Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

IDIOMS\_PART 2

1. **Acid test-** proves the effectiveness of something

I practised hard at the dance sessions but the acid test will come when the master will assess our solo performances.

1. **Cut the ground from under the feet-** to do something that weakens their position

When team India hit more than 350 runs in the ODI, they cut the ground from under the opponent’s feet.

1. **Chase your tail-** spend a lot of time and energy doing a lot of things but actually achieving too little

He has been chasing his tail all week collecting data but the report is still not ready

1. **Whole bag of tricks-** clever means to achieve something

It was really difficult to find the information even after applying the whole bag of tricks

1. D**eliver the goods-** do what is expected or promised

I have given my car to a new mechanic for repair, hope he delivers the goods

1. **Fine-tooth comb-** examining something carefully to not miss out any details

The boss examined my report with a fine tooth comb before submitting it to the senior management

1. **Explore all avenues-** trying out every possibility to get a result

It is a difficult thing to do but if we really want it done, we must explore all avenues.

1. **Fast track something-** rating something higher on your priority list to achieve the desired result

In view of the seriousness of the crime, the civil society is pressing up on a fast track decision from the court.

1. **Get ducks in a row-** getting your things well organised

To ensure a successful product launch, we must get our ducks in a row

1. **Get the show on the road-** putting up a plan or idea into action

Now that we have completed all the legal formalities, let’s get the show on the road.

1. **Keep your fingers on the pulse-** being constantly aware of the most recent developments

An entrepreneur must keep his fingers on the pulse of the market to be successful.

1. **Mean business-** being serious about what you announce

Now that all our policies about work are put up on intranet, we mean business

1. **Think on your feet-** adjusting quickly to changes and making fast decisions

A good salesman must be able to think on his feet to close the deal.

1. **Sail through something-** being successful in doing something without difficulty

The presentation at the national conference was extremely important for the company. We sailed through it.

1. **Tricks of the trade-** clever or expert way of doing something

Being into the construction business for last 10 years, I know all the tricks of the trade

1. **Not let grass grow under feet-** don’t delay in getting something done

As soon as he finished all the registration formalities, he put the house on sale. He doesn’t let the grass grow under his feet.

1. **Work like a charm-** works very well or has the desired effect

I had cloves for my sore throat and they worked like a charm.

1. **Back-room boys-** people who perform important work but have no contact with the public

Our back room boys deserve applause for the success of this advertisement

1. **Dead wood-** people or things which are no longer useful or necessary

The company bought in a lot of new computers. They no longer want the dead woods.

1. **Get the axe-** lose the job

The projects team was undergoing a major restructuring, recruitment executives were the first to get the axe.

1. **Plum job-** desirable position which is well-paid and considered relatively

This looks like a plum job but has its own bunch of complications

1. **Shape up or ship out-** to warn someone that if they don’t improve their ways, they will have to leave their jobs

When Tom started neglecting the customers, he was told to shape up or ship out

1. **Golden handshake-** big sum of money given to a person when they leave a company or retire

The management of various PSUs wanted to cut down on the man power. They offered a golden handshake to make of their aged employees.

1. **Separate sheep from goats-** examining a group of people and deciding their suitability

Audition test was conducted by the director to separate sheep from goats.

1. **Waiting in the wings-** waiting for an opportunity to take action, mostly to replace someone else in their job

The senior manage is going to retire in next 2 months. Two of his juniors who are waiting in the wings will have a fierce competition.

1. **Eat, sleep and breathe something-** Being so enthusiastic and passionate about something that you think about it all the time

My son has recently learnt cycling. He eats, sleep and breathes it now.

1. **With bells on-** when you are delighted and eager to go somewhere, you are said to go with bells on

The New Year party at the beach is most awaited. I will be there- with bells on.

1. **Fever pitch-** when feeling is very intense and exciting, it is said to be at a fever pitch

His love for music had reached a fever pitch before he became a world known musician.

1. **Blood, sweat and tears- something** that requires a lot of effort and hard work

Being the team of Indian cricket team is not just a matter of luck for him, it is his blood, sweat and tears which has got him here.

1. **Have on the brain-** thinking or talking about it all day long

He has just got engaged. Now he has his finance on his brain all the time.

1. **Fling yourself into-** doing something with a lot of energy and enthusiasm

Flinging himself into the exercise routine is the reason for his good physique.

1. **Raring to go-** being very eager and enthusiastic about the idea of doing something

My kids wish to see the animals. They are raring to go to zoo.

1. **Get a grip on yourself-** controlling your feelings to deal with a situation

Reema saw her jewelry and cash missing from the cupboard. After the initial shock, she got a grip on herself and called up the police.

1. **Hang on by fingernails-** continuing to do something in a very difficult situation

The market of watches has suffered a big loss after the arrival of mobile phones. The survivors are just hanging on by their fingernails.

1. **Put out all the stops-** doing everything you can to make something successful

The deadline for the project is fast arriving; we have pulled out all the stops for timely completion.

1. **Buckle down-** doing some hard work with determination and full attention

Getting through the exam for civil services is possible when you have buckled down yourself.

1. **Make headway-** progress in what you are trying to achieve

The police have made headway with their investigation in the terror attack on the city last Friday.

1. **Punch above one’s weight-** performing beyond your ability

He was not the best swimmer around but he could win the gold medal at the state swimming competition by working hard and punching above his weight in the finals.

1. **Slink your teeth into-** doing something with a lot of energy and enthusiasm

Marie joined the badminton coaching classes. She sank her teeth into the practice sessions.

1. **Fish out of water-** feeling uncomfortable in unfamiliar surroundings

Being French, I felt like a fish out of water in the group of Japanese.

1. **Bee in one’s bonnet-** Carrying an idea which constantly occupies your thoughts

She is not happy in Africa. She has a bee in the bonnet about moving to Dubai.

1. **Beard the lion in his den-** challenge someone in his own area

If he doesn’t come to see me today, I will have to beard the lion in his den.

1. **Lump in your throat-** refers to a tight feeling in your throat because of an emotion like sadness or gratitude

After all the hardships, I saw my son winning a gold medal today- I had a lump in the throat.

1. **Lick one’s wounds-** trying to regain their confidence or boost up the spirits after a defeat

He licked his wounds after being dropped from the Indian Cricket Team.

1. **Blow up in face-** refers to a situation when a plan or project suddenly fails.

It was difficult to get a place in the train to Mumbai. It blew up in the face when a train de-railed and blocked the track.

1. **Cake not worth the candle-** refers to something in which result vs. efforts are too less

He worked very hard to organise the party but very few guests walked in. The cake wasn’t worth the candle.

1. **Chance one’s arm-** deciding to do something even though the chances of success are very little
2. She knew there was little chance of getting through the audition test but she decided to chance her arm.
3. **Cook someone’s goose-** spoil other person’s chances of success

When the opponent team saw Indian batsmen taking wicket after wicket, they realised that their goose was cooked.

1. **Foot in the door-** small but good start with a possibility for a bright future

With customers coming in, his new venture has got a foot in the door.

1. **Flying start-** something that is immediately successful

The film hit the box office with a flying start and collected the highest revenue on day 1.

1. **Murphy’s law-** means that if anything has to go wrong, it will

Let’s be prepared for the worse but don’t forget the Murphy’s law.

1. **Champagne on a beer budget-** wanting expensive things that you cannot afford

She always buys things out of her budget. She has developed a taste for champagne on beer budget.

1. **Live in an ivory tower-** living a lifestyle that saves you from the real world problems

Her inexperience in dealing with tough situations is because she has lived in an ivory tower.

1. **Hit the road running**- start performing immediately

She was our old employee. She hit the road running when she joined us back.