place with a particular feeling or impression

I came away from the meeting feeling satisfied

drop out: quit an organized activity

Yuri isn't on the team any more. He dropped out.

bring to: revive consciousness

We used smelling salts to bring her to after she fainted.

fill out: complete (an application)

I filled out an application to rent the apartment last week.

make up: complete what was missed

Fortunately, my professor let me make up the exam I missed yesterday.

try on: put on to make sure a piece of clothing fits

Try on the pants before you buy them.

lie down: rest, recline

I need to lie down before we go out tonight.

go through: with continue or proceed despite difficulties or fears

I have decided to go through with the operation.

come about: occur / happen

How did your idea for the book come about.

zero in: on discover, pinpoint

I think I have zeroed in on what has been causing the problem.

crack down: on become tougher on, better enforce laws on

The police have been cracking down on drunk driving.

throw up: vomit

If you drink too much alcohol, you might throw up.

bring along: bring with

When we go to the forest, bring your wildlife guide along.

get along: have a good relationship

Do you and your sister get along?

pass off: try to convince someone that something is real

He tried to pass the fake watch off as a real Rolex.

count up: add

Count the change up and see how much we have.

fix up: repair, renovate, remodel

My neighbors are fixing their house up.

go with: accompany a person

I am going with Alejandro to the party.

hear of: know about something or somebody

Have you heard of chocolate covered ants?

make out: succeed

He really made out in the stock market last year.

call on: visit

Mark called on Naomi while he was in town.

put on: wear

Make sure you put on a sweater before you go outside.

run down: hit with a car

My dog was run down by a bus.

look back: on to remember nostalgically

When I look back on my childhood, I often feel angry.

work out: exercise

I work out three times a week at the fitness center.

hang up: suspend

You can hang your jacket up in the front closet.

pick on: to tease, bully

She keeps picking on me! Make her stop.

get down: to get serious about a topic

Let's get down to business.

run away: from escape from

The child ran away from its parents.

take out: accompany a person on a date (for dinner, the movies)

I can't meet you tonight because I am taking Fernanda out to dinner.

cross out: draw a line through something, eliminate

Why did you cross my name out on the list?

cut down: on decrease the amount of

You need to cut down on your fat intake.

get on: enter (a bus, train), mount (a horse, a bike)

The train is leaving. Quick, get on!

keep up: with stay on schedule with (a person, the workload, homework)

I have so much reading that I can't keep up with the writing exercises.

break into: enter a house unlawfully

The burglar broke into the house between midnight and 3 AM.

come with: include (an accessory)

The computer system doesn't come with a printer.

go off: stop (said of a machine)

The DVD player goes off automatically if you are not using it.

look out: be careful, pay attention, heed a certain danger

Look out, there's a black widow spider on the wall.

find out: discover

Vicky's parents are going to be so mad when they find out she got a tattoo.

write out: write down every word or letter

He wrote out the lyrics so I could understand what the singer was saying.

come across: discover by accident

They came across some lost Mayan ruins in the jungle.

turn in: submit

You need to turn your essays in next week.

lie with: be decided by

Whether or not you can go to the party lies with your father.

dress up: wear elegant clothes

She always dresses up at work.

hold off: on delay

We should hold off on making dinner until your parents arrive.

call up: telephone

I called Sam up to see if he wanted to go to the movies.

get through: (with) finish

Have you gotten through with your homework yet?

keep around: have handy, have accessible

I always keep a dictionary around to translate new words.

stick it: to severely criticize a person (inf.)

My boss really stuck it to me when I arrived late to work for the third time

wake up: awaken

It's time to get ready for work.

jump to: make a quick, poorly thought out decision

You shouldn't jump to conclusions

name after: name a child using another family member's name

I was named after my grandfather.

zone out: stop paying attention

He zoned out during class.

carry over: continue on a subsequent day, page, etc.

The meeting carried over into lunch time.

go back: on not keep (one's word, a promise)

Don't trust him. He always goes back on his promises.

wait up: not sleep because you are waiting for something or someone

Don't wait up.

keep over: cover something with, put something above

I keep a tarp over my bicycle at night to prevent it from getting wet.

fill in: for substitute for

Miguel filled in for me at the meeting yesterday because I was sick.

get on: enter (a bus, train), mount ( a horse, a bike)

Get on my bike and I will give you a ride home.

clear out: leave ( inf.)

Everybody clear out! We're closed.

hang up: put down the telephone receiver

Don't hang up. I'm going to change phones.

see off: say good-bye to someone at the beginning of their

Did you see your sister off at the train station?

call for: require (as in a recipe)

This recipe calls for milk, not water.

count out: exclude

You can count James out.

fall out: with have an argument with

I had a falling out with my sister last month and we haven't talked to each other since.

give up: surrender something

The police told the thief to give his gun up.

get by: with manage with

You can get by with the typewriter.

care for: nurse someone or something

He cared for the bird until its wing healed.

bring on: cause something

I can't believe she got so angry. What brought that on?

Quiet down: be quiet, or cause to be quiet

The neighbors told us to quiet down last night or they would call the police.

keep back: maintain a safe distance, cause to maintain a safe distance

Keep back! The burning building is about to collapse.

look down: on see as inferior

She's so conceited. She looks down on everybody else.

pass up: not take advantage (of an opportunity)

I can't believe she passed up the opportunity to study in Rome.

hit on: find on accident

I hit on the idea while watching the show.

count in: include

Did you count expenses in?

cut in: on interrupt

She cut in on the conversation and delivered the news.

tell off: criticize a person severely, reprimand (inf.)

Carolina told me off when she found out I was gossiping about her.

get on: have a good relationship

Natasha doesn't get on with her co-workers.

stand for: tolerate

I won't stand for people criticizing me.

buy up: purchase the entire supply of something

We bought up all the beer in the store.

stick up: for defend oneself or opinions

Joseph joined the army because he believes he must stick up for his country.

try out: test

Try out this massage chair - it feels great!

catch up: with speed up

I had to run to catch up with the others.

get ahead: make progress

I can't get ahead even though I work two jobs.

come along: with accompany

Sam came along with us to the beach.

go in: for participate

Are you going to go in for soccer this year at school?

check back: return to see if everything is OK

We will check back tomorrow to make sure the project is finished.

veer away: from stay away from, avoid

I veer away from the same old summer blockbuster films.

back up: move backwards, reverse

Could you back up a little so I can open this drawer.

get through: complete

We will never get through all of these boxes by 9:00 PM.

put out: extinguish (a fire)

Don't use water to put out a grease fire.

hold on: tell someone to wait on the telephone

Hold on a minute. I'll get Carol.

cut off: sever ( with a knife)

His finger was accidentally cut off in an industrial accident.

tear up: tear or rip into small pieces

I always tear up my personal papers before I throw them out.

lay in: on scold or criticize severely

My mom really laid in on me when I got home at 4:00 in the morning last night.

close down: close permanently

The bar was closed down because they served alcohol to minors.

drop in: on visit someone unexpectedly

Let's drop in on Julie since we're driving by her house.

take on: accept (responsibilities, work)

She has taken on too much responsibility in this project.

get across: cause to be understood

It's difficult to get humor across in another language.

hold out: against not give in, resist

They held out against enemy attack.

bring around: change someone's mind, convince someone

She doesn't want to go, but we'll eventually bring her around.

cut in: interrupt

She suddenly cut in and delivered the news

burn up: destroy by fire

He burnt up the files.

keep up: stay on the required schedule

You have to keep up if you want to work here.

go with: match (clothing)

That shirt doesn't go with those pants.

pull in: park (a vehicle)

Mark pulled in too quickly and crashed into the wall.

get on: with have a good relationship

Do you get on with your neighbors?

tire out: cause someone to be very tired

Speaking English all day tires me out.

fall behind: go slower than scheduled, lag

Hurry up or you will fall behind!

get by: on survive with minimal resources

It's nearly impossible to get by on making minimum wage.

get around: avoid someone or something

Some people get around paying taxes by hiring a good accountant.

go for: idiomatic phrase –

I am craving pepperoni pizza. I could go for pepperoni pizza.

go without: abstain from something you want or need

A person can go without water for three days.

pick up: come and get someone in a car

What time are you going to pick me up.

break into: interrupt (a conversation)

Jane broke into the conversation and told us what she knew.

run against: compete in an election

Gore ran against Bush in the 2000 elections in the U.S.A.

clean up: tidy

Susan cleaned the mess up before she left.

hold up: delay (a flight, traffic);

The accident held traffic up for an hour.

stand up: not arrive to a date or an appointment (inf.)

I arranged to meet Joe at the library at 8:00, but he stood me up.

catch up: on become up-to-date

I need to catch up on world events. I haven't seen the news in ages.

hang around: stay in a place for fun

Maria and Salvador usually hang around the beach after school.

hold out: not give in, continue to resist

Stop holding out and tell us where you found all of these old records.

wait up: for not sleep because you are waiting for someone or something

Let's wait up for Mary to see how her date went.

jump in: enter a conversation

Feel free to jump in at any moment while we are talking.

read up: on research a topic for a reason

I need to read up on the company before I go on the job interview.

talk back: respond in an impolite way to an adult

Don't talk back!

cut down: decrease the amount of

You need to cut down.

jack up: to raise

We need to jack up the car before we change the tire.

run off: reproduce (photocopies)

Would you mind running off 10 copies of this document for me?

tie up: tie securely

When we dock, make sure you tie the boat up.

make out: decipher

I can't make out your handwriting. What does this say?

put out: inconvenience someone

I don't want to put you out, but could you pick me up at the airport.

hold on: grasp tightly

Hold on tight! The roller coaster is about to take off.

call off: cancel something

They called the picnic off because of the rain.

figure up: calculate

I need to figure my expenses up before I give you an estimate.

pick up: to lift an object with the hands

Keep your back straight when you lift the TV up.

grow up: mature

Your brother needs to grow up and start thinking about his future.

live on: survive from

I could live on bread and cheese.

drop in: visit someone unexpectedly

Meg dropped in yesterday after dinner.

go out: take part in social activities

They love to go out every Saturday night.

get off: send (a package)

I finally got my sister's birthday present off yesterday.

run down: loose power, be very tired

You need to wind your watch so it doesn't run down.

dress down: reprimand severely

The mother dressed her son down for skipping school.

wait on: serve, service (a table)

Each waitress waits on three different tables in the restaurant.

have over: invite guests to your home

Why don't we have Mr. and Mrs. Jones over for dinner tonight.

iron out: eliminate

We need to have a meeting this week in order to iron out the distribution problems.

look for: to seek or search for

I'm looking for my keys. Have you seen them?

come back: return

What time are you coming back?

bear up: under withstand

How did he bear up under such extreme pressure.

get up: cause someone to rise (from a sitting position or a lying position)

Ahmed got Abdul up at 5:30 in the morning by turning the music up really loud.

fall through: fail to happen

My trip to Indonesia fell through because I couldn't save enough money.

come down: with become sick with

He came down with the flu.

go down: decrease

The cost of flight tickets is going down.

hold up: rob (a bank, a person) with a weapon

Five men held the bank up yesterday.

take in: learning

Are you taking in all of these phrasal verbs?

lay down: establish (laws, rules)

Lori lays down the law in her class. English only!

put across: communicate (an idea or suggestion) clearly so that it is understood

I thought Ms. Smith put her ideas across rather clearly in the meeting.

run for: campaign for a government position

Gore is running for president of the U.S.A.

chop down: fell/cut (a tree)

The lumberjack chopped the tree down.

kick back: sit or lie back (to relax)

After work, I like to kick back in front of the TV and relax.

put up: with tolerate

Sandy will not put up with smoking in her house.

carry on: with continue

I want you to carry on with the project while I am out of town.

dress up: decorate

You could dress this house up with some bright colors

look forward: to anticipate with pleasure

I am looking forward to traveling to New York next year.

watch out: be careful

Watch out - there's a rattlesnake!

check into: enter a hospital, hotel etc.

They checked into the hotel at 11:00 AM.

come out: turn out, end up

The pictures came out great.

fill up: fill to the top

Fill the car up with unleaded gas, please.

wake up: awaken someone

The car alarm woke me up at 6:00 in the morning.

give away: betray (a secret)

We are having a surprise party for Susan next Saturday, so don't give our surprise away by acting suspicious.

come across: initially seem or have the appearance

He comes across as rather rude, but he isn't.

check up: on investigate someone or something

The police are checking up on the bomb threats.

ring up: telephone

Jack rung me up last night at 3:00 in the morning.

catch on: slowly start to understand (inf.)

He caught on after a few minutes.

come out: reveal you are homosexual

Sam finally came out last month.

run off: waste water

You shouldn't swim where the sewage runs off into the ocean.

stand up: for defend

Every individual must stand up for what they believe in.

zoom in: on focus on something, pinpoint

She zoomed in on his face while taking the picture.

get in: enter ( a car, a small boat)

Get in the front seat. You will have more leg room.

bear down: on bite

The soldier had to bear down on the leather strap while the doctor removed a bullet from the soldier's arm.

show up: arrive without previous notice

I hadn't seen my cousin for years, and all of a sudden, he showed up at my workplace yesterday!

give up: surrender

Never give up learning English!

go out: stop burning

The fire went out after three days.

burn down: burn until completely gone (building)

Two buildings burnt down in the fire.

keep off: prevent from stepping or climbing on to something

Keep the cat off the couch.

let down: disappoint

I felt let down when I didn't receive a birthday card from my sister.

set up: falsely incriminate a person

I don't think he killed those men. Somebody set him up.

pull out: depart (a vehicle)

Our train pulls out at 8:00, so don't be late.

count on: depend/rely on

You can really count on Sarah.

get ahead: of surpass

You need to work overtime in order to get ahead of schedule.

keep on: continue

He kept on talking after everybody asked him to stop.

zonk out: fall asleep

Jill was so exhausted that she zonked out before dinner.

look on: observe as a spectator

Everybody just looked on as the two men fought.

go on: continue

Please, go on. Don't let me interrupt you.

figure on: expect

Where do you figure on living when you move to the the U.S.A.?

go on: happen

This place is a mess! What went on here last night?

get on: with continue an activity

Now that the police have left, let's get on with the party!

give in: stop trying

Never give in! You can do it!

turn around: change or reverse direction

Turn the car around and go back home.

run off: make leave

The new government is trying to run the drug traffickers off.

hand down: give as an inheritance

When my clothes got too small for me as a child, I handed them down to my sister.

pass on: transmit

Please pass this message on to your co-workers.

take off: when a plane or rocket leaves the ground

My stomach felt funny when the plane took off.

act up: behave or function improperly

I think I need to take my car to the mechanic because it's acting up again.

draw up: create ( a contract)

Let's draw an agreement up before we go any further with this project.

settle up: pay one's debts

We need to settle up before you move.



# Expressions

A bit much: If something is excessive or annoying, it is a bit much.

A little bird told me : If someone doesn't want to say where they got some information from, they can say that a little bird told them.

Ace up your sleeve: If you have an ace up your sleeve, you have something that will give you an advantage that other people don't know about.

Add fuel to the fire: If people add fuel to the fire, they make a bad situation worse.

After your own heart: A person after your own heart thinks the same way as you.

Add insult to injury: When people add insult to injury, they make a bad situation even worse.

Ahead of the pack: If you are ahead of the pack, you have made more progress than your rivals.

All along : if you have known or suspected something all along, then you have felt this from the beginning.

All ears : If someone says they're all ears, they are very interested in hearing about something.

All eyes on me : If all eyes are on someone, then everyone is paying attention to them.

All dressed up and nowhere to go : You're prepared for something that isn't going to happen.

All talk and no trousers : Someone who is all talk and no trousers, talks about doing big, important things, but doesn't take any action.

All square : If something is all square, nobody has an advantage or is ahead of the others.

All the tea in China : If someone won't do something for all the tea in China, they won't do it no matter how much money they are offered.

And all that jazz : This idiom means that everything related or similar is included.

Apple of your eye: Something or, more often, someone that is very special to you is the 'apple of your' eye.

As cool as a cucumber : If someone is as cool as a cucumber, they don't get worried by anything.

At your wits' end : If you are at your wits' end, you have no idea what to do next and are very frustrated.

Awe inspiring : Something or someone that is awe inspiring amazes people in a slightly frightening but positive way.

Average Joe : An average Joe is an ordinary person without anything exceptional about them.

All roads lead to Rome : This means that there can be many different ways of doing something.

At the end of the day : This is used to mean 'in conclusion' or 'when all is said and done'.

At a snail's pace : If something moves at a snail's pace, it moves very slowly.

Back the wrong horse : If you back the wrong horse, you give your support to the losing side in something.

Back to square one : If you are back to square one, you have to start from the beginning again.

Bad Apple : A person who is bad and makes other bad is a bad apple.

Bad shape : If something's in bad shape, it's in bad condition. If a person's in bad shape, they are unfit or unhealthy.

Bag of bones : If someone is a bag of bones, they are very underweight.

Bag of nerves : If someone is a bag of nerves, they are very worried or nervous.

Bare your heart: If you bare your heart to someone, you tell them your personal and private feelings.

Barrel of laughs : If someone's a barrel of laughs, they are always joking and you find them funny.

Battle of nerves : A battle of nerves is a situation where neither side in a conflict or dispute is willing to back down and is waiting for the other side to weaken.

Beat about the bush : If someone doesn't say clearly what they mean and try to make it hard to understand, they are beating about (around) the bush.

Behind bars : When someone is behind bars, they are in prison.

Behind someone's back : If you do something behind someone's back, you do it without telling them.

Burn the candle at both ends : Someone who burns the candle at both ends lives life at a hectic pace, doing things which are likely to affect their health badly.

Bull in a China shop : If someone behaves like a bull in a China shop, they are clumsy when they should be careful.

Brush under the carpet : If you brush something under the carpet, you are making an attempt to ignore it, or hide it from others.

Bring a knife to a gunfight : If someone brings a knife to a gunfight, they are very badly prepared for something.

Breadwinner : Used to describe the person that earns the most money. For example - She's the breadwinner in the family.

Beyond a shadow of a doubt : If something's beyond a shadow of a doubt, then absolutely no doubts remain about it.

Big cheese : The big cheese is the boss.

Bird's eye view : If you have a bird's eye view of something, you can see it perfectly clearly.

Blue blood : Someone with blue blood is royalty.

Bottom line : In accountancy, the bottom line is net income, and is used idiomatically to mean the conclusion.

Boys in blue : The boys in blue are the police.

Boot is on the other foot : When the boot's on the other foot, a person who was in a position of weakness is now in a position of strength.

Blind leading the blind : When the blind are leading the blind, the people in charge of something don't know anything more than the people they are in charge of, when they should have greater knowledge.

Bitter pill to swallow : A bitter pill to swallow is something that is hard to accept.

Birthday suit : If you are in your birthday suit, you are naked.

Behind closed doors : If something happens away from the public eye, it happens behind closed doors.

Baker's dozen : A Baker's dozen is 13 rather than 12.

Caught with your hand in the cookie jar : If someone is caught with his or her hand in the cookie jar, he or she is caught doing something wrong.

Change your tune : If someone changes their ideas or the way they talk about them, they change their tune.

Chinese whispers : When a story is told from person to person, especially if it is gossip or scandal, it inevitably gets distorted and exaggerated. This process is called Chinese whispers.

Cuts no ice : If something cuts no ice, it doesn't have any effect or influence

Cry-baby : A cry-baby is a person who gets emotional and cries too easily.

Days are numbered : When someone's days are numbered, they are expected to die soon.

Do the needful : If you do the needful, you do what is necessary.

Dog's life : If some has a dog's life, they have a very unfortunate and wretched life.

Close at hand : If something is close at hand, it is nearby or conveniently located.

Collect dust : If something is collecting dust, it isn't being used any more.

Cry your eyes out : If you cry your eyes out, you cry uncontrollably.

Cupboard love : To show love to gain something from some

Crunch time : When people, companies, etc, have to make an important decision that will have a considerable effect on their future, it is crunch time.

Ducks in a row : If you have your ducks in a row, you are well-organized.

Dutch uncle : A Dutch uncle is a person who gives unwelcome advice.

Eagle eyes : Someone who has eagle eyes sees everything; no detail is too small

Eat like a pig: If some eats like a pig, they either eat too much or they have bad table manners.

Eat like a horse : Someone who eats like a horse, eats a lot.

Eat your words : If you eat your words, you accept publicly that you were wrong about something you said.

Every man and his dog : A lot of people - as in sending out invitations to a large number of people

Feeling blue : If you feel blue, you are feeling unwell, mainly associated with depression or unhappiness.

For a song : If you buy or sell something for a song, it is very cheap.

For my money : This idiom means 'in my opinion'.

For the time being : For the time being indicates that an action or state will continue into the future, but is temporary. I'm sharing an office for the time being

French leave : To take French leave is to leave a gathering without saying goodbye or without permission.

Friendly footing : When relationships are on a friendly footing, they are going well.

From a different angle : If you look at something from a different angle, you look at it from a different point of view.

From scratch : This idiom means 'from the beginning'.

Go tell it to birds: This is used when someone says something that is not credible or is a lie.

Greek to me: If you don't understand something, it's all Greek to you.

Great guns: If something or someone is going great guns, they are doing very well.

Grease monkey: A grease monkey is an idiomatic term for a mechanic.

Hand to mouth: Someone who's living from hand to mouth, is very poor and needs the little money they have coming in to cover their expenses.

Have a blast: It means "to have a lot of fun".

Heaven knows: If you ask someone a question and they say this, they have no idea.

Hit me with your best shot: If someone tells you to hit them with your best shot, they are telling you that no matter what you do it won't hurt them or make a difference to them.

Hit the books: If you hit the books, you study or read hard.

Hold your tongue: If you hold your tongue, you keep silent even though you want to speak.

Hue and cry: Hue and cry is an expression that used to mean all the people who joined in chasing a criminal or villain. Nowadays, if you do something without hue and cry, you do it discreetly and without drawing attention.

Hunky Dory: If something is hunky dory, it is perfectly satisfactory, fine.

I'll cross that road when I come to it: I'll think about something just when it happens, not in advance.

If you'll pardon my French: This idiom is used as a way of apologizing for swearing.

Poacher turned gamekeeper: Someone who gets a legitimate job which is the opposite of their previous one. E.G a computer hacker who then helps to catch other hackers or an ex-bank robber who then advises banks on security.

Keep mum: If you keep mum about something, you keep quiet and don't tell anyone.

Keep your fingers crossed: If you are keeping your fingers crossed, you are hoping for a positive outcome.

Kick a habit: If you kick a habit, you stop doing it.

Kick the bucket: When someone kicks the bucket, they die.

Put the carriage before the horse: If you put the carriage before the horse, you try to do things in the wrong order.

Kill the goose that lays the golden egg: If you kill the goose that lays the golden egg, you ruin something that is very profitable.

Kill two birds with one stone: When you kill two birds with one stone, you resolve two difficulties or matters with a single action.

Landslide victory: A landslide victory is a victory in an election by a very large margin.

Laughing stock: If someone becomes a laughing stock they do something so stupid or wrong that no one can take them seriously and people scorn and laugh at them.

Play into someone's hands: If you play into someone's hands, you do what they were expecting you to do and take advantage of this.

Let's call it a day: This is used as a way of suggesting that it is time to stop working on something.

Lie like a rug: If someone lies like a rug, they lie to the point where it becomes obvious that they're lying.

Life and limb: When people risk life and limb, they could be killed or suffer serious injuries.

Light at the end of the tunnel: If you can see light at the end of the tunnel, then you can see some signs of hope in the future, though things are difficult at the moment.

Put your best foot forward: If you put your best foot forward, you try your best to do something.

Put your cards on the table: If you put your cards on the table, you make your thoughts or ideas perfectly clear.

Put your foot in your mouth: If you put your foot in your mouth, you say something stupid or embarrassing

Put your heads together: If people put their head together, they exchange ideas about something.

Question of time: If something's a question of time, it's certain to happen, though we don't know exactly when.

Presence of mind: If someone behaves calmly and rationally in difficult circumstances, they show presence of mind.

Proclaim it from the rooftops: If something is proclaimed from the rooftops, it is made as widely known and as public as possible.

Prodigal son: a prodigal son is a young man who wastes a lot of money on a lavish lifestyle. If the prodigal son returns, they return to a better way of living.

Proud as a peacock: Someone who is as proud as a peacock is excessively proud.

Pull a rabbit out of your hat: If you pull a rabbit out of a hat, you do something that no one was expecting.

Lightning rod: Someone or something that attracts a lot of negative comment, often diverting attention from other problems, is a lightning rod.

Like a bat out of hell: This expression means extremely quickly.

Like a cat on hot bricks: If someone is like a cat on hot bricks, they are very nervous or excited.

Like Chinese arithmetic: If something is complicated and hard to understand, it's like Chinese arithmetic.

Like clockwork: If something happens like clockwork, it happens at very regular times or intervals.

Like father, like son : This idiom is used when different generations of a family behave in the same way or have the same talents or defects.  
Like pulling teeth: If something is like pulling teeth, it is very difficult, especially if trying to extract information or to get a straight answer from someone.  
like there's no tomorrow: If someone does something like there's no tomorrow, they do it to an extreme level.  
Like wildfire: If something happens or spreads like wildfire, it happens very quickly and intensely.  
Lion's share: The lion's share of something is the biggest or best part.

Lock horns: When people lock horns, they argue or fight about something.  
Loan shark: A loan shark lends money at very high rates of interest.  
Mad as a badger: if someone is as mad as a badger, they are crazy.  
Made of money: If you are made of money, you have a lot of money.  
Make a killing: If you make a killing, you do something that makes you a lot of money.

Make a monkey of someone: If you make a monkey of someone, you make them look foolish.  
Man Friday: From 'Robinson Crusoe', a 'Man Friday' refers to an assistant or companion, usually a capable one. The common feminine equivalent is 'Girl Friday'. (Also, 'right-hand man'.)  
Memory like an elephant: 'An elephant never forgets' is a saying, so if a person has a memory like an elephant, he or she has a very good memory indeed.  
Mind your P's and Q's: This is used as a way of telling someone to be polite and behave well. If you are careful about the way you behave and are polite, you mind Your P's and Q's.  
Money to burn: If someone is very rich, they have money to burn.

Monkey business: If children get up to monkey business, they are behaving naughtily or mischievously. This is the same as 'monkeying around'.  
More haste, less speed: The faster you try to do something, the more likely you are to make mistakes that make you take longer than it would have you planned it.  
Much ado about nothing: If there's a lot of fuss about something trivial, there's much ado about nothing.  
My way or the highway: This idiom is used to say that if people don't do what you say, they will have to leave or quit the project, etc.  
Nerves of steel: If someone has nerves of steel, they don't get frightened when other people do.

New kid on the block: A new kid on the block is a person who has recently joined a company, organization, team, etc, and does not know how things work yet.  
New York minute: If something happens in a New York minute, it happens very fast.  
No ifs or buts: Ifs and Buts is a term used to describe the reasons people give for not wanting to do something. To show that you don't wish to accept any excuses, you can tell somebody that you wish to hear no ifs or buts Here IF & BUT have become nouns  
No laughing matter: Something that is no laughing matter is very serious.  
No question: This idiom means that something is certain or definite.

No questions asked: If something is to be done and no questions asked, then it doesn't matter what methods are used or what rules are broken to ensure that it gets done.  
No time to lose: If there's no time to lose, then it's time to get started otherwise it won't be finished on time.  
No two ways about it: If there are no two ways about something, there is no other possible interpretation.  
No use to man or beast: If something or someone is no use to man or beast, they are utterly useless.  
Not born yesterday: When someone says that they weren't born yesterday, they mean that they are not naive or easily fooled.

Not my cup of tea: If something is not your cup of tea, you don't like it very much.  
Nothing to crow about: If something's nothing to crow about, it's not particularly good or special.  
On the flip side: On the reverse or the other side  
On the tip of your tongue: If a word is on the tip of your tongue, you know you know the word, but you just can't quite remember it at the moment.  
Open book: If a person is an open book, it is easy to know what they think or how they feel about things.  
Out and about: If someone is out and about, they have left their home and are getting things done that they need to do.

Out of the frying pan, into the fire: If you get out of one problem, but find yourself in a worse situation, you are out of the frying pan, into the fire.  
Over and over: If something happens over and over, it happens repeatedly.  
Over the moon: If you are over the moon about something, you are overjoyed.  
Paper tiger: A paper tiger is a person, country, institution, etc, that looks powerful, but is actually weak.  
Pep talk: When someone gives you a pep talk it is to build you up to help you accomplish something. In sports a coach might give a player a pep talk before the game to bolster his confidence. At work the boss might give you a pep talk to get you to do a better job.

Plastic smile: When someone is wearing a plastic smile, they appear to be happier with a situation or events than they actually are. This is actually a description of the forced smile you might see in many photographs.  
Lesser of two evils: Something that is the lesser of two evils, is an unpleasant option, but not as bad as the other.  
Play it by ear: If you play it by ear, you don't have a plan of action, but decide what to do as events take shape.  
Play second fiddle: If you play second fiddle, you take a subordinate role behind someone more important.  
Break a leg: This idiom is a way of wishing someone good luck.