[47, 53]

**able to breathe (easily) again** and **able to breathe**

**(freely) again 1.** *Lit.* able to breathe clean, fresh air with

no restriction or obstruction. \_*After I got out of the dank*

*basement, I was able to breathe easily again.* **2.** *Fig.* able to

relax and recover from a busy or stressful time; able to

catch one’s breath. (*Able to* can be replaced with *can*.) \_

*Final exams are over, so I can breathe easily again.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[62, 66]

**able to** do something **blindfolded** and **able to** do something

**standing on** one’s **head** *Fig.* able to do something

very easily, possibly without even looking. (*Able to* can be

replaced with *can*.) \_ *Bill boasted that he could pass his*

*driver’s test blindfolded.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[86, 90]

**able to take just so much** and **able to take only so**

**much** able to endure only a limited amount of discomfort

or unpleasantness. (*Able to* can be replaced with *can*.)

\_ *Please stop hurting my feelings. I’m able to take just so*

*much.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[121, 124]

**above** one’s **bend** and **above** one’s **huckleberry** *Rur.*

beyond one’s ability. \_ *Fixing those new cars with computers*

*in them is above my bend.* \_ *Joe’s a good cook, but*

*fancy desserts are above his huckleberry.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[189, 193]

**absolve** someone **from** something and **absolve** someone

**of** something to prove that an accused person is innocent

of something; to demonstrate that someone is not responsible

for something. \_*Bob attempted to absolve himself of*

*the crime.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[248, 253]

**acceptable damage** and **acceptable losses** *Euph.*

casualties or destruction inflicted by an enemy that is considered

minor or tolerable. \_*At present, the enemy’s firststrike*

*capability would produce acceptable damage.* \_ *The*

*general indicated that the fifty thousand casualties were*

*within the range of acceptable losses.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[270, 275]

**acclimate** someone or an animal **to** something and **acclimatize**

someone or an animal **to** something to cause a person

or other living thing to become used to a different

climate or environment. \_ *We will help acclimate Henry*

*to the new building.* \_ *We need to acclimatize the fish to*

*the new aquarium.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[304, 308]

**according to all accounts** and **by all accounts** from

all the reports [that are available]; according to what

everyone is saying. \_ *According to all accounts, the police*

*were on the scene immediately.* \_ *By all accounts, it was a*

*very poor performance.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[346, 350]

**\*accustomed to** someone or something and **\*accustomed**

**to** doing something used to someone or something; used to

or in the habit of doing something. (\*Typically: **be ~;**

**become ~; grow ~**.) \_ *The children are accustomed*

*to eating late in the evening.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[351, 353]

**ace in the hole** and someone’s **ace in the hole** *Fig.*

something important held in reserve. \_*The twenty-dollar*

*bill I keep in my shoe is my ace in the hole.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[364, 367]

**ache for** someone or something and **hurt for** someone or

something *Fig.* to desire someone or something very much.

(So much that it “hurts.”) \_ *Jim ached for the sight of*

*Mary, whom he loved deeply.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[502, 507]

**add fuel to the fire** and **add fuel to the flame** *Fig.*

to make a problem worse; to say or do something that

makes a bad situation worse; to make an angry person get

even angrier. (Alludes to causing a flame to grow larger

when fuel is added.) \_*Shouting at a crying child just adds*

*fuel to the fire.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[515, 517]

**add** something **into** something and **add** something **in†** to

introduce something into something else. \_*Now, add the*

*eggs into the mixture.* \_ *Add in some more eggs.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[518, 522]

**add (**something**) on(to)** something and **add (**something**) on†**

to extend something by providing more (of something).

(This use of *on* with *add* is colloquial.) \_*You added nearly*

*one thousand dollars onto the total.* \_*You added on a thousand*

*dollars to the total!* \_ *You added too much on.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[634, 642]

**\***the **advantage of** someone and **\***the **advantage over**

someone; \*an **advantage over** someone; \*the **advantage**

**over** someone; **\***the **edge on** someone; **\***the **edge**

**over** someone a position superior to that of someone else;

a status wherein one controls or has superiority or authority

over someone else. (\*Typically: **get ~; give** someone

**~; have ~**.) \_*She’d gotten an advantage over me at the*

*start of the competition.* \_ *I got an edge on Sally, too, and*

*she came in second.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[669, 674]

**affiliate (**someone or something**) to** someone or something

and **affiliate (**someone or something**) with** someone or

something to cause a person or thing to be associated with

some other person or thing. \_ *He did not want to affiliate*

*his club to the other clubs.* \_ *We tried to affiliate John*

*with other people who shared his interests.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[701, 706]

**After a storm comes a calm.** and **After the storm**

**comes a calm.;** The **calm after a storm.** *Prov.*

Things are often calm after an upheaval. \_ *Jill: I can’t*

*believe how peaceful the office is today, when yesterday*

*everyone was either being fired or threatening to quit. Jane:*

*After a storm comes a calm.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[726, 730]

**after the fashion of** someone or something and **after the**

**style of** someone or something in the manner or style of

someone or something. \_ *She walks down the street after*

*the fashion of a grand lady.* \_ *The parish church was built*

*after the style of a French cathedral.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[809, 814]

**agree (with** someone**) (about** someone or something**)** and

**agree (with** someone**) ((up)on** someone or something**)**

[for two or more parties] to agree with one another about

the facts concerning someone or something. \_*I agree with*

*you about Judy; she is brilliant.* \_*He agreed with Sam upon*

*a time for the meeting.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[823, 826]

**(Ah) shucks!** and **(Ah) shoot!** *Rur.* Darn! (A mild oath.)

\_ *Ah, shucks! I forgot to call Grandma.* \_ *Tom: We can’t*

*get chocolate ice cream. The store’s all out. Jane: Shucks.* \_

*Ah, shoot! I missed my favorite TV show.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[877, 880]

**aim for** something and **aim at** something to strive toward a

particular goal; to direct oneself or one’s energies toward

something. \_*You should aim for success.* \_*Aim at getting*

*this done on time.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[882, 885]

**Aim for the stars!** and **Reach for the stars!** Aspire to

something!; Set one’s goals high! \_ *Aim for the stars, son!*

*Don’t settle for second best.* \_ *Set your sights high. Reach*

*for the stars!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[894, 898]

**ain’t got a grain of sense** and **ain’t got a lick of**

**sense** *Rur.* is or are foolish. \_ *Mary spends money like*

*there’s no tomorrow. She sure ain’t got a grain of sense.* \_ *I*

*wouldn’t trust Jim to take care of my kids. He ain’t got a*

*lick of sense.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[900, 905]

**ain’t got the brains God gave a squirrel** and **ain’t**

**got the sense God gave geese** *Rur.* is or are very

foolish. \_ *There goes John, running around barefooted in*

*the snow. He ain’t got the brains God gave a squirrel.* \_ *No*

*use trying to explain anything to Jane. She ain’t got the sense*

*God gave geese.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[922, 928]

**air** one’s **dirty linen in public** and **wash** one’s **dirty**

**linen in public** *Fig.* to discuss private or embarrassing

matters in public, especially when quarreling. (This *linen*

refers to sheets and tablecloths or other soiled cloth.) \_

*They are arguing again. Why must they always air their*

*dirty linen in public?* \_ *She will talk to anyone about her*

*problems. Why does she wash her dirty linen in public?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[974, 977]

**alive and kicking** and **alive and well** *Fig.* well and

healthy. \_ *Jane: How is Bill since his illness last month?*

*Mary: Oh; he’s alive and kicking.* \_*The last time I saw Tom,*

*he was alive and well.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[1022, 1028]

**all dressed up and nowhere to go** and **all dressed**

**up with nowhere to go** completely ready for something

that has been postponed or has failed to materialize.

(May be literal or figurative.) \_*Tom: I just heard that*

*your company is closed today. Fred: Gee, I’m all dressed up*

*and nowhere to go.* \_ *The space shot was cancelled, so all*

*the astronauts are all dressed up with nowhere to go.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[1091, 1095]

**(all) joking aside** and **(all) kidding aside** being serious

for a moment; in all seriousness. \_ *I know I laugh at*

*him but, joking aside, he’s a very clever scientist.* \_ *I know*

*I threatened to leave and go round the world, but, joking*

*aside, I do need a vacation.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[1112, 1116]

**all oak and iron bound** and **\*sound as a barrel** *Rur.*

in good health; feeling good. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_*Tom: How*

*are you today? Bill: All oak and iron bound, thank you.* \_

*Jane made a wonderful recovery from her surgery, and now*

*she’s as sound as a barrel.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[1140, 1146]

**all over creation** and **all over hell and half of Georgia;**

**all over hell and gone; to hell and gone** *Rur.*

everywhere. \_ *Little Billy had his toys spread out all over*

*creation. It took forever to clean up after him.* \_ *They’re*

*looking all over creation, trying to find the missing man.* \_

*Tom has traveled all over hell and half of Georgia trying to*

*find the man who done him wrong.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[1153, 1155]

**all over the earth** and **all over the world** *Fig.* everywhere.

\_*Gravity acts the same all over the earth.* \_*Human*

*nature is the same all over the world.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[1247, 1253]

**All that glitters is not gold.** and **All that glistens is**

**not gold.** *Prov.* Just because something looks attractive

does not mean it is genuine or valuable. (Often said as a

warning.) \_ *Hollywood may look like an exciting place to*

*live, but I don’t think you should move there. All that glitters*

*is not gold.* \_ *I know Susie is popular and pretty, but*

*don’t be fooled by that. All that glitters is not gold.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[1263, 1270]

**all the more reason for** doing something and **all the**

**more reason to** do something with even better reason

or cause for doing something. (Can be included in a number

of grammatical constructions.) \_ *Bill: I don’t do well*

*in calculus because I don’t like the stuff. Father: All the more*

*reason for working harder at it.* \_ *Bob: I’m tired of painting*

*this fence. It’s so old it’s rotting! Sally: All the more reason*

*to paint it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[1275, 1278]

**all the same** and **just the same** nevertheless; anyhow.

\_ *They were told not to bring presents, but they brought*

*them all the same.* \_ *His parents told him to stay home,*

*but John went out just the same.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[1279, 1284]

**all the same (to** someone**)** and **just the same (to** someone**)**

of no consequence to someone—one way or the

other; [of a choice] immaterial to someone. \_ *It’s all the*

*same to me whether we win or lose.* \_ *If it’s just the same*

*to you, I’d rather walk than ride.* \_ *If it’s all the same, I’d*

*rather you didn’t smoke.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[1310, 1312]

**All things must pass.** and **All things will pass.** *Fig.*

Everything comes to an end eventually. \_ *You’ll get over*

*this setback. All things must pass.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[1313, 1318]

**all things to all men** and **all things to all people**

*Fig.* [for someone or something] liked or used by all people;

[for someone or something] everything that is wanted

by all people. \_ *You simply can’t be all things to all people.*

\_*The candidate set out to be all things to all men and came*

*off looking very wishy-washy.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[1377, 1386]

**allocate** something **to** someone or something and **allocate**

something **between** someone or something; **allocate**

something **among** someone or something to give or assign

something to someone or something. (*Between* with two,

*among* with three or more.) \_*The committee allocated the*

*surplus cheese to the elderly people in the community.* \_

*David allocated the money among all the members.* \_ *He*

*allocated the work between Fred and George.* \_ *We had to*

*allocate the money between the philanthropy and social*

*committees.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[1408, 1415]

**Allow me.** and **Permit me.** Please let me help you. (Typically

said by someone politely assisting another person,

as by opening a door or providing some personal service.

In Allow me, the stress is usually on *me*. In Permit me,

the stress is usually on *-mit*.) \_ *Tom and Jane approached*

*the door. “Allow me,” said Tom, grabbing the doorknob.* \_

*“Permit me,” said Fred, pulling out a gold-plated lighter and*

*lighting Jane’s cigarette.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[1418, 1421]

**allow** someone or something **into** a place and **allow** someone

or something **in†** to permit someone or something to

enter some place. \_ *Will they allow you in the restaurant*

*without a tie?* \_ *They won’t allow in too many visitors.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[1458, 1461]

**(almost) jump out of** one’s **skin** and **nearly jump out**

**of** one’s **skin** *Fig.* to react strongly to shock or surprise.

\_*Oh! You really scared me. I nearly jumped out of my skin.*

\_ *Bill was so startled he almost jumped out of his skin.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[1472, 1474]

**along those lines** and **along these lines; along similar**

**lines** similarly; in nearly the same way. \_ *We will*

*deal with the other students along similar lines.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[1504, 1508]

**alternate between** someone **and** someone else and **alternate**

**between** something **and** something else to choose

or change between two persons or things alternately. \_

*The job will alternate between Gil and Ed.* \_*The maid will*

*alternate between the first f loor and the second f loor.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[1568, 1573]

**amount to the same thing** and **come to the same**

**thing; add up to the same thing** *Fig.* to be the same

[as something]. \_ *Borrowing can be the same as stealing.*

*If the owner does not know what you have borrowed, it*

*amounts to the same thing.* \_ *With cars—whether they’re*

*red or blue—it comes to the same thing.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[1597, 1603]

**and so forth** and **and so on** with additional related or

similar things mentioned (but not specified). \_ *She told*

*me everything about her kids and so forth.* \_ *I heard about*

*problems at work and so forth.* \_ *He told me about all his*

*health problems, including his arthritis and so on.* \_*I need*

*some help getting ready for dinner, setting the table, and so*

*on.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[1605, 1609]

**and** something **to spare** and **with** something **to spare** *Fig.*

with extra left over; with more than is needed. \_*I had as*

*much flour as I needed with some to spare.* \_ *Fred said he*

*should have enough cash to last the week—with money to*

*spare.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[1629, 1632]

**and those** and **and them** *Rur.* and some other people;

and other friends or family members. \_ *But if we invite*

*Jill, Mary and them will want to come.* \_*Jim and those was*

*sayin’ nasty things about me.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[1637, 1641]

**And you?** and **Yourself?** a way of redirecting a previously

asked question to the asker or someone else. \_ *Bill: Do*

*you want some more cake? Mary: Yes, thanks. Yourself ? Bill:*

*I’ve had enough.* \_ *Jane: Are you enjoying yourself ? Bill:*

*Oh, yes, and you?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[1695, 1698]

**another pair of eyes** and a **fresh pair of eyes** *Fig.*

another person to examine something closely in addition

to anyone previously. \_ *As soon as we can get a fresh pair*

*of eyes on this mansuscipt, we will find the last of the typos.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[1699, 1703]

**answer back (to** someone**)** and **answer** someone **back**

to talk back (to someone); to argue (with someone).

(Fixed phrase.) \_ *I wish you wouldn’t answer back to me*

*that way.* \_*Please don’t answer me back like that!* \_*Don’t*

*answer back or I’ll ground you for a week!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[1717, 1720]

**answer** someone’s **purpose** and **serve** someone’s **purpose**

to fit or suit someone’s aim or goal. \_ *This piece of*

*wood will answer my purpose quite nicely.* \_ *The new car*

*serves our purpose perfectly.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[1781, 1784]

**Anyone I know?** and **Anybody I know?** a coy way of

asking *who?*\_*Sally: Where were you last night? Jane: I had*

*a date. Sally: Anyone I know?* \_ *Bill: I’ve got a date for the*

*formal next month. Henry: Anybody I know?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[1795, 1800]

**Anytime you are ready.** and **Anytime you’re ready.**

a phrase indicating that the speaker is waiting for the person

spoken to to make the appropriate move or action. \_

*Mary: I think it’s about time to go. Bill: Anytime you’re*

*ready.* \_*Surgeon: Shall we begin the operation? Nurse: Anytime*

*you’re ready, Doctor.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[1997, 2004]

**(Are you) doing okay?** and **You doing okay? 1.** How

are you? \_ *Mary: Doing okay? Bill: You bet! How are you?*

\_*Bill: Hey, man! Are you doing okay? Tom: Sure thing! And*

*you?* **2.** How are you surviving this situation or ordeal? \_

*Mary: You doing okay? Bill: Sure. What about you? Mary:*

*I’m doing fine.* \_ *Tom: Wow, that was some turbulence we*

*just hit! Are you doing okay? Mary: I’m still a little frightened,*

*but I’ll make it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2013, 2021]

**(Are you) leaving so soon?** and **You leaving so**

**soon?** a polite inquiry made to a guest who has

announced a departure. (Appropriate only for the first few

guests to leave. It would seem sarcastic to say this to the

last guest to leave or one who is leaving very late at night.)

\_ *Sue: We really must go. Sally: Leaving so soon? Sue: Fred*

*has to catch a plane at five in the morning.* \_ *John (seeing*

*Tom at the door): You leaving so soon? Tom: Yes, thanks for*

*inviting me. I really have to go. John: Well, good night, then.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2063, 2066]

**argue** one’s **way out of** something and **argue** one’s **way**

**out** to talk and get oneself free of a problem. \_ *You can’t*

*argue your way out of this!* \_*It’s a problem, and there is no*

*way that you can argue your way out.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2085, 2091]

**argue (with** someone**) (over** someone or something**)** and

**argue (with** someone**) (about** someone or something**)** to

dispute or quarrel over someone or something with someone.

\_ *Are you going to argue with her over something so*

*simple?* \_ *I wish you wouldn’t argue over money with me.*

\_*We always argue about who should drive.* \_*Don’t argue*

*with me!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2096, 2100]

**arguing for the sake of arguing** and **arguing for the**

**sake of argument** arguing simply to be difficult or

contrary. \_*You are just arguing for the sake of arguing. You*

*don’t even know what the issue is.* \_*He is annoying, because*

*he is always arguing for the sake of argument.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2102, 2113]

**arise from** something and **arise out of** something **1.** *Lit.*

to get up from something. \_*What time did you arise from*

*bed?* \_ *I arose out of my slumbers at dawn.* **2.** *Lit.* [for

something] to drift upward from something. \_*The smoke*

*arose from the burning oil wells.* \_ *The smoke arose out of*

*the exhaust pipe.* **3.** *Fig.* to be due to something; to be

caused by something. \_ *This whole problem arose from*

*your stubbornness.* \_ *The labor problem arose out of mismanagement.*

**4.** *Fig.* [for someone] to come from poor

or unfortunate circumstances. \_ *She arose from poverty*

*to attain great wealth.* \_ *She arose out of squalor through*

*her own hard work.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2185, 2187]

**arrive at a decision** and **reach a decision** to make a

decision; decide. \_ *Have you arrived at a decision yet?* \_

*We will reach a decision tomorrow.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2209, 2214]

**arrive (**somewhere**) (up)on the stroke of** some time and

**arrive (**somewhere**) at the stroke of** some time to reach

a place at a particular instant of time. (*Upon* is more formal

and less commonly used than *on*.) \_*She arrived home*

*on the stroke of midnight.* \_*We all arrived at the stroke of*

*two.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2215, 2221]

**arrive (up)on the scene (of** something**)** and **arrive at**

**the scene (of** something**)** to reach the location of an

event in progress. (*Upon* is formal and less commonly

used than *on* and *at*.) \_ *The police arrived on the scene of*

*the crime.* \_ *They arrived upon the scene of a frightening*

*accident.* \_ *What did they do when they arrived at the*

*scene?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2275, 2281]

**as far as** anyone **knows** and **so far as** anyone **knows;**

**to the best of** one’s **knowledge** to the limits of anyone’s

knowledge. (The *anyone* can be replaced with a more

specific noun or pronoun.) \_*As far as anyone knows, this*

*is the last of the great herds of buffalo.* \_*Far as I know, this*

*is the best spot to sit.* \_ *Q: Are the trains on time? A: To the*

*best of my knowledge, all the trains are on time today.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2287, 2291]

**as far as possible** and **so far as possible** as much as

possible; to whatever degree is possible. \_ *We must try,*

*as far as possible, to get people to stop smoking in buses.* \_

*As far as possible, the police will issue tickets to all speeding*

*drivers.* \_ *I’ll follow your instructions so far as possible.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2292, 2296]

**as far as** someone **is concerned** and **so far as** someone

**is concerned** from the point of view of someone. \_

*Bob: Isn’t this cake good? Alice: Yes, indeed. This is the best*

*cake I have ever eaten as far as I’m concerned.* \_ *As far as*

*we are concerned, anything at all would be fine for dinner.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2297, 2302]

**as far as** something **is concerned** and **so far as** something

**is concerned** having to do with something; pertaining

to something; as for something. \_ *This bill? As*

*far as that’s concerned, the committee will have to take care*

*of it.* \_*As far as the roof ’s concerned, it will just have to last*

*another year.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2303, 2306]

**as for** someone or something and **as to** someone or something

regarding someone or something. \_ *As for the mayor, he*

*can pay for his own dinner.* \_*As for this chair, there is nothing*

*to do but throw it away.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2315, 2319]

**as I see it** and **in my opinion; in my view** *Fig.* the way

I think about it. \_ *Tom: This matter is not as bad as some*

*would make it out to be. Alice: Yes. This whole affair has*

*been overblown, as I see it.* \_ *Bob: You’re as wrong as can*

*be. John: In my view, you are wrong.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2320, 2331]

**as I was saying** and **like I was saying** to repeat what

I’ve been saying; to continue with what I was saying. (The

first form is appropriate in any conversation. The second

form is colloquial, informal, and familiar. In addition, this

use of *like* for *as,* in the second form, is objected to by

many people.) \_ *Bill: Now, Mary, this is one of the round*

*ones that attaches to the wire here. Bob (passing through the*

*room): Hello, you two! I’ll talk to you later. Bill: Yeah, see*

*you around. Now, as I was saying, Mary, this goes here on*

*this wire.* \_ *Tom: I hate to interrupt, but someone’s car is*

*being broken into down on the street. Fred: As I was saying,*

*these illegal practices must stop.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2372, 2377]

**as we speak** and **even as we speak** *Cliché* just now; at

this very moment. \_ *“I’m sorry, sir,” consoled the agent at*

*the gate, “the plane is taking off as we speak.”* \_ *Tom:*

*Waiter, where is my steak? It’s taking a long time. Waiter:*

*It is being grilled even as we speak, sir—just as you*

*requested.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2387, 2397]

**As you make your bed, so you must lie (up)on it.**

and **As you make your bed, so you must lie in it.;**

**As you make your bed, so must you lie in it.** *Prov.*

You have to suffer the consequences of what you do.

(Often used as a rebuke.) \_ *Tom insisted on taking a trip*

*to Florida in August, after we all told him how hot it was*

*then. Now that he’s there, all he does is complain about the*

*heat. As you make your bed, so you must lie upon it.* \_ *You*

*were the one who chose these house painters because they*

*were cheap. I told you they’d do a terrible job. As you make*

*your bed, so must you lie in it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2398, 2404]

**As you sow, so shall you reap.** and **As a man sows,**

**so shall he reap.** *Prov.* Things will happen to you good

or bad, according to how you behave. (Biblical.) \_ *You*

*should stop being so cruel to other people. As you sow, so*

*shall you reap.* \_ *Fred built an immense fortune by swindling*

*others, but lost it all when someone swindled him. As*

*a man sows, so shall he reap.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2423, 2428]

**ask around (about** someone or something**)** and **ask**

**about** someone or something to request information

(about someone or something) from a number of different

sources. \_ *I don’t know the answer. I’ll ask around*

*about it.* \_ *Ask about, will you? Find out what people are*

*thinking.* \_ *Please ask around about her.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2442, 2447]

**ask for trouble** and **look for trouble** *Fig.* to seem to be

trying to get into trouble; to do something that would

cause trouble; to do or say something that will cause trouble.

\_ *Stop talking to me that way, John. You’re just asking*

*for trouble.* \_*The guard asked me to leave unless I was looking*

*for trouble.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2449, 2455]

**Ask no questions and hear no lies.** and **Ask me no**

**questions, I’ll tell you no lies.** If you ask me that,

my answer might not be the truth. (Implies that you will

likely tell a lie, because you do not want to tell the truth.)

\_ *What am I going to give you for your birthday? Ask no*

*questions and hear no lies.* \_*Maybe I like Greg, and maybe*

*I don’t. Ask me no questions, I’ll tell you no lies.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2476, 2479]

**ask** someone **in(to)** some place and **ask** someone **in** to invite

someone inside some place. \_ *We asked them into the*

*house.* \_ *We stopped our friends in the hallway and asked*

*them in.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2602, 2604]

**\*at a good clip** and **\*at a fast clip** rapidly. (\*Typically:

**go ~; move ~; run ~; travel ~**.) \_ *We were moving*

*along at a good clip when a state trooper stopped us.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2608, 2611]

**at a moment’s notice** and **on a moment’s notice**

with very little advance notice; with just a little bit of

warning. \_ *They are always asking us to produce reports*

*at a moment’s notice.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2625, 2628]

**at a snail’s pace** and **at a snail’s gallop** very slowly. \_

*Things are moving along at a snail’s pace here, but we’ll finish*

*on time—have no fear.* \_ *Poor old Wally is creeping at*

*a snail’s gallop because his car has a f lat tire.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2635, 2637]

**at all costs** and **at any cost** *Fig.* regardless of the difficulty

or cost; no matter what. \_ *I intend to have that car*

*at all costs.* \_ *Mary was going to get that job at any cost.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2658, 2662]

**at best** and **at most** in the most favorable view; in the

most positive judgment; as the best one can say. \_*At best*

*we found their visit pleasantly short.* \_ *The dinner was not*

*at all pleasant. At best the food was not burned.* \_ *At most*

*there were three people in line ahead of me.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2694, 2698]

**at first glance** and **at first blush** when first examined;

at an early stage. \_ *At first glance, the problem appeared*

*quite simple. Later we learned just how complex it really*

*was.* \_*He appeared quite healthy at first glance.* \_*At first*

*blush, she appeared to be quite old.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2706, 2709]

**at full speed** and **at full tilt; at full throttle** as fast as

possible. \_ *The motor was running at full speed.* \_ *John*

*finished his running at full tilt.* \_ *When the horse reached*

*the back stretch he was at full throttle.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2718, 2721]

**at half-mast** and **at half-staff** [of a flag] halfway up or

down its flagpole. \_ *The f lag was f lying at half-mast*

*because the general had died.* \_*Americans f ly f lags at halfstaff*

*on Memorial Day.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2760, 2762]

**at leisure** and **at** one’s **leisure** at one’s convenience. \_

*Choose one or the other at your leisure.* \_ *Please drop by at*

*your leisure.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2771, 2776]

**at loggerheads (with** someone**)** and **at loggerheads**

**over** something *Fig.* in conflict with someone; having

reached an impasse (about something). \_ *Tom is at loggerheads*

*with Bill.* \_*We are at loggerheads with each other.*

\_ *The twins were at loggerheads over who should take the*

*larger room.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2787, 2791]

**at odds (with** someone**)** and **at odds over** something in

opposition to someone; at loggerheads (with someone).

\_*Mary is always at odds with her father about how late she*

*can stay out.* \_ *John and his father are always at odds over*

*what to watch on TV.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2794, 2799]

**at one fell swoop** and **in one fell swoop** *Fig.* in a single

incident; as a single event. (This phrase preserves the

old word *fell,* meaning “terrible” or “deadly.”) \_*The party*

*guests ate up all the snacks at one fell swoop.* \_ *When the*

*stock market crashed, many large fortunes were wiped out*

*in one fell swoop.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2865, 2869]

**at** someone’s **doorstep** and **on** someone’s **doorstep** *Fig.*

in someone’s care; as someone’s responsibility. \_ *Why do*

*you always have to lay your problems at my doorstep?* \_ *I*

*shall put this issue on someone else’s doorstep.* \_*I don’t want*

*that problem on my doorstep.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2900, 2905]

**at the bottom of the ladder** and **on the bottom**

**rung (of the ladder)** *Fig.* at the lowest level of pay and

status. (Alludes to the lowness of the bottom rung of a

ladder.) \_*Most people start work at the bottom of the ladder.*

\_ *After Ann got fired, she had to start all over again*

*on the bottom rung.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2907, 2910]

**at the crack of dawn** and **at the break of dawn** *Fig.*

at the earliest light of the day. \_*Jane was always awake at*

*the crack of dawn.* \_ *The birds start singing at the break of*

*dawn.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2924, 2927]

**at the end of** one’s **rope** and **at the end of** one’s **tether**

*Fig.* at the limits of one’s endurance. \_ *I’m at the end of*

*my rope! I just can’t go on this way!* \_ *These kids are driving*

*me out of my mind. I’m at the end of my tether.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2942, 2947]

**at the forefront (of** something**)** and **in the forefront**

**(of** something**)** *Fig.* at the place of greatest activity; vital

or important to some activity. \_ *I interviewed Max*

*Brown, the director who is in the forefront of the movie*

*industry.* \_*The university I go to is at the forefront of computer*

*technology.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2967, 2970]

**at the mercy of** someone and **at** someone’s **mercy** *Fig.*

under the control of someone; without defense against

someone. \_*We were left at the mercy of the arresting officer.*

\_ *Mrs. Franklin wanted Mr. Franklin at her mercy.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2979, 2983]

**at the present time** and **at this point (in time)** *Cliché*

now; at present. (Used often as a wordy replacement for

*now.*) \_*We don’t know the location of the stolen car at the*

*present time.* \_ *The patient is doing nicely at the present*

*time.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[2998, 3001]

**at the top of** one’s **voice** and **at the top of** one’s **lungs**

*Fig.* very loudly. \_*Bill called to Mary at the top of his voice.*

\_ *How can I drive safely when you’re all screaming at the*

*top of your lungs?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[3140, 3148]

**avenge** oneself **(on** someone or something**) (for** something**)**

and **avenge** oneself **(against** someone or something**) (for**

something**)** to get even with, or take revenge against someone

or something for some hurt or damage. \_ *They*

*avenged themselves on the enemy for the surprise attack.* \_

*He avenged himself against the storekeeper for the false*

*charges.* \_ *Mary avenged herself for her ex-husband’s*

*neglect to pay child support.* \_*Tom avenged himself on Bill*

*for Bill’s previous insults.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[3153, 3157]

**average out (at** something**)** and **average out (to** something**)**

to equal something as the average of a set of figures.

\_ *The figures averaged out at what was expected.* \_ *Will*

*the charges average out to a reasonable figure?* \_*Over time,*

*our expenses will average out to a low monthly outlay.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[3190, 3194]

**award** something **(to** someone**) (for** something**)** and **award**

**(**someone**)** something **(for** something**)** to give a prize or

reward to someone (for something). \_ *The committee*

*awarded a plaque to Andy for his loyalty.* \_ *They awarded*

*prizes for efficiency to two different people.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[3219, 3223]

**\*awkward as a cow on a crutch** and **\*awkward as**

**a cow on roller skates** very clumsy or off balance.

(\*Also: **as ~**.) \_*When Lulu was overweight, she was awkward*

*as a cow on a crutch.* \_ *Tom will never be a gymnast.*

*He’s as awkward as a cow on roller skates!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[3238, 3244]

**babysit for** someone and **babysit (with)** someone **1.** to

attend and care for a child for a period of time. \_*I’m looking*

*for someone to babysit for my cousin.* \_*Will you babysit*

*with my cousin?* **2.** to attend and care for a child for

someone for a short period of time. \_ *Would you mind*

*babysitting Roger for me for a few minutes?* \_ *Sure, I will*

*babysit for you.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[3264, 3273]

**back away (from** someone or something**)** and **back off**

**(from** someone or something**) 1.** *Lit.* to move backwards

from a person or thing; to withdraw physically from

someone or something. \_ *You should back away from the*

*fire.* \_*Please back off from the man who is threatening you.*

**2.** *Fig.* to begin to appear uninterested in someone or

something; to withdraw one’s interest from someone or

something. \_ *The board of directors began to back away*

*from the idea of taking over the rival company.* \_ *Tom*

*backed off from the whole idea of investing in stocks.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[3384, 3388]

**back** someone or something **out of** something and **back**

someone or something **out†** to guide or move someone or

something backwards out of something or some place. \_

*Judy backed the car out of the garage.* \_*Please back out the*

*car.* \_ *Don backed Fred out of the garage.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[3389, 3394]

**back** someone or something **up to** someone or something and

**back** someone or something **up†** to guide or move someone

or something backwards to someone or something.

\_ *She backed the car up to the end of the street.* \_ *Using*

*hand signals, Todd helped back Mary up to the gas pump.*

\_ *He backed up the motor home carefully.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[3449, 3453]

**backhanded compliment** and **left-handed compliment**

an unintended or ambiguous compliment. \_*Backhanded*

*compliments are the only kind he ever gives!* \_*And*

*I think his left-handed compliments are all given by accident,*

*too!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[3517, 3521]

**bad times** and **difficult times; trying times; hard**

**times; tough times** a period that offers difficulties,

such as when there is not enough food, money, or work.

\_ *We went through trying times when Perry was out of*

*work, but we all bounced back.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[3534, 3538]

**bag and baggage** and **part and parcel** with one’s luggage;

with all one’s possessions. \_ *Sally showed up at our*

*door bag and baggage one Sunday morning.* \_ *All right, if*

*you won’t pay the rent, out with you, bag and baggage!* \_

*Get all your stuff—part and parcel—out of here!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[3539, 3544]

**Bag it!** and **Bag your face!** *Sl.* Be quiet!; Shut up and

go away! \_ *Mary: Sally, you look just terrible! What happened?*

*Sally: Bag it! Mary: Sorry I asked!* \_*Bill: Did I ever*

*tell you about the time I went to Germany? Sue: Give it a*

*rest, Bill. Bag it!* \_*Sue: Can I borrow your car again? Mary:*

*Bag your face, Sue! Sue: Well, I never!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[3576, 3582]

**bail** someone **out of jail** and **bail** someone **out† 1.** *Lit.* to

deposit a sum of money that allows someone to get out of

jail while waiting for a trial. \_*John was in jail. I had to go*

*down to the police station to bail him out.* \_ *I need some*

*cash to bail out a friend!* **2.** *Fig.* to help someone who is

having difficulties. \_ *When my brother went broke, I had*

*to bail him out with a loan.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[3630, 3635]

**\*bald as a coot** and **\*bald as a baby’s backside** completely

bald. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *If Tom’s hair keeps receding*

*like that, he’ll be bald as a coot by the time he’s thirty.*

\_ *Fred: Now, I’ll admit my hair is thinning a little on the*

*top, but— Jane: Thinning? You’re not thinning, you’re as*

*bald as a baby’s backside!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[3654, 3657]

**ball of fire** and **fireball** an energetic and ambitious person;

a go-getter. \_ *That guy is a real ball of fire when it*

*comes to sales.* \_ *I don’t want to hire some young fireball.*

*I need wisdom and thoughtfulness.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[3818, 3821]

**bargain for** something and **bargain on** something to plan

for something; to expect something. \_*We knew the project*

*would be difficult, but we didn’t bargain for this kind of*

*trouble.* \_ *I bargained on an easier time of it than this.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[3823, 3828]

**bargain (over** someone or something**) (with** someone**)** and

**bargain (for** someone or something**) (with** someone**)** to

negotiate with someone about obtaining someone or

something. \_ *I refuse to bargain over money with Dan.* \_

*We will bargain with the supplier over prices.* \_ *You can’t*

*bargain over Claire with Jeff as if she were a car!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[3855, 3861]

**bark** something **out at** someone and **bark** something **at**

someone**; bark** something **to** someone**; bark** something

**out† (to** someone**)** *Fig.* to say something harshly to someone.

\_ *The sergeant barked the orders out at the recruits.*

\_ *He barked an order at his staff.* \_ *The teacher barked a*

*reprimand out to the class.* \_*He barked out the order clearly*

*and loudly.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[3889, 3894]

**barter for** something and **barter over** something to trade

[something] for something else; to acquire something by

exchanging goods or services, not by using money. \_ *I*

*want to barter for a large amount of cloth.* \_*Will you barter*

*for this month’s rent?* \_ *We will not barter over what you*

*owe us.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[4022, 4025]

**be for** someone or something and **be for** doing something supporting

or in favor of someone or something. \_ *I’m for*

*abandoning the scheme.* \_ *Mary is running for office, and*

*the whole family is for her.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[4060, 4066]

**be** one’s **own man** and **be** one’s **own master** to be someone

who is not controlled by other people; to be an independent

person. \_ *Bert longed to be his own master, but*

*at the same time feared losing the security he had as the*

*employee of a large company.* \_ *When I go away to college,*

*I’ll be my own man. My parents won’t be able to tell me what*

*to do anymore.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[4073, 4076]

**be so bold as to** do something and **make so bold as to**

do something to dare to do something. \_ *Would you care*

*to dance, if I may make so bold as to ask?* \_*She was so bold*

*to confront her rival.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[4090, 4094]

**be too** and **be so** to be something (despite any information

to the contrary). (An emphatic form of *is, am, are,*

*was, were.*) \_*Mother: Billy, you aren’t old enough to be up*

*this late. Billy: I am too!* \_*I was so! I was there exactly when*

*I said I would be!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[4109, 4114]

**bear a grudge (against** someone**)** and **have a grudge**

**(against** someone**); hold a grudge (against** someone**)**

to continue feeling an old resentment for someone; to harbor

continual anger for someone. \_ *She bears a grudge*

*against the judge who sentenced her.* \_ *I have a grudge*

*against my landlord for not fixing the leaky faucet.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[4135, 4140]

**bear** one’s **cross** and **carry** one’s **cross** *Fig.* to handle or

cope with one’s burden; to endure one’s difficulties. (This

is a biblical theme. It is always used figuratively except in

the biblical context.) \_ *It’s a very painful disease, but I’ll*

*bear my cross.* \_ *I can’t help you with it. You’ll just have to*

*carry your own cross.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[4184, 4190]

**beard the lion in his den** and **beard** someone **in** his

**den** *Prov.* to confront someone on his or her own territory.

\_*I spent a week trying to reach Mr. Toynbee by phone,*

*but his secretary always told me he was too busy to talk to*

*me. Today I walked straight into his office and bearded the*

*lion in his den.* \_ *If the landlord doesn’t contact us soon,*

*we’ll have to beard him in his den.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[4206, 4209]

**beat around the bush** and **beat about the bush** *Fig.*

to avoid answering a question; to stall; to waste time. \_

*Stop beating around the bush and answer my question.* \_

*Let’s stop beating about the bush and discuss this matter.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[4231, 4237]

**beat** one’s **head against the wall** and **bang** one’s **head**

**against a brick wall** *Fig.* to waste one’s time trying

hard to accomplish something that is completely hopeless.

\_ *You’re wasting your time trying to figure this puzzle*

*out. You’re just beating your head against the wall.* \_

*You’re banging your head against a brick wall trying to get*

*that dog to behave properly.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[4246, 4251]

**beat** someone **down to size** and **knock** someone **down**

**to size** *Fig.* to make a person more humble, sometime

by actual physical beating. \_ *If you keep acting so arrogant,*

*someone is going to beat you down to size.* \_ *It’s time*

*someone knocked you down to size.* \_*I’ll try to be less arrogant.*

*I don’t want anyone to beat me down to size.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[4290, 4294]

**beat** someone **to the punch** and **beat** someone **to the**

**draw** *Fig.* to do something before someone else does it.

\_ *I wanted to have the new car, but Sally beat me to the*

*punch.* \_*I planned to write a book about using the new software*

*program, but someone else beat me to the draw.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[4303, 4309]

**beat** something **into** someone and **beat** something **in†** *Fig.*

to use physical abuse to get someone to learn something;

to work very hard to get someone to learn something.

(Beating something into someone or someone’s head.) \_

*Do I have to beat this into your head? Why can’t you learn?*

\_ *Why do I have to beat in this information?* \_ *Can’t you*

*learn by yourself ? Does someone have to beat it in?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[4326, 4331]

**beat the drum for** someone or something and **bang the**

**drum for** someone or something *Fig.* to promote or support

someone or something. (As if one were beating a

drum to get attention.) \_ *I spent a lot of time beating the*

*drum for our plans for the future.* \_ *The senator is only*

*banging the drum for his special interests.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[4338, 4352]

**beat the hell out of** someone and **beat the living daylights**

**out of** someone; **beat the pants off (of )** someone;

**beat the shit out of** someone; **beat the socks**

**off (of )** someone; **beat the stuffing out of** someone;

**beat the tar out of** someone **1.** *Fig.* to defeat someone

very badly. (Caution: the use of the word *shit* is considered

vulgar and is offensive to many people. *Of* is usually

retained before pronouns.) \_ *Our team beat the hell out*

*of the other side.* \_*We beat the stuffing out of the other side.*

**2.** *Fig. Inf.* to batter someone severely. (Alludes to physical

violence, not the removal of someone’s pants. *Of* is

usually retained before pronouns.) \_ *The thugs beat the*

*living daylights out of their victim.* \_ *If you do that again,*

*I’ll beat the pants off of you.* \_*Before the boxing match Max*

*said he would beat the socks off Lefty.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[4433, 4439]

**been had** and **was had; have been had 1.** (of a

woman) been copulated with; been made pregnant. \_*I’ve*

*been had, and I’m going to have the baby.* \_*When she said*

*she had been had, I didn’t know it happened on her honeymoon.*

**2.** been mistreated, cheated, or dealt with badly.

\_ *Look at this cheap shirt that I paid $30 for! I was had!* \_

*I’ve been had by that lousy gyp joint.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[4453, 4457]

**before you can say Jack Robinson** and **quicker than**

**you can say Jack Robinson** *Fig.* almost immediately.

(Often found in children’s stories.) \_*And before you could*

*say Jack Robinson, the bird f lew away.* \_ *I’ll catch a plane*

*and be there quicker than you can say Jack Robinson.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[4717, 4721]

**bend** one’s **elbow** and **bend the elbow; lift** one’s

**elbow** to take a drink of an alcoholic beverage; to drink

alcohol to excess. \_ *He’s down at the tavern, bending his*

*elbow.* \_*Paul gets lots of exercise. I saw him bend his elbow*

*thirty times at a bar yesterday.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[4752, 4755]

**bend the law** and **bend the rules** *Fig.* to cheat a little

bit without breaking the law. (Jocular.) \_ *I didn’t break*

*the rules. I just bent the rules a little.* \_ *Nobody ever got*

*arrested for bending the law.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[4770, 4773]

**benefit by** something and **benefit from** something to

profit or gain by something. \_ *We hope to benefit by the*

*collapse of our competition.* \_ *We will all benefit from the*

*new tax laws.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[4805, 4807]

**beside the point** and **beside the question** irrelevant;

of no importance. \_*That’s very interesting, but beside the*

*point.* \_ *That’s beside the point. You’re evading the issue.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[4852, 4859]

The **best things come in small packages.** and **Good**

**things come in small packages.** *Prov.* Small packages

often contain valuable things. (Sometimes said of

petite or short people.) \_*Jill: I’m upset at George. He only*

*gave me this tiny box for my birthday. Jane: Don’t get upset*

*till you know what’s in it. Good things do come in small*

*packages.* \_*Child: I hate being so short. Grandmother: You*

*shouldn’t. The best things come in small packages.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[4872, 4886]

The **best-laid plans of mice and men oft(en) go**

**astray.** and The **best-laid schemes o’ mice an’ men**

**gang aft a-gley.** *Prov.* Things often go wrong even

though you have carefully planned what you are going to

do. (The *gang aft a-gley* version is Scots dialect, and comes

from Robert Burns’ poem “To a Mouse.”) \_*Jill: I reserved*

*a hotel room for us three weeks ago, but now the clerk says*

*he has no record of our reservation. So much for our fun*

*weekend in the city. Jane: Well, these things happen. The*

*best-laid plans of mice and men oft go astray.* \_ *I had all*

*the arrangements made for my party, and then the guest of*

*honor got sick and I had to call the whole thing off. The bestlaid*

*schemes of mice and men gang aft a-gley.* \_ *If a little*

*rain can ruin the best-laid plans of mice and men, think*

*what an earthquake might do!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[4894, 4898]

**bet** one’s **bottom dollar** and **bet** one’s **life** *Fig.* to be quite

certain (about something). (A *bottom dollar* is the last dollar.)

\_ *I’ll be there. You bet your bottom dollar.* \_ *I bet my*

*bottom dollar you can’t swim across the pool.* \_*You bet your*

*life I can’t swim that far.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[4941, 4951]

**Better keep still about it.** and Someone **had better**

**keep still about it.; Better keep quiet about it.;**

Someone **better keep quiet about it.** A particular person

ought not to tell about or discuss something. (The

*someone* can stand for any person’s name, any pronoun,

or even the word *someone* meaning “you-know-who.” If

there is no *Someone had,* the phrase is a mild admonition

to keep quiet about something.) \_ *Mary: I saw you with*

*Bill last night. Jane: You’d better keep quiet about it.* \_*Jane:*

*Tom found out what you’re giving Sally for her birthday. Bill:*

*He had better keep quiet about it!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[4978, 4981]

**\***the **better of** someone and **\***the **best of** someone triumph

over someone. (\*Typically: **get ~; have ~**.) \_ *Bill got*

*the best of John in the boxing match.* \_*I tried to get the better*

*of Tom in the golf match, but he won anyway.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[4982, 4985]

**better off (**doing something**)** and **better off (if** something

**were done)** in a better position if something were done.

\_*She’d be better off selling her house.* \_*They are better off*

*f lying to Detroit than driving.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[4986, 4990]

**better off (**somewhere**)** and **better off (if** one **were** somewhere

else**)** in a better position somewhere else. \_ *They*

*would be better off in a cheaper apartment.* \_ *We’d all be*

*better off if we were in Florida.* \_ *I know I’d be better off*

*in a warmer climate.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[5002, 5007]

**between a rock and a hard place** and **between the**

**devil and the deep blue sea** *Fig.* in a very difficult

position; facing a hard decision. \_ *I couldn’t make up my*

*mind. I was caught between a rock and a hard place.* \_ *He*

*had a dilemma on his hands. He was clearly between the*

*devil and the deep blue sea.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[5008, 5012]

**between jobs** and **between projects** *Euph.* unemployed.

\_*Interviewer: Tell me about your current position.*

*Job candidate: I’m between jobs right now.* \_*When Jill was*

*between projects, she took a computer class at the community*

*college.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[5019, 5023]

**between** someone **and** someone else and **between** something

**and** something else *Fig.* [of a choice] existing between

a selection of people or a selection of things. \_*The choice*

*is between Fred and Jill.* \_ *It’s between chocolate cake and*

*cherry pie.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[5027, 5035]

**between you (and) me and the bedpost** and

**between you and me and these four walls** *Fig.* a

somewhat affected way of signaling that you are about to

tell a secret. \_ *Alan: What’s wrong with Ellen these days?*

*She seems so touchy. Jane: Between you and me and the bedpost,*

*I’ve heard that her boyfriend is seeing someone else.*

\_*Jill: How much did you get for your used car? Jane: Well—*

*between you and me and these four walls—five thousand*

*dollars.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[5064, 5067]

**\*beyond help** and **\*beyond repair** beyond the help of

anything; not able to be fixed. (\*Typically: **be ~; get**

**~**.) \_ *The poor dog that was hit by a truck is beyond help.*

\_ *This old car is beyond repair.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[5118, 5123]

**bicker (with** someone**) (about** someone or something**)** and

**bicker (with** someone or something**) (over** someone or

something**)** to argue with someone about someone or

something. \_*Why are you always bickering with her about*

*absolutely nothing?* \_*Please don’t bicker with us over these*

*small details.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[5135, 5138]

**bid (**something**) for** something and **bid (**something**) on** something

to offer an amount of money for something at an auction.

\_ *I bid a thousand for the painting.* \_ *I didn’t want*

*to bid for it.* \_*I wouldn’t bid a cent on that rickety old table!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[5165, 5173]

**\*big as life (and twice as ugly)** and **\*large as life**

**(and twice as ugly); bigger than life (and twice**

**as ugly)** *Cliché* a colorful way of saying that a person or

a thing appeared, often surprisingly or dramatically, in a

particular place. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *The little child just*

*stood there as big as life and laughed very hard.* \_*I opened*

*the door, and there was Tom as large as life.* \_*I came home*

*and found this cat in my chair, as big as life and twice as*

*ugly.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[5177, 5182]

a **big drink of water** and a **tall drink of water 1.** *Fig.*

a very tall person. \_ *Tim is sure a big drink of water.* \_

*Kelly grew into a tall drink of water.* **2.** *Fig.* a boring person

or thing. (A pun on “hard to take.”) \_ *She is a big*

*drink of water, but she could be worse.* \_ *The lecture was a*

*big drink of water.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[5209, 5213]

the **big moment** and the **moment everyone has been**

**waiting for** the special time that everyone has been waiting

for. \_ *The big moment has come. I will now announce*

*the winner.* \_ *This is the moment everyone has been waiting*

*for. Now we will learn the name of the big winner.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[5239, 5246]

The **biggest frog in the puddle** and The **biggest toad**

**in the puddle** *Prov.* The most important or powerful

person in some small, unimportant group. (See also a big

frog in a small pond.) \_ *Jill: Elaine seems to be obsessed*

*with becoming class president. Jane: Yes, she really wants to*

*be the biggest frog in the puddle.* \_ *The people in my office*

*don’t care about doing their work; mostly they compete over*

*who will be the biggest toad in the puddle.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[5269, 5273]

**bind** someone or something **up† (in** something**)** and **bind**

someone or something **up† (with** something**)** to tie someone

or something up in something. \_ *They bound the*

*books up in leather straps.* \_ *I will bind up the larger sticks*

*in strong cord.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[5323, 5325]

**\***a **bit off** and **\***a **little off** a little crazy; a little out of

whack. (\*Typically: **be ~; find** someone **~**.) \_ *This*

*guy’s a little off, but he is harmless.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[5438, 5446]

**\*black as a skillet** and **\*black as a stack of black**

**cats; \*black as a sweep; \*black as coal; \*black**

**as night; \*black as pitch; \*black as the ace of**

**spades** completely dark or black. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *I*

*don’t want to go down to the cellar. It’s as black as a skillet*

*down there.* \_ *Her hair was black as a stack of black cats.*

\_ *After playing in the mud all morning, the children were*

*as black as night.* \_ *The stranger’s clothes were all black as*

*pitch.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[5568, 5572]

**bleed** someone **white** and **bleed** someone **dry** to take all

of someone’s money; to extort money from someone. \_

*The creeps tried to bleed me white.* \_ *Richard got a picture*

*of Fred and Joan together and tried to bleed both of them*

*dry by threatening to show it to their spouses.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[5595, 5598]

**blend** something **into** something else and **blend** something

**in†** to mix something evenly into something else. \_ *We*

*should blend the strawberry jam into the peanut butter*

*slowly.* \_ *You should blend in some more jam.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[5603, 5609]

**Bless** one’s **lucky star.** and **Bless** one’s **stars.** *Prov.* Be

thankful for a lucky thing that happened. (Also **Bless my**

**stars!,** a mild interjection of surprise.) \_*I bless my lucky*

*star that I met you, dear.* \_ *I was in a car crash yesterday,*

*and I bless my stars that no one was hurt.* \_ *Alan: Look,*

*honey! I gave the house a thorough cleaning while you were*

*away. Jane: Bless my stars!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[5684, 5689]

**block** someone or something **in** some place and **block** someone

or something **in†** to place an obstacle that prevents

someone or something from getting out of something. \_

*I can’t get out of my parking space. Someone blocked me in*

*my space.* \_ *Don’t block in any of the other cars in the*

*garage.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[5713, 5720]

**Blood is thicker than water.** and **Blood runs thicker**

**than water.** *Prov.* People who are related have stronger

obligations to each other than to people outside the family.

\_*My friends invited me to go camping on Saturday, but*

*I have to go to my cousin’s wedding instead. Blood is thicker*

*than water, after all.* \_*If you ever need help, don’t ask your*

*friends. Come home and ask us, your family. Blood runs*

*thicker than water.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[5860, 5864]

**blow (**one’s**) lunch** and **lose** one’s **lunch; blow** one’s

**cookies; blow** one’s **groceries** *Sl.* to vomit. \_*I almost*

*lost my lunch, I ran so hard.* \_ *I wanted to blow my lunch,*

*that’s how rotten I felt.* \_ *He got carsick and blew his cookies*

*all over the front seat.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[5868, 5870]

**blow** one’s **own horn** and **toot** one’s **own horn** *Fig.* to

brag. \_ *Gary sure likes to toot his own horn.* \_ *“I hate to*

*blow my own horn,” said Bill, “but I am always right.”*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[5910, 5916]

**blow** someone or something **to smithereens** and **blow**

someone or something **to bits; blow** someone or something

**to pieces** *Lit.* to explode someone or something into tiny

pieces. (See also blow something to smithereens.) \_ *The*

*bomb blew the ancient church to smithereens.* \_*The explosion*

*blew the tank to bits.* \_ *The explosion blew the car to*

*pieces.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[5962, 5967]

**blow** something **to smithereens** and **blow** something **to**

**bits; blow** something **to pieces** *Fig.* to destroy an idea

or plan by exposing its faults. (See also blow someone or

something to smithereens.) \_ *The discovery blew my case*

*to pieces.* \_ *The opposing lawyer blew my case to*

*smithereens.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[5973, 5978]

**blow** something **wide open** and **bust** something **wide**

**open** *Sl.* to expose corrupt practices or a secret plan; to

put an end to corruption. \_*The press is trying to blow the*

*town wide open, and the feds are trying to hush them up so*

*they can move about in secret.* \_*I’m going to bust this racket*

*wide open.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[6023, 6028]

a **blow-by-blow account** and a **blow-by-blow**

**description** *Fig.* a detailed description (of an event)

given as the event takes place. (This referred originally to

reporting on boxing.) \_*I want to listen to a blow-by-blow*

*account of the prizefight.* \_ *The lawyer got the witness to*

*give a blow-by-blow description of the argument.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[6086, 6090]

**boast about** someone or something and **boast of** someone

or something to speak highly about someone or something

that one is proud of. \_*I just have to boast about my grandchildren.*

*Do you mind?* \_*Is he boasting about his car again?*

\_ *I don’t like to boast of what I did.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[6147, 6149]

**boil** something **out of** something and **boil** something **out†**

to remove something from something by boiling. \_ *I*

*boiled the wax out of the cloth.* \_*You can boil out the stain.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[6214, 6217]

**boo** someone **off the stage** and **boo** someone **off†** to jeer

and hoot, causing a performer to leave the stage. \_ *The*

*rude audience booed the performer off the stage.* \_ *The*

*audience booed off the comedian.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[6256, 6262]

**boot** someone or an animal **out†** and **kick** someone or an animal

**out† 1.** *Lit.* to send or remove someone or an animal

from a place forcefully, often by kicking. \_ *I kicked the*

*cat out and then went to bed.* \_ *Tom kicked out the dog.* **2.**

*Fig.* to force someone or something to leave some place.

\_*We booted out the people who didn’t belong there.* \_*The*

*doorman booted the kid out.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[6282, 6285]

**bore** someone **stiff** and **bore** someone **to death; bore**

someone **to tears** *Fig.* to be exceedingly dull and uninteresting.

(*Stiff* means “dead.”) \_ *The play bored me stiff.*

\_ *The lecture bored everyone to death.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[6296, 6301]

**bored silly** and **bored to distraction; bored stiff;**

**bored to death; bored to tears** very bored;

extremely dull and uninteresting (Usually an exaggeration.)

\_ *I was bored silly at the lecture.* \_ *The dull speaker*

*left me bored to distraction.* \_ *I am bored to tears. Let’s go*

*home.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[6304, 6308]

**born and raised** and **born and bred** born and nurtured

through childhood, usually in a specific place. \_ *She was*

*born and raised in a small town in western Montana.* \_

*Freddy was born and bred on a farm and had no love for*

*city life.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[6334, 6336]

**bosom buddy** and **bosom pal** a close friend; one’s closest

friend. \_*Of course I know Perry. He is one of my bosom*

*pals.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[6358, 6363]

**bother** someone **with** someone or something and **bother**

someone **about** someone or something to annoy someone

with someone or something; to worry someone about

someone or something. (Either a physical annoyance or a

mental annoyance.) \_*Don’t bother me with that!* \_*Don’t*

*bother yourself about the bill. I’ll pay it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[6394, 6400]

the **bottom of the barrel** and the **bottom of the heap**

*Fig.* the location of persons or things of the very lowest

quality; someone or something of the lowest quality. (The

fruit at the bottom of a barrel of apples is likely to be

bruised from the weight of the other apples.) \_ *That last*

*secretary you sent me was really the bottom of the barrel.*

\_*I don’t need any candidates from the bottom of the heap.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[6406, 6411]

**Bottoms up!** and **Here’s looking at you.; Here’s mud**

**in your eye.; Here’s to you.** *Inf.* an expression said as

a toast when people are drinking together. (Alludes to the

bottoms of the drinking glasses.) \_*Bill: Bottoms up. Tom:*

*Here’s mud in your eye. Bill: Ah, that one was good. Care*

*for another?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[6492, 6499]

**bow down (to** someone or something**)** and **bow to** someone

or something **1.** *Lit.* to bend or curtsy to someone or

something. \_*Do you expect me to bow down or something*

*when you enter?* \_ *He bowed down low to the duchess.* \_

*She faced forward and bowed to the altar.* **2.** *Fig.* to submit

to someone or something; to yield sovereignty to someone

or something. \_ *I will not bow down to you, you dictator!*

\_ *We will never bow to a foreign prince.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[6556, 6561]

the **boys in the back room** and the **backroom boys**

*Fig.* any private group of men who make decisions, usually

political decisions. (See also smoke-filled room.) \_

*The boys in the back room picked the last presidential candidate.*

\_*The backroom boys have decided too many things*

*in the past. Their day is over.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[6656, 6659]

**break a habit** and **break the habit; break** one’s **habit**

to end a habit. \_ *I was not able to break the habit of snoring.*

\_*It’s hard to break a habit that you have had for a long*

*time.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[6660, 6663]

**break a law** and **break the law** to fail to obey a law; to

act contrary to a law. \_ *Lisa broke the law when she drove*

*the wrong way on a one-way street.* \_ *If you never break*

*the law, you will never get arrested.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[6680, 6688]

**break away (from** someone**)** and **break free (from**

someone**); break loose (from** someone**) 1.** *Lit.* to get

free of the physical hold of someone. \_ *I tried to break*

*away from him, but he was holding me too tight.* \_ *She*

*broke free from him, at last.* \_*I broke free from the intruder.*

**2.** *Fig.* to sever a relationship with another person, especially

the parent-child relationship. \_ *He found it hard to*

*break away from his mother.* \_*She was almost thirty before*

*she finally broke free.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[6763, 6768]

**break off (with** someone**)** and **break with** someone to

end communication with someone; to break up (with

someone); to end a relationship with someone, especially

a romantic relationship, or to create a break between adult

members of a family. \_ *Terri has broken off with Sam.* \_

*We thought she would break with him pretty soon.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[6776, 6779]

**break** one’s **neck (to** do something**)** and **break** one’s **back**

**(to** do something**)** *Fig.* to work very hard to accomplish

something. \_*I broke my neck to get here on time.* \_*There*

*is no point in breaking your back. Take your time.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[6810, 6812]

**break out in(to) tears** and **break in(to) tears** to start

crying suddenly. \_ *I was so sad that I broke out into tears.*

\_ *I always break into tears at a funeral.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[6848, 6856]

**break (**someone’s**) balls** and **break (**someone’s**) stones;**

**bust (**someone’s**) balls; bust (**someone’s**) stones 1.** *Sl.*

to wreck or ruin (someone); to overwork someone; to

overwhelm someone. (Potentially offensive. Use only with

discretion.) \_ *The boss acts like he’s trying to break everybody’s*

*balls all the time.* \_ *No need to break my balls. I’ll*

*do it!* **2.** *Sl.* to kid or tease (someone). \_*Don’t sweat what*

*I said—I was just bustin’ balls.* \_*Hey, relax, he didn’t mean*

*it. He was just breakin’ your stones!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[6920, 6925]

**break** something **off (of )** something and **break** something

**off†** to fracture or dislodge a piece off something. (*Of* is

usually retained before pronouns.) \_ *He broke a piece of*

*the decorative stone off the side of the church.* \_ *He didn’t*

*mean to break off anything.* \_ *This fragment was broken*

*off of that.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[7168, 7172]

**brief** someone **about** someone or something and **brief** someone

**on** someone or something to tell someone a summary

with the essential details about someone or something.

\_ *We need to brief the president about the latest event.* \_

*I have to brief Michael on the new procedures at work.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[7202, 7205]

**brim over (with** something**)** and **brim with** something to

overflow with something. \_*The basket was brimming over*

*with f lowers.* \_ *I was brimming with confidence after my*

*recent success.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[7232, 7237]

**bring** one **out of** one’s **shell** and **get** one **out of** one’s

**shell; bring** one **out; get** one **out** *Fig.* to make a person

become more open and friendly. (Alludes to a shy turtle

being coaxed to put its head out of its shell.) \_*We tried*

*to bring Greg out of his shell, but he is very shy.* \_*He’s quiet,*

*and it’s hard to get him out of his shell.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[7238, 7243]

**bring** one **to** one’s **feet** and **bring** something **to its feet**

to make someone or an audience rise up applauding or

cheering in approval or in salute to someone or something.

(Usually refers to an audience.) \_ *The finale*

*brought the audience to its feet.* \_ *Liz was brought to her*

*feet by the playing of the national anthem.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[7317, 7321]

**bring** someone or an animal **back to life** and **bring** someone

or an animal **back†** to make someone or some living

creature come back to life. \_*There was nothing that would*

*bring Jimmy’s cat back. It was truly dead.* \_ *Not even a*

*magician could bring back the cat.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[7370, 7374]

**bring** someone or something **in(to)** some place and **bring**

someone or something **in†** to permit or assist someone or

something to enter something or some place. \_ *Do you*

*mind if I bring my sister in here with me?* \_*Please bring in*

*your sister.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[7385, 7389]

**bring** someone or something **out of** something and **bring**

someone or something **out†** to cause someone or something

to emerge from something or some place. \_ *The explosion*

*brought the people out of their homes.* \_ *The noise*

*brought out all the people.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[7513, 7517]

**bring** someone **up sharply** and **bring** someone **up short**

to surprise or shock someone; to make someone face

something unpleasant, suddenly. \_ *The slap in the face*

*brought me up sharply.* \_ *The loud bang brought me up*

*short.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[7668, 7672]

**bring** something **out of** someone and **bring** something **out†**

to cause something to be said by a person, such as a story,

the truth, an answer, etc. \_*We threatened her a little and*

*that brought the truth out of her.* \_ *This warning ought to*

*bring out the truth!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[7677, 7681]

**bring** something **to a close** and **bring** something **to an**

**end; bring** something **to a climax** to end something;

to cause something to reach its final point and stop. \_ *I*

*think it is time to bring this matter to a close.* \_ *The incident*

*has been brought to a climax.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[7772, 7778]

**bristle with rage** and **bristle with anger; bristle**

**with indignation** *Fig.* to demonstrate one’s anger, rage,

or displeasure with a strong negative response. (Alludes

to a dog or cat raising the hair on its back in anger or as a

threat.) \_ *She was just bristling with anger. I don’t know*

*what set her off.* \_ *Walter bristled with rage as he saw the*

*damage to his new car.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[7779, 7783]

**broach** something **with** someone and **broach** something **to**

someone to mention something to someone; to bring up

an idea to someone. \_*I hate to be the one to have to broach*

*this to you, but your trousers are torn.* \_*This delicate matter*

*must be broached with Mr. Rogers.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[7808, 7812]

**brood about** someone or something and **brood on** someone

or something; **brood over** someone or something to fret

or be depressed about someone or something. \_ *Please*

*don’t brood about Albert. He is no good for you.* \_ *There’s*

*no need to brood on Jeff. He can take care of himself.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[7841, 7846]

**browse over** something and **browse through** something

[for someone] to glance through written or printed material

quickly or curiously. \_*Why don’t you browse over this*

*and call me about it in the morning?* \_ *I want to browse*

*through this magazine quickly.* \_*When it has been browsed*

*through by everyone, throw it away.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[7852, 7855]

**brush by** someone or something and **brush past** someone

or something to push quickly past someone or something.

\_ *She brushed by the little group of people standing there*

*talking.* \_ *I brushed by the plant, knocking it over.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[7889, 7892]

**brush** something **off** someone or something and **brush** something

**off†** to remove something from someone or something

by brushing. \_*I brushed a little lint off her collar.* \_

*I brushed off the lint that was on her collar.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[7969, 7971]

**buckle up** and **belt up** to buckle one’s seat belt, as in a

car or plane. \_ *Please buckle up so our f light can begin.* \_

*I wish you would obey the law and belt up.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[8023, 8028]

**build a case (against** someone**)** and **gather a case**

**(against** someone**)** to put together the evidence needed

to make a legal or disciplinary case against someone. \_

*The police easily built a case against the drunken driver.* \_

*As soon as we gather the case against her, we can obtain a*

*warrant to arrest her.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[8031, 8035]

**build castles in the air** and **build castles in Spain**

*Fig.* to daydream; to make plans that can never come true.

\_*Ann spends most of her time building castles in Spain.* \_

*I really like to sit on the porch in the evening, just building*

*castles in the air.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[8043, 8045]

**build on(to)** something and **build on** to add to something

by constructing an extension. \_*Do you plan to build onto*

*this house?* \_ *Yes, we are going to build on.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[8051, 8055]

**build** someone **into** something and **build** someone **in†** to

make a person an integral part of an organization or a

plan. \_*The mayor built his cronies into the organizational*

*structure of the town.* \_ *He built in his relatives as part of*

*the administration.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[8079, 8089]

**build** something **into** something and **build** something **in† 1.**

to integrate a piece of furniture or an appliance into a

building’s construction. \_*We will build this cupboard into*

*the wall about here.* \_ *We are going to build in a chest of*

*drawers.* \_ *Then we will build another one in.* **2.** to make

a particular quality a basic part of something. \_*We build*

*quality into our cars before we put our name on them.* \_*We*

*build in quality.* **3.** to make a special restriction or specification

a part of the plan of something. \_ *I built the*

*restriction into our agreement.* \_ *The lawyer built in the*

*requirement that payments be by certified check.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[8091, 8095]

**build** something **on(to)** something and **build** something **on†**

to construct an extension onto a building. \_*We are going*

*to build a garage onto this side of the house.* \_*We will build*

*on a new garage.* \_ *The people next door are not going to*

*build anything on.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[8099, 8103]

**build (**something**) out† over** something and **build (**something**)**

**over** something to construct something so that it

extends over something else, such as water or some architectural

feature. \_*We built a deck out over the pond.* \_*We*

*built the deck over the pond.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[8141, 8146]

**built like a brick outhouse** and **built like a brick**

**shithouse** *Fig.* well-built—either strong or full-sized.

(Built more strongly than is typical. The second form is

potentially offensive. Use only with discretion.) \_*Look at*

*that guy’s muscles—he’s built like a brick shithouse.* \_*This*

*garage is built like a brick outhouse. It’ll last for years.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[8227, 8233]

**bump into** someone and **run into** someone **1.** *Lit.* to move

inadvertently or crash into someone. \_*Excuse me. I didn’t*

*mean to bump into you.* \_ *The child on the bicycle nearly*

*bumped into me.* **2.** *Fig.* to chance on someone; to meet

someone by chance. (Not normally with physical contact.)

\_*Guess who I bumped into downtown today?* \_*I ran into*

*Bill Jones yesterday.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[8234, 8237]

**bump** someone **off†** and **knock** someone **off†** *Sl.* to kill

someone. \_ *They tried to bump her off, but she was too*

*clever and got away.* \_ *The crooks threatened to bump off*

*the witness to the crime.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[8265, 8268]

**bundle of joy** and **bundle from heaven** *Fig.* a baby. \_

*We are expecting a bundle of joy next September.* \_ *When*

*your little bundle from heaven arrives, things will be a little*

*hectic for a while.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[8423, 8425]

**burn** someone **out of** something and **burn** someone **out†**

to burn down a home(stead) or place of business. \_*Lightning*

*struck and burned the farmer out of his home.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[8443, 8449]

**burn** something **into** something and **burn** something **in†**

**1.** *Lit.* to engrave, brand, or etch marks or letters into

something by the use of great heat. \_ *She burned her initials*

*into the handle of the umbrella.* \_ *She burned in her*

*initials.* **2.** *Fig.* to implant something firmly in someone’s

head, brain, memory, etc. \_ *She burned the information*

*into her head.* \_*The events of the day burned in sad memories.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[8451, 8454]

**burn** something **off** something and **burn** something **off†** to

cause excess volatile or flammable substance to burn until

there is no more of it. \_ *We burnt the gasoline off the*

*water’s surface.* \_ *Why did you burn off the gasoline?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[8503, 8508]

a **burning question** and the **burning question** *Fig.* a

question whose answer is of great interest to everyone; a

question that needs very much to be answered, as a fire

needs to be extinguished. \_*There’s a burning question that*

*needs to be answered: Why did you leave your wife of only*

*one month?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[8555, 8559]

**burst into tears** and **burst out crying** *Fig.* to begin to

cry suddenly. \_ *After the last notes of her song, the audience*

*burst into tears, such was its beauty and tenderness.* \_

*The children burst into tears on hearing of the death of their*

*dog.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[8571, 8579]

**burst out into** something and **burst into** something **1.** *Fig.*

[for plants or trees] to open their flowers seemingly suddenly

and simultaneously. (*Burst* indicates suddenness.)

\_ *The f lowers burst out into blossom very early.* \_ *They*

*burst into blossom during the first warm day.* **2.** *Fig.* [for

someone] to begin suddenly doing a particular activity,

such as crying, laughing, chattering; to begin an activity

such as laughter, chatter, tears, etc. \_ *Suddenly, she burst*

*out into laughter.* \_ *The child burst into tears.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[8627, 8633]

**bury** one’s **head in the sand** and **hide** one’s **head in**

**the sand; have** one’s **head in the sand** *Fig.* to ignore

or hide from obvious signs of danger. (Alludes to an

ostrich, which is believed incorrectly to hide its head in a

hole in the ground when it sees danger.) \_ *Stop burying*

*your head in the sand. Look at the statistics on smoking and*

*cancer.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[8670, 8679]

The **busiest men have the most leisure.** and The

**busiest men find the most time.** *Prov.* Industrious

people get their work done efficiently and therefore have

time to do what they want. \_ *Fred: How does Phil do it?*

*He produces more than the rest of us, but he also manages*

*to pursue all his hobbies. Alan: The busiest men have the*

*most leisure.* \_ *As the town’s only doctor, Bert worked*

*extremely hard, yet he always had time to play with his children*

*and go out with his wife. The busiest men find the most*

*time.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[8728, 8736]

**bust (**one’s**) ass (to** do something**)** and **break** one’s **balls**

**to** do something; **bust** one’s **butt to** do something; **bust**

one’s **nuts to** do something *Sl.* to work very hard to do

something. (The expressions with *balls* and *nuts* are said

typically, but not necessarily, of a male. Potentially offensive.

Use only with discretion.) \_*I’ve been busting my nuts*

*to get this thing done on time, and now they don’t want it!*

\_ *The new boss expects you to bust your nuts every minute*

*you are at work at the warehouse.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[8760, 8768]

**bust** someone **out of** some place and **bust** someone **out†**

**1.** *Sl.* to help someone escape from prison. (*Bust* is a nonstandard

form of *burst*meaning ‘break’ here.) \_*Lefty did*

*not manage to bust Max out of prison.* \_ *Lefty wanted to*

*bust out some of his friends.* **2.** *Sl.* to expel or force someone

to withdraw from school. (*Bust* is a nonstandard form

of *burst* meaning ‘break’ here.) \_ *The dean finally busted*

*Bill out of school.* \_ *The dean busted out the students with*

*very low grades.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[8816, 8828]

**\*busy as a beaver (building a new dam)** and **\*busy**

**as a bee; \*busy as a one-armed paperhanger;**

**\*busy as Grand Central Station; \*busy as a cat**

**on a hot tin roof; \*busy as a fish peddler in Lent;**

**\*busy as a cranberry merchant (at Thanksgiving);**

**\*busy as popcorn on a skillet** very busy.

(\*Also: **as ~**.) \_*My boss keeps me as busy as a one-armed*

*paperhanger.* \_*I don’t have time to talk to you. I’m as busy*

*as a beaver.* \_ *When the tourist season starts, this store is*

*busy as Grand Central Station.* \_ *Sorry I can’t go to lunch*

*with you. I’m as busy as a beaver building a new dam.* \_

*Prying into other folks’ business kept him busy as popcorn*

*on a skillet.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[8876, 8880]

**butter** someone **up†** and **butter up to** someone to flatter

someone; to treat someone especially nicely in hopes of

receiving special favors. (See also spread something on

thick; soft soap.) \_ *A student tried to butter the teacher*

*up.* \_ *She buttered up the teacher again.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[8920, 8924]

**buy a round (of drinks)** and **buy the next round (of**

**drinks)** to buy a drink for each person present, with the

expectation that one or more of those persons will later

do likewise. \_ *Which one of you guys is going to buy the*

*next round?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[9000, 9003]

**buy the farm** and **buy it** *Sl.* to die; to get killed. (The farm

is a burial plot.) \_ *I’ll pass through this illness; I’m too*

*young to buy the farm.* \_ *He lived for a few hours after his*

*collapse, but then he bought it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[9024, 9030]

**buzz** someone **into** a place and **buzz** someone **in†** *Fig.* to

push a button that opens a door latch electrically, allowing

someone to use the door and enter. (The process creates

a buzz while the latch is open.) \_ *My secretary will*

*buzz you in.* \_ *Please buzz in our guest.* \_ *Oh, hello. I will*

*buzz you into the lobby. Then take the elevator to apartment*

*310.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[9035, 9038]

**by a hair(‘s breadth)** and **by a whisker** *Fig.* just barely;

by a very small distance. \_ *I just missed getting on the*

*plane by a hair’s breadth.* \_ *I made it onto the last f light*

*by a hair!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[9097, 9100]

**by day** and **by night** during the day; during the night.

(Often used in simultaneous clauses for contrast.) \_ *By*

*day, Mary worked in an office; by night, she took classes.* \_

*Dave slept by day and worked by night.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[9115, 9120]

**by guess and by gosh** and **by guess and by golly**

*Rur.* by estimating; without careful planning. \_*Jane: Did*

*you have a plan for putting up that toolshed? Tom: Nope, we*

*just sort of did it by guess and by gosh.* \_ *Grandma always*

*made dresses by guess and by golly, without using a pattern,*

*and they always turned out just fine.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[9124, 9128]

**by herself** and **by himself 1.** with no one else present;

alone. \_ *She hates to go to strange places by herself.* \_ *He*

*sat by himself at a table big enough for six people.* **2.** with

the help of no one else. \_ *The two-year-old boy can get*

*dressed by himself.* \_ *Susan is unable to get there by herself.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[9171, 9176]

**by return mail** and **by return post** by a subsequent

mailing (back to the sender). (A phrase indicating that an

answer is expected very soon, by mail.) \_ *Since this bill is*

*overdue, would you kindly send us your check by return*

*mail?* \_ *I answered your request by return post over a year*

*ago. Please check your records.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[9186, 9192]

**\*by the book** and **\*by the numbers** following the rules

exactly. (Alludes to a (numbered) book of rules. \*Typically:

**go ~; do** something **~; play ~; run** something

**~**.) \_ *The judge of the contest ran things strictly by the*

*rules and disqualified us on a small technicality.* \_ *Everyone*

*insisted that we go by the numbers and not accept the*

*proposal.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[9245, 9255]

**by the way** and **by the by 1.** a phrase indicating that the

speaker is adding information. (*By the by* is not as frequent.)

\_ *Tom: Is this one any good? Clerk: This is the*

*largest and, by the way, the most expensive one we have in*

*stock.* \_ *Bill: I’m a realtor. Is your house for sale? Alice: My*

*house is not for sale, and, by the way, I too am a realtor.*

**2.** a phrase indicating that the speaker is casually opening

a new subject. \_ *Bill: Oh, by the way, Fred, do you still*

*have that hammer you borrowed from me? Fred: I’ll check.*

*I thought I gave it back.* \_ *Jane: By the by, don’t you owe*

*me some money? Sue: Who, me?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[9290, 9293]

**cadge** something **from** someone and **cadge** something **off**

someone *Sl.* to beg or borrow something from someone.

\_*Go cadge some sugar from the lady next door.* \_*I cadged*

*this jacket off a friendly guy I met.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[9337, 9340]

**calculate** something **into** something and **calculate** something

**in†** to include something in one’s calculations. \_*Did*

*you calculate the cost of the cake into the total?* \_*Yes, I calculated*

*in all the costs.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[9348, 9351]

**call a meeting to order** and **call the meeting to**

**order** to announce that a meeting is about to begin. \_

*The chair called the meeting to order.* \_ *The meeting will*

*be called to order at noon.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[9418, 9426]

**Call no man happy till he dies.** and **Count no man**

**happy till he dies.** *Prov.* You cannot tell if a person’s

life has been happy on the whole until that person’s life is

over; no matter how happy someone is now, something

bad may happen to destroy his or her happiness. \_ *Alan:*

*You must be very happy with your new wife. Bill: Call no*

*man happy till he dies.* \_ *Jill: That movie star must be the*

*happiest person in the world. He’s rich, people love him, and*

*he likes his work. Jane: Count no man happy till he dies.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[9483, 9488]

**call** someone **on the carpet** and **haul** someone **on the**

**carpet** *Fig.* to reprimand a person. (*When done by someone*

*of clear superiority. Haul* is stronger than *call*.) \_*One*

*more error like that and the big boss will call you on the*

*carpet.* \_*I’m sorry it went wrong. I really hope the regional*

*manager doesn’t call me on the carpet again.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[9489, 9494]

**call** someone or an animal **off** someone or something and **call**

someone or an animal **off†** to request that someone or an

animal stop bothering or pursuing someone or something;

to call a halt to an attack by someone or an animal. \_

*Please call your dogs off my brother.* \_ *Call off your spying*

*on me, or else!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[9508, 9511]

**call** someone or something **into** something and **call** someone

or something **in†** to call to a person or a pet to come into

something or some place. \_*Would you please call Jeff into*

*the house?* \_ *Please call in Jeff.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[9526, 9530]

**call** someone’s **attention to** something and **call** something

**to** someone’s **attention** to bring something to someone’s

notice; to make someone recognize some fact. \_ *May I*

*call your attention to the sign on the door?* \_ *He called to*

*our attention the notice on the wall.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[9551, 9554]

**call** something **(back) in** and **call** something **in†** to formally

request (usually by mail) that something be returned. \_

*The car company called many cars back in for repairs.* \_

*They called in a lot of cars.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[9580, 9584]

**call** something **to mind** and **bring** something **to mind** to

bring something into someone’s mind; to cause something

to be remembered. \_ *Your comment calls something*

*unpleasant to mind.* \_ *This photo album calls our vacation*

*to mind.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[9599, 9603]

**call (the) roll** and **take (the) roll** to call the names of

people from a list of those enrolled, expecting them to

reply if they are present. \_*After I call the roll, please open*

*your books to page 12.* \_ *I will take roll, and then we will*

*do arithmetic.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[9604, 9608]

**call the shots** and **call the tune** *Fig.* to make the decisions;

to decide what is to be done. \_ *Sally always wants*

*to call the shots, and Mary doesn’t like to be bossed around.*

*They don’t get along well.* \_ *Sally always wants to call the*

*tune.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[9714, 9720]

**cancel** someone **out of** something and **cancel** someone

**out† 1.** to eliminate someone from something (as from

a list of names). \_ *We had to cancel them out.* \_ *We canceled*

*out all the people who did not show up.* **2.** *Sl.* to eliminate

someone; to kill someone. \_ *The drug lord threatened*

*to cancel out his former partner for testifying against*

*him.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[9747, 9754]

**cannot see the wood for the trees** and **cannot see**

**the forest for the trees** *Prov.* Cannot perceive the

overview or important things because of concentrating

too much on details. \_ *The information presented in this*

*textbook is so disorganized that I can’t see the wood for the*

*trees.* \_*The politician’s opponents claimed that she couldn’t*

*see the forest for the trees, because she spent so much time*

*trying to solve minor problems.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[9764, 9773]

**can’t carry a tune** and **cannot carry a tune; can’t**

**carry a tune in a bushel basket; can’t carry a**

**tune in a bucket; can’t carry a tune in a paper**

**sack** *Fig.* [to be] unable to sing a simple melody; lacking

musical ability. \_ *I wish that Tom wouldn’t try to sing. He*

*can’t carry a tune.* \_ *I don’t know why Mary’s in the choir.*

*She can’t carry a tune in a bushel basket.* \_ *Joe likes to sing*

*in the shower, though he can’t carry a tune in a bucket.* \_

*I’d try to hum the song for you, but I can’t carry a tune in a*

*paper sack.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[9836, 9842]

**can’t stand (the sight of )** someone or something and

**can’t stomach** someone or something *Fig.* [to be] unable

to tolerate someone or something; disliking someone or

something extremely. (Also with *cannot.*) \_ *I can’t stand*

*the sight of cooked carrots.* \_ *Mr. Jones can’t stomach the*

*sight of blood.* \_*None of us can stand this place.* \_*Nobody*

*can stand Tom when he smokes a cigar.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[9937, 9940]

**carry a secret to the grave** and **carry a secret to**

one’s **grave** *Fig.* to never reveal a secret, even to the day

of one’s death. \_ *John carried our secret to his grave.* \_

*Trust me, I will carry your secret to the grave!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[9941, 9945]

**carry a torch (for** someone**)** and **carry the torch (for**

someone**)** *Fig.* to be in love with someone who is not in love

with you; to brood over a hopeless love affair. \_ *John is*

*carrying a torch for Jane.* \_ *Is John still carrying a torch*

*after all this time?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[9982, 9988]

**carry** one’s **(own) weight** and **pull** one’s **(own) weight**

*Fig.* to do one’s share; to earn one’s keep. (The *weight* is

the burden that is the responsibility of someone.) \_*Tom,*

*you must be more helpful around the house. We each have*

*to carry our own weight.* \_ *Bill, I’m afraid that you can’t*

*work here anymore. You just haven’t been carrying your*

*weight.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10025, 10030]

**carry** someone or something **about** and **carry** someone or

something **around** to carry someone or something with

one; to carry someone or something from place to place.

\_ *Do I have to carry these books about all over campus?* \_

*You are too heavy, sweetie. I don’t want to carry you around*

*all day.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10035, 10038]

**carry** someone or something **into** some place and **carry** someone

or something **in†** to lift and move someone or something

to some place. \_*Will you carry the baby into the bedroom?*

\_ *Let me carry in the packages.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10102, 10105]

**carry** something **onto** something and **carry** something **on†**

to take something onto a vehicle. \_ *Do you plan to carry*

*this bag onto the plane?* \_ *I’d like to carry on two bags.* \_

*Can I carry them both on?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10114, 10117]

**carry** something **over† (until** some time**)** and **carry** something

**over† (to** some time**)** to defer something until a particular

time. \_*Can we carry this discussion over until later?*

\_ *We will carry over our discussion to tomorrow.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10119, 10122]

**carry** something **with** one and **carry** something **with\*** to

have something with one or on one’s person. (\*The second

form is informal.) \_ *Do you always carry that bag*

*with you?* \_ *I always carry a pen with.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10131, 10135]

**carry the day** and **win the day** to be successful; to win

a competition, argument, etc. (Originally meaning to win

a battle.) \_ *Our team didn’t play well at first, but we won*

*the day in the end.* \_ *Preparation won the day and James*

*passed his exams.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10192, 10196]

**carved in stone** and **engraved in stone; written in**

**stone** *Fig.* permanent or not subject to change. (Often in

the negative.) \_*Now, this isn’t carved in stone yet, but this*

*looks like the way it’s going to be.* \_ *Is this policy carved in*

*stone, or can it still be modified?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10260, 10264]

**cash on the barrelhead** and **cash on the line** *Rur.*

cash at the time of purchase. \_ *Jonson’s store doesn’t give*

*credit. Everything is cash on the barrelhead.* \_*They offered*

*me fifty thousand dollars cash on the line for Aunt Nancy’s*

*old house.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10304, 10309]

**cast around for** someone or something and **cast about**

**for** someone or something to seek someone or something;

to seek a thought or an idea. (Alludes to a type of person

or thing rather than a specific one.) \_ *John is casting*

*around for a new cook. The old one quit.* \_ *Bob is casting*

*about for a new car.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10356, 10358]

**cast** someone **aside†** and **cast** someone **off†; cast** someone

**away†** *Fig.* to dispose of someone; to reject or discard

someone. \_ *He simply cast his wife aside, and that was it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10363, 10365]

**cast** something **aside†** and **cast** something **off†; cast** something

**away†** to throw something away. \_ *You can’t just*

*cast aside a new coat that you’ve only worn once.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10421, 10424]

**catch cold** and **take cold** *Fig.* to contract a cold (a common

respiratory infection.) (Use with *catch* is more frequent.)

\_ *Please close the window, or we’ll all catch cold.*

\_ *I take cold every year at this time.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10425, 10428]

**catch forty winks** and **take forty winks; have forty**

**winks** *Fig.* to take a nap; to get some sleep. \_*I’ll just catch*

*forty winks before getting ready for the party.* \_ *I think I’ll*

*go to bed and take forty winks. See you in the morning.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10430, 10436]

**catch hell (about** someone or something**)** and **get hell**

**(about** someone or something**); catch hell (for** something**)**

to be scolded (about someone or something). \_*This*

*isn’t the first time Bill’s caught hell about his drinking.* \_

*We knew we were gonna catch hell when Ma saw how we’d*

*ruined her garden.* \_ *Somebody is going to catch hell for*

*this!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10441, 10445]

**Catch me later.** and **Catch me some other time.**

Please try to talk to me later. \_ *Bill (angry): Tom, look at*

*this phone bill! Tom: Catch me later.* \_ *“Catch me some*

*other time,” hollered Mr. Franklin over his shoulder. “I’ve*

*got to go to the airport.”*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10463, 10467]

**catch** one’s **death (of cold)** and **take** one’s **death (of**

**cold)** *Fig.* to contract a cold, a common respiratory infection;

to catch a serious cold. (See also catch cold.) \_ *If I*

*go out in this weather, I’ll catch my death of cold.* \_ *Dress*

*up warm or you’ll take your death.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10481, 10485]

**catch sight of** someone or something and **catch a glimpse**

**of** someone or something to see someone or something

briefly; to get a quick look at someone or something. \_ *I*

*caught sight of the plane just before it f lew out of sight.* \_

*Ann caught a glimpse of the robber as he ran out of the bank.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10486, 10489]

**catch some rays** and **bag some rays** *Fig.* to get some

sunshine; to tan in the sun. \_ *We wanted to catch some*

*rays, but the sun never came out the whole time we were*

*there.* \_ *I went to Hawaii to bag some rays.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10490, 10494]

**catch some Zs** and **cop some Zs; cut some Zs** to get

some sleep. (In comic strips, Zs are used to show that

someone is sleeping or snoring.) \_ *I gotta catch some Zs*

*before I drop.* \_ *Why don’t you stop a little bit and try to*

*cop some Zs?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10498, 10501]

**catch** someone **at** something and **catch** someone doing something

to discover someone doing something, especially

something bad or shameful. \_ *We caught her at her evil*

*deeds.* \_ *Don’t let me catch you doing that again!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10510, 10518]

**catch** someone **napping** and **catch** someone **off balance;**

**catch** someone **up short** to come upon someone

who is unprepared; to surprise someone. (See also asleep

at the switch.) \_ *The enemy soldiers caught our army*

*napping.* \_ *The thieves caught the security guard napping.*

\_ *I didn’t expect you so soon. You caught me off balance.*

\_ *The teacher asked a trick question and caught me up*

*short.* \_ *The robbers caught Ann off balance and stole her*

*purse.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10519, 10522]

**catch** someone **off guard** and **catch** one **off (**one’s**)**

**guard** *Fig.* to catch a person at a time of carelessness. \_

*Tom caught Ann off guard and frightened her.* \_*She caught*

*me off my guard, and my hesitation told her I was lying.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10531, 10536]

**catch** someone **red-handed** and **catch** someone **flatfooted**

to catch a person in the act of doing something

wrong. (See also caught red-handed.) \_ *Tom was stealing*

*the car when the police drove by and caught him redhanded.*

\_ *Mary tried to cash a forged check at the bank,*

*and the teller caught her red-handed.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10537, 10543]

**catch** someone’s **eye** and **get** someone’s **eye 1.** *Fig.* to

establish eye contact with someone; to attract someone’s

attention. \_*The shiny red car caught Mary’s eye.* \_*When*

*Tom had her eye, he smiled at her.* **2.** *Fig.* to appear and

attract someone’s interest. \_ *A small red car passing by*

*caught my eye.* \_ *One of the books on the top shelf caught*

*my eye, and I took it down to look at it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10576, 10579]

**catch the next wave** and **wait for the next wave** *Fig.*

to follow the next fad. \_ *He has no purpose in life. He sits*

*around strumming his guitar and waiting to catch the next*

*wave.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10591, 10595]

**catch up (to** someone or something**)** and **catch up (with**

someone or something**)** to move faster in order to reach

someone or something who is moving in the same direction.

\_ *The red car caught up with the blue one.* \_ *Bill*

*caught up with Ann, and they walked to the bank together.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10612, 10616]

**caught in the act** and **caught red-handed** *Fig.* seen

doing something illegal or private. (See also catch someone

in the act (of doing something) and catch someone redhanded.)

\_ *Tom was caught in the act and cannot deny*

*what he did.* \_ *Many car thieves are caught red-handed.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10633, 10636]

**caught up in** something and **caught up with** something

deeply involved with something; participating actively or

closely in something. \_ *Wallace is caught up in his work*

*and has little time for his son, Buxton.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10642, 10646]

**cause (quite) a stir** and **cause a commotion** to cause

people to become agitated; to cause trouble in a group of

people; to shock or alarm people. \_ *When Bob appeared*

*without jacket and tie, it caused a stir at the state dinner.* \_

*The dog ran through the church and caused quite a commotion.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10647, 10652]

**cause (some) eyebrows to raise** and **cause some**

**raised eyebrows** *Fig.* to shock people; to surprise and

dismay people. (The same as raise some eyebrows.) \_

*John caused eyebrows to raise when he married a woman*

*half his age.* \_*If you want to cause some eyebrows to raise,*

*just start singing as you walk down the street.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10659, 10663]

**caution** someone **about** someone or something and **caution**

someone **against** someone or something to warn someone

against someone or something. \_*Haven’t I cautioned you*

*about that before?* \_ *Hasn’t someone cautioned you about*

*Daniel?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10687, 10691]

**cement** something **on(to)** something and **cement** something

**on†** to fasten something onto something with glue

or household cement. \_*Cement this handle back onto the*

*cup.* \_ *Now, cement on the other handle.* \_ *I will cement*

*it on for you.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10778, 10783]

**champ at the bit** and **chomp at the bit 1.** *Lit.* [for a

horse] to bite at its bit, eager to move along. \_*Dobbin was*

*champing at the bit, eager to go.* **2.** *Fig.* to be ready and anxious

to do something. \_*The kids were champing at the bit*

*to get into the swimming pool.* \_ *The dogs were champing*

*at the bit to begin the hunt.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10811, 10823]

**change horses in midstream** and **change horses in**

**the middle of the stream** *Fig.* to make major changes

in an activity that has already begun; to choose someone

or something else after it is too late. (Alludes to someone

trying to move from one horse to another while crossing

a stream.) \_ *I’m already baking a cherry pie. I can’t bake*

*an apple pie. It’s too late to change horses in the middle of*

*the stream.* \_ *The house is half-built. It’s too late to hire a*

*different architect. You can’t change horses in midstream.* \_

*Jane: I’ve written a rough draft of my research paper, but*

*the topic doesn’t interest me as much as I thought. Maybe I*

*ought to pick a different one. Jill: Don’t change horses in*

*midstream.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[10988, 10993]

**charge** something **up to** someone or something and **charge**

something **up†** to place the cost of something on the

account of someone or a group. (Also without *up*.) \_ *I*

*will have to charge this up to your account.* \_ *Do you have*

*to charge this to my account?* \_ *Are you ready to charge up*

*the total to my bill?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11033, 11036]

**chase** someone or an animal **in(to)** some place and **chase**

someone or an animal **in†** to drive someone or an animal

into a place of confinement. \_ *They chased all the cattle*

*into the corral.* \_ *The cowboys chased in the cattle.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11042, 11046]

**chase** someone or something **(away†) from** some place and

**chase** someone or something **out of** some place to drive

someone or something away from or out of a place. \_*The*

*police sirens chased the thief from the building.* \_*We chased*

*away all the children from the pond.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11091, 11097]

**Cheats never prosper.** and **Cheaters never prosper.**

*Prov.* If you cheat people, they will not continue to do

business with you, and so your business will fail. \_ *Customer:*

*You charged me for ten artichokes, but you only gave*

*me nine. Grocer: Too bad. You should have counted them*

*before you paid for them. Customer: Cheats never prosper,*

*you know.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11122, 11126]

**check out (of** something**)** and **check out (from** something**)**

to do whatever is necessary to leave a place and then

depart. (check out (of something) is more frequent.) \_ *I*

*will check out of the hotel at about noon.* \_ *I will check out*

*from the office and come right to where you are.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11130, 11135]

**Check, please.** and **Could I have the bill?; Could I**

**have the check?** Could you give me the check or the

bill for this food or drink? \_*When they both had finished*

*their dessert and coffee, Tom said, “Check, please.”* \_ *Bill:*

*That meal was really good. Waiter! Could I have the check,*

*please. Waiter: Right away, sir.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11161, 11164]

**check** someone’s **bags through (to** some place**)** and

**check** someone’s **luggage through (to** some place**)** to

have one’s luggage sent directly to one’s final destination.

\_ *Please check these bags through London to Madrid.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11249, 11252]

**chew** someone **out†** and **eat** someone **out†** *Fig.* to scold

someone. \_*The sergeant chewed the corporal out; then the*

*corporal chewed the private out.* \_*The boss is always chewing*

*out somebody.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11257, 11260]

**chew** something **off** something and **chew** something **off†** to

bite or gnaw something off something. \_ *The puppy*

*chewed the heel off my shoe.* \_ *The puppy chewed off the*

*heel and mangled the tongue.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11271, 11273]

**chew the fat** and **chew the rag** *Fig.* to chat or gossip. \_

*Sit yourself down and let’s chew the fat for a while.* \_ *We*

*were just chewing the rag. Nothing important.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11301, 11307]

The **child is father of the man.** and The **child is**

**father to the man.** *Prov.* People’s personalities form

when they are children; A person will have the same qualities

as an adult that he or she had as a child. (From

William Wordsworth’s poem, “My Heart Leaps Up.”) \_

*In Bill’s case, the child was father of the man; he never lost*

*his childhood delight in observing nature.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11323, 11326]

**chill out** and **cool out** *Sl.* to calm down. \_ *Before we can*

*debate this matter, you’re all gonna have to chill out. So sit*

*down and stop bickering.* \_ *Everybody cooled out after the*

*emergency, and everything was fine.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11355, 11361]

**chip in (on** something**)** and **chip** something **in† (on** something**)**

**1.** to contribute a small amount of money to a fund

that will be used to buy something. \_ *Could you chip in*

*a dollar on the gift, please?* **2.** chip in (on something**) (for**

someone**)** to contribute money toward a gift for someone.

\_ *Would you please chip in on the present for Richard?* \_

*Will you chip in for Randy?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11362, 11371]

**chip in (with** something**) (on** something**) (for** someone**)**

and **chip in (with** something**) (for** something**) (for** someone**);**

**chip** something **in† (on** something**) (for** someone**)**

to contribute money for a gift for someone. \_*Would you*

*like to chip in with a little cash on a gift for Carol?* \_ *I will*

*chip in a little with you on a gift for Carol.* \_ *Would you*

*chip in with a few bucks for a gift for Carol?* \_ *Would you*

*chip a few bucks in on a gift for Carol?* \_ *Would you care*

*to chip in on a gift for the teacher?* \_ *Yes, I’d be happy to*

*chip in.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11395, 11398]

**chisel** someone **out of** something and **chisel** something **out**

**of** someone**; chisel** something **from** someone to get something

away from someone by cheating. \_ *The scam tried*

*to chisel pension money out of retired people.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11486, 11490]

**chop** something **off (of )** something and **chop** something

**off†** to cut something off something, as with an axe or

saw. (*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.) \_ *We*

*chopped the dead branches off the tree.* \_ *You should chop*

*off the other branch.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11491, 11495]

**chortle about** someone or something and **chortle over**

someone or something to chuckle or giggle about someone

or something funny. \_ *I was chortling about Elaine’s silly*

*puppy for a long time.* \_ *Elaine chortled about me and my*

*dislike for cats.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11516, 11519]

**chuck** someone **out of** some place and **chuck** someone **out†**

to throw someone out of some place. \_ *The bouncer*

*chucked the drunks out of the tavern.* \_*He chucks out about*

*three drunks a night.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11532, 11535]

**chuck** something **into** something and **chuck** something **in†**

to pack something into something. \_ *She chucked her*

*clothes into the suitcase and left.* \_ *Just chuck in all your*

*clothes and let’s go.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11542, 11546]

**chuckle about** someone or something and **chuckle over**

someone or something to giggle about someone or something.

\_ *I had to chuckle about Wally and his story about*

*that broken-down old car.* \_ *We chuckled over how angry*

*Jed was.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11547, 11551]

**chuckle with** something and **chortle with** something to

giggle in some manner because one is gleeful or happy. \_

*He chuckled with unsuppressed mirth at the antics of the*

*strangely dressed people.* \_ *Sally chortled with glee at the*

*thought of Ken slipping on the ice.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11628, 11632]

**Civility costs nothing.** and **Courtesy costs nothing.**

*Prov.* It never hurts you to be polite. \_ *Always greet people*

*politely, no matter what you think of them. Civility costs*

*nothing.* \_*Why not write Mildred a thank-you note? Courtesy*

*costs nothing.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11650, 11654]

**clamber onto** something and **clamber in(to** something**);**

**clamber on** to climb onto something clumsily. \_ *The*

*kids clambered onto the tractor and tried to start it.* \_ *The*

*wagon stopped and the kids clambered on.* \_*All the campers*

*clambered into the bus.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11672, 11676]

**clamp** something **on(to)** something and **clamp** something

**on†** to press or squeeze something onto something else.

\_ *Clamp this board onto the workbench.* \_ *Clear a place*

*near the edge of the table, and then clamp on the meat*

*grinder.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11720, 11723]

**clatter around** and **clatter** something **around** to move

around among things, making noise. \_ *Stop clattering*

*around! It’s late.* \_*I wish you would not clatter those dishes*

*around.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11728, 11731]

**claw** something **off** someone or something and **claw** something

**off†** to rip or tear something off from someone or

something. \_*We saw a guy clawing his burning clothes off*

*himself.* \_ *He clawed off his burning clothes.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11732, 11739]

**\*clean as a hound’s tooth** and **\*clean as a whistle**

**1.** *Rur. Cliché* very clean. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *After his*

*mother scrubbed him thoroughly, the baby was as clean as*

*a hound’s tooth.* \_ *The car was as clean as a whistle after*

*the Girl Scouts washed it.* **2.** *Rur. Cliché* innocent and free

from sin or wrong. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *Jane’s record was*

*clean as a whistle; she had never committed even the smallest*

*infraction.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11757, 11761]

**clean** someone or something **out of** something and **clean**

someone or something **out†** to remove people or things

from something or some place. \_ *Someone should clean*

*those bums out of political office.* \_ *Let’s clean out the*

*garage this weekend; I can’t get the car in.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11776, 11780]

**clean** something **off†** and **clean** something **off** something

to take something off something; to remove something

such as dirt or dirty dishes. \_*Please clean the table off and*

*put the dishes in the kitchen.* \_ *I’ll clean off the table.* \_

*Judy cleaned the writing off the wall.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11837, 11841]

**\*clear sailing** and **\*smooth sailing** *Fig.* a situation

where progress is made without any difficulty. (\*Typically:

**be ~; have ~**.) \_ *Once you’ve passed that exam, it will*

*be clear sailing to graduation.* \_*Working there was not all*

*smooth sailing. The boss had a very bad temper.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11847, 11850]

**clear** someone or something **out of** some place and **clear**

someone or something **out†** to make someone or something

leave a place. \_ *Please clear all the people out of here.* \_

*Clear out the people quickly, please.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11865, 11867]

**clear** something **off** something and **clear** something **off†** to

take something off something. \_*Please clear the dishes off*

*the table.* \_ *I’ll clear off the dishes.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11927, 11929]

**climb on(to)** something and **climb on** to ascend to or

mount something. \_ *I climbed onto the side of the truck.*

\_ *Tommy climbed on the truck.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11963, 11966]

**clip** something **on(to)** someone or something and **clip** something

**on†** to attach something to someone or something

with a clip. \_ *I clipped a little name tag onto him before I*

*put him on the plane.* \_ *I clipped on a name tag.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[11967, 11970]

**clip** something **out of** something and **clip** something **out†**

to remove something from something by clipping or cut-

ting. \_*Please clip the article out of the magazine.* \_*Could*

*you clip out the picture, too?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[12021, 12024]

**close a deal** and **close the deal** to formally conclude

bargaining; to bring negotiating to an end by reaching an

agreement. \_ *We negotiated the terms of the agreement,*

*and this afternoon we will close the deal.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[12025, 12028]

**close a sale** and **close the sale** to complete the sale of

something; to seal a bargain in the sale of something. \_

*The salesman closed the sale and the customer drove off in*

*a brand new car.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[12046, 12050]

**close down** and **shut down** [for someone] to close a

business, office, shop, etc., permanently or temporarily.

\_ *This shop will have to close down if they raise taxes.* \_

*The fire department closed down all the stores on the block*

*because of the gas leak.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[12051, 12056]

**close enough for government work** and **good**

**enough for government work** sufficiently close;

done just well enough. (Alludes to the notion that work

for the government is not done with care or pride.) \_ *I*

*didn’t do the best job of mending your shirt, but it’s close*

*enough for government work.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[12064, 12070]

**close in for the kill** and **move in for the kill 1.** *Lit.*

to move in on someone or something for the purpose of

killing. \_*The wolves closed in for the kill.* \_*When the lions*

*closed in for the kill, the zebras began to stampede.* **2.** *Fig.*

to get ready to do the final and climactic part of something.

\_ *The car salesman closed in for the kill with contract*

*and pen in hand.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[12082, 12087]

**close** one’s **eyes to** something and **shut** one’s **eyes to**

something **1.** *Lit.* to close one’s eyes to avoid seeing something

unpleasant. \_ *I had to close my eyes to the carnage*

*about me. I couldn’t bear to look.* **2.** *Fig.* to ignore something;

to pretend that something is not happening. \_

*Maria simply shut her eyes to the bad morale in her department.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[12103, 12106]

a **close shave** and a **close call** a narrow escape. (See also

have a close shave.) \_ *Wow, that was a close shave. I*

*thought the guard would spot us.* \_*The speeding car passed*

*only a few inches from us—a real close call.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[12117, 12121]

**close** someone **out of** something and **close** someone **out†**

to prevent someone from getting into something, such as

a class, a room, a waiting list, etc. \_ *They closed me out of*

*the class I wanted.* \_ *I got in, but they closed out everyone*

*after me in line.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[12125, 12128]

**close** something **down†** and **shut** something **down†** to

make something stop operating; to put something out of

business. \_*The police closed the illegal casino down.* \_*The*

*manager shut down the factory for the holidays.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[12308, 12313]

**cobble** something **up†** and **cobble** something **together** to

make something or put something together hastily or

carelessly. \_ *Who cobbled this thing up? Take it apart and*

*start over.* \_ *The kids cobbled up their model planes badly.*

\_ *It looks like you cobbled together that report just last*

*night.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[12381, 12391]

**\*cold as a welldigger’s ass (in January)** and **\*cold**

**as a welldigger’s feet (in January); \*cold as a**

**witch’s caress; \*cold as marble; \*cold as a**

**witch’s tit; \*cold as a welldigger’s ears (in January)**

very, very cold; chilling. (Use caution with *ass*.

\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *Bill: How’s the weather where you are?*

*Tom: Cold as a welldigger’s ass in January.* \_ *By the time I*

*got in from the storm, I was as cold as a welldigger’s feet.* \_

*The car’s heater broke, so it’s as cold as a welldigger’s ears*

*to ride around in it.* \_*She gave me a look as cold as a witch’s*

*caress.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[12501, 12504]

**comb** something **out of** something and **comb** something

**out†** to remove substances or knots and snarls from something

by combing. \_*I had to comb the gum out of her hair.*

\_ *It took me over an hour to comb out the gum.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[12523, 12525]

**come aboard** and **go aboard** to get onto a boat or ship.

\_ *Please come aboard. We are shoving off now.* \_ *Please*

*ask everyone to go aboard.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[12535, 12540]

**come across like** someone or something **(to** someone**)** and

**come across as** someone or something **(to** someone**)** to

appear or seem like someone or something to other people.

\_ *You always come across like a madman to people.* \_

*She comes across like the Queen of the Nile to most people*

*who meet her.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[12541, 12545]

**come across** someone or something and **run across** someone

or something to find someone or something; to discover

someone or something. \_ *John came across a book he had*

*been looking for.* \_ *Where did you run across that lovely*

*skirt?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[12566, 12568]

**Come and get it!** and **Come ’n’ get it!** Dinner’s ready.

Come eat! \_ *The camp cook shouted, “Time to eat! Come*

*and get it!”*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[12619, 12624]

**Come back and see us.** and **Come back and see me.**

Come visit us [or me] again. (Often said by a host or hostess

to departing guests.) \_ *Bill: Good night. Thanks for*

*having me. Sally: Oh, you’re quite welcome. Come back and*

*see us.* \_ *Bob: I enjoyed my visit. Good-bye. Mary: It was*

*very nice of you to pay me a visit. Come back and see me.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[12634, 12638]

**come back to haunt** one and **return to haunt** one *Fig.*

[for a bad memory] to recur; for the consequences of a

bad decision to affect one negatively later. \_ *I never*

*dreamed that a little thing like a traffic ticket could come*

*back to haunt me years later.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[12823, 12829]

**Come in and sit a spell.** and **Come in and set a**

**spell.; Come in and sit down.; Come in and take**

**a load off your feet.** *Rur.* Please come in and have a

seat and a visit. (The variant with *set* informal or folksy.)

\_ *“Hi, Fred,” smiled Tom, “Come in and sit a spell.”* \_

*Tom: I hope I’m not intruding. Bill: Not at all. Come in and*

*set a spell.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[12852, 12857]

**come into bloom** and **come into blossom 1.** [for a

flower] to bloom. \_*This rose comes into bloom later in the*

*summer.* \_ *When do they normally come into blossom?*

**2.** [for a plant, bush, or tree] to begin to have many blossoms.

\_ *When do these bushes come into bloom?* \_ *They*

*come into blossom in June.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[12881, 12884]

**come in(to) heat** and **come in(to) season** [for a

female animal] to enter into the breeding season. \_ *This*

*animal will come into heat in the spring.* \_ *When did your*

*dog come in season?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[12905, 12908]

**come into sight** and **come into view** to become visible;

to move closer so as to be seen. \_ *The tall buildings*

*of the city came into sight first.* \_*A large herd of elephants*

*came into view in the distance.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[12909, 12913]

**come into (some) money** and **come into a (small)**

**fortune** to get some money unexpectedly, usually by

inheritance. \_ *She came into a lot of money when she*

*turned twenty.* \_ *I hope I can come into some money some*

*day.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[12972, 12978]

**Come (on) in.** and **come on in(to)** something Enter.;

Come into this place. (A polite invitation to enter someone’s

home, office, room, etc. It is more emphatic with

*on*.) \_ *Bob: Hello, you guys. Come on in. We’re just about*

*to start dinner.* \_ *Bill: Come in. Nice to see you. Mary: I*

*hope we’re not too early. Bill: Not at all.* \_ *Come on into*

*the house and have a cold drink.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[12990, 12994]

**come on strong** and **come on like gangbusters** to

seem aggressive; to impress people initially as very aggressive

and assertive. \_*She has a tendency to come on strong,*

*but she’s really a softie.* \_*The new president comes on strong*

*at first.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[12995, 13000]

**come on the scene** and **arrive on the scene 1.** *Lit.*

to arrive at a place. \_ *When we came on the scene, the*

*ambulances were already there.* \_*The police arrived on the*

*scene and began directing traffic.* **2.** *Fig.* to become part of

a situation. \_*She thought she was in love with Harry until*

*Bob came on the scene.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13031, 13034]

**come out at** an amount and **come out to** an amount to

result in a certain amount, as the result of mathematical

computation. \_*The total charges came out at far more than*

*we expected.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13035, 13039]

**come out at** someone or something and **come out**

**toward(s)** someone or something to emerge and attack

someone or something. \_*The dogs came out at us, but we*

*got away.* \_ *Betsy’s bulldog came out toward my bike as I*

*rode by.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13043, 13048]

**come out for** someone or something and **come out in**

**favor of** someone or something to announce or reveal that

one supports someone or something. \_ *The defense lawyers*

*all came out for the judge’s ruling.* \_ *Roger came out*

*for Lynn, who was running for mayor.* \_ *I thought the*

*mayor would come out in favor of more public housing.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13064, 13071]

**come out in(to) the open** and **come (out) into the**

**open 1.** *Lit.* [for someone or something] to move from

a concealed position to an open area. \_ *Sooner or later,*

*she will have to come out in the open.* \_ *The deer finally*

*came into the open.* **2.** *Fig.* [for someone who has been hiding]

to appear in public. \_*The thief came out into the open*

*and was recognized by one of the witnesses to the crime.* \_

*The FBI agents finally came into the open.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13077, 13081]

**come out of a clear blue sky** and **come out of the**

**clear blue sky; come out of the blue** suddenly;

without warning. \_ *Then, out of a clear blue sky, he told*

*me he was leaving.* \_ *My sister Mary appeared on my*

*doorstep out of the blue, after years with no word from her.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13148, 13152]

**come rain or shine** and **come rain or (come) shine**

no matter whether it rains or the sun shines; in any sort

of weather. (See also rain or shine.) \_ *Don’t worry. I’ll*

*be there come rain or shine.* \_ *We’ll hold the picnic—rain*

*or shine.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13182, 13185]

**come through** something and **come through** *Fig.* to pass

through something. \_ *Please come through the entrance*

*slowly.* \_ *Please chain the gate up again when you come*

*through.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13210, 13212]

**come to a close** and **come to an end; come to a**

**climax** to end; to progress to an ending. \_ *The celebration*

*came to an end about midnight.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13220, 13226]

**come to a dead end** and **reach a dead end 1.** *Lit.* to

reach a point where one can go no farther and can turn

in no new direction. \_*The road comes to a dead end about*

*a mile farther.* **2.** *Fig.* to have run out of possible ideas,

solutions, energy, etc. \_ *I’ve come to a dead end. I’m fresh*

*out of ideas.* \_ *The committee reached a dead end on the*

*matter and tabled the whole business.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13261, 13264]

**come to blows (over** someone or something**)** and **come**

**to blows (about** someone or something**)** to reach the

point of fighting about someone or something. \_*Let’s not*

*come to blows over this silly disagreement.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13301, 13303]

**come to nothing** and **come to naught** to amount to

nothing; to be worthless. \_ *So all my hard work comes to*

*nothing.* \_ *Yes, the whole project comes to naught.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13324, 13328]

**come to** someone’s **attention** and **come to** someone’s

**notice** to be told to, revealed to, or discovered by someone.

\_ *It has come to my attention that you are not following*

*the rules.* \_ *Your comments have just come to my*

*notice.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13337, 13341]

**come to terms (about** someone or something**)** and **come**

**to terms (on** someone or something**)** [for two or more

people] to reach an accord on someone or something. \_

*Ed and Alice came to terms about money.* \_ *They did not*

*come to terms on the price.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13352, 13356]

**come to the job with** something and **come to the position**

**with** something; **come to the task with** something

to bring a particular quality to a task or job. \_ *She*

*comes to the job with great enthusiasm.* \_*Ann comes to this*

*position with a lot of experience.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13357, 13360]

**come to the point** and **get to the point** to get to the

important part (of something). \_ *He has been talking a*

*long time. I wish he would come to the point.* \_*We are talking*

*about money, Bob! Come on, get to the point.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13389, 13392]

**come under the hammer** and **go under the hammer**

*Fig.* [for something] to be auctioned. \_ *The house*

*at the corner is coming under the hammer next week.* \_*The*

*repossessed farm will go under the hammer.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13431, 13433]

**come up heads** and **come up tails** *Fig.* [for a tossed

coin] to turn out to be either heads or tails. \_ *We tossed*

*a coin, and it came up heads.* \_ *The coin came up tails.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13435, 13439]

**come up smelling like a rose** and **come up smelling**

**like roses** *Fig.* to end up looking good or respectable

after being involved in some difficult or notorious affair.

\_*I was surprised that my congressional representative came*

*up smelling like a rose after his colleagues investigated him.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13470, 13477]

**come with the territory** and **go with the territory**

*Fig.* to be expected under circumstances like this. (Alludes

to the details and difficulties attendant to something like

the assignment of a specific sales territory to a salesperson.

When one accepts the assignment, one accepts the

problems.) \_ *There is a lot of paperwork in this job. Oh,*

*well, I guess it comes with the territory.* \_ *There are problems,*

*but they go with the territory.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13488, 13492]

**come within an inch of** someone or something and **come**

**within a hair(‘s breadth) of** someone or something to

come very close to someone or something. \_ *The bullet*

*came within an inch of Heather.* \_ *The car came within a*

*hair of the bus.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13547, 13550]

**comment about** someone or something and **comment**

**(up)on** someone or something to make a remark about

someone or something. \_ *There is no need to comment*

*upon this event.* \_*Please don’t comment on Liz’s problems.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13587, 13591]

**\*common as an old shoe** and **\*common as dirt** low

class; uncouth. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *That ill-mannered girl*

*is just as common as an old shoe.* \_*Despite Mamie’s efforts*

*to appear to be upper class, most folks considered her common*

*as dirt.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13730, 13736]

**compromise on** someone or something **(with** someone**)**

and **compromise (on** someone or something**) with** someone

to reach agreement with someone on a disputed matter

concerning someone or something; to make concessions

to someone on some point concerning someone or

something. \_ *I intend to compromise on this matter with*

*them.* \_*Are you going to compromise with me on this issue?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13795, 13799]

**concern** oneself **about** someone or something and **concern**

oneself **over** someone or something to turn one’s thoughts

and consideration to someone or something. \_*I hope you*

*will concern yourself over your work a little more.* \_ *Please*

*don’t concern yourself about me. I’ll do okay.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13811, 13817]

**concur on** someone or something **(with** someone**)** and **concur**

**(on** someone or something**) with** someone to agree

with someone about someone or something. \_*I certainly*

*do concur on this matter with all of you.* \_ *I concur with*

*you on Tom.* \_*We concurred with the committee on you as*

*our choice for the job.* \_ *We concurred on the plans with*

*the council.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13856, 13859]

**conduct** someone **into** something and **conduct** someone

**in†** to lead someone into something or some place. \_*The*

*usher conducted the gentleman into the hall.* \_ *The host*

*was pleased to conduct in the guest of honor.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13860, 13863]

**conduct** someone **out of** something and **conduct** someone

**out†** to lead someone out of something or some place.

\_*The usher conducted the gentleman out of the hall.* \_*The*

*cop conducted out the gang of rowdy youths.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13869, 13875]

**confer on** someone or something **(with** someone**)** and **confer**

**(on** someone or something**) with** someone**; confer**

**with** someone **(about** someone or something**); confer**

**(with** someone**) about** someone or something to discuss

someone or something. \_*Let us confer on this matter with*

*the headmaster.* \_*I want to confer with you on how to handle*

*the problem.* \_ *I need to confer with you about Walter.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13883, 13886]

**confess** something **to** someone and **confess to** someone

to admit something to someone; to admit having done

something to someone. \_ *Tom confessed his involvement*

*to the boss.* \_ *Max confessed to the police.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13893, 13897]

**confide** something **in** someone and **confide** something **to**

someone to tell a secret or private matter to someone, trusting

that the person will not reveal the secret. \_ *I learned*

*not to confide anything secret in Bob.* \_ *Tom really needed*

*to confide his inner fears to someone.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13943, 13947]

**confuse** someone **with** someone else and **confuse** something

**with** something else to mix someone up with someone

else; to mistake someone or something with something

else. \_ *I’m afraid you have confused me with my*

*brother.* \_ *Don’t confuse the old ones with the new ones.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13966, 13971]

**conk off** and **conk out 1.** *Sl.* (from years ago.) to fall

asleep. \_*I conked off about midnight.* \_*I was so tired that*

*I nearly conked off.* \_ *I was afraid I would conk out while*

*I was driving.* **2.** *Sl.* (always **conk out**.) [for something]

to break down; to quit running. \_ *My car conked out*

*finally.* \_ *I hope my computer doesn’t conk out.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[13973, 13986]

**connect** someone or something **(up) to** someone or something

and **connect** someone or something **(up) with** someone

or something **1.** *Lit.* to connect people or things in any

combination, physically or by wires. \_ *The nurse connected*

*Maggie up to the electrocardiograph.* \_ *Eric connected*

*the machine to the wall plug.* \_*The receptionist connected*

*my call up to Susan.* **2.** *Fig.* to make a mental

connection between people and things in any combination.

\_*I connected myself up to a person with similar interests.*

\_ *I often connect up Bob to sailing, because I first met*

*him on a boat.* **3.** *Fig.* to argue that someone or something

is linked to a criminal or a criminal act. \_ *I can connect*

*Eric to the crime.* \_ *The police connected the stolen goods*

*to Susan.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14008, 14013]

**connive at** something **(with** someone**)** and **connive (at**

something**) with** someone to scheme at something (with

someone); to plot something (with someone). \_ *Are you*

*conniving at something with Ronald?* \_*Are you and Ronald*

*conniving with Tom at something I should know about?* \_

*Stop conniving with people!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14069, 14074]

**conspire with** someone **(against** someone or something**)**

and **conspire (with** someone**) against** someone or some-

thing to join with someone in a plot against someone or

something else. \_ *The CEO conspired with the board of*

*directors against the stockholders.* \_*Ed conspired with Sam*

*against the plan.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14075, 14079]

**Constant dropping wears away a stone.** and **Constant**

**dripping wears away a stone.** *Prov.* Persistence

accomplishes things. \_ *Jill: How did you get Fred to*

*give you a raise? Jane: I just kept asking him for it every*

*week. Constant dropping wears away a stone.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14085, 14088]

**construct** something **from** something and **construct** something

**out of** something to build something using something.

\_ *Do you want to construct the house from wood?*

\_ *Shall we construct the building out of stone?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14116, 14120]

**contend with** someone **(for** something**)** and **contend**

**(with** someone**) for** something to fight someone for something;

to compete with someone to win something. \_ *I*

*don’t want to have to contend with Sally for the award.* \_

*I don’t want to have to contend for the job with Ed.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14146, 14152]

**contract with** someone **(for** something**)** and **contract**

**(with** someone**) for** something to make an agreement with

someone to produce or supply something, or to do something.

\_*I will have to contract with an expert for that part*

*of the project.* \_ *We contracted with a local builder for a*

*new kitchen.* \_ *Did you contract for plumbing work with*

*Eric?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14161, 14167]

**contrast** someone or something **with** someone or something

else and **contrast** someone or something **to** someone or

something else to examine people or things in a way that

will show their differences. \_*Contrast Sally with Sam, for*

*instance, to see real differences.* \_ *Contrast the busy geometry*

*of a Gothic cathedral to the simple lines of an old Saxon*

*castle.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14190, 14194]

**control the purse strings** and **hold the purse**

**strings** *Fig.* to be in charge of the money in a business

or a household. \_ *I control the purse strings at our house.*

\_ *Mr. Williams is the treasurer. He controls the purse*

*strings.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14209, 14213]

**converse with** someone **(about** someone or something**)**

and **converse (with** someone**) about** someone or something

to talk about someone or something. \_ *Please converse*

*with Ted about that.* \_ *I need to converse about last*

*night with you.* \_*The principal needs to converse with you.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14214, 14218]

**convert from** something **((in)to** something**)** and **convert**

**(from** something**) (in)to** something to change from one

thing into another. \_*We converted from oil to natural gas*

*to heat our house.* \_*I had hoped he would convert from an*

*impatient youth into a relaxed gentleman. He did not.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14263, 14268]

**cook the accounts** and **cook the books** to cheat in

bookkeeping; to make the accounts appear to balance

when they do not. \_ *Jane was charged with cooking the*

*accounts of her mother’s store.* \_ *It’s hard to tell whether*

*she really cooked the accounts or just didn’t know what she*

*was doing.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14290, 14297]

**cool off** and **cool down 1.** *Lit.* to lose or reduce heat. \_

*I wish my soup would cool off. I’m hungry.* \_*It’ll cool down*

*this evening, after dusk.* **2.** *Fig.* to let one’s anger die away.

(As the “heat” of anger declines.) \_ *I’m sorry I got angry.*

*I’ll cool off in a minute.* \_ *Cool off, Tom. There is no sense*

*getting so excited.* **3.** *Fig.* to let one’s passion or love die

away. (As the “heat” of passion declines.) \_ *Ted: Is Bob*

*still in love with Jane? Bill: No, he’s cooled off a lot.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14304, 14316]

**cool** someone **down†** and **cool** someone **off† 1.** *Lit.* to cool

someone by reducing the heat or applying something cold.

\_ *Here, have a cold drink. Cool yourself down.* \_ *The ice*

*finally cooled down the feverish child.* \_ *We need to cool*

*off the pudding in a hurry.* **2.** *Fig.* to reduce someone’s

anger. (Reducing the “heat” of anger.) \_ *I just stared at*

*him while he was yelling. I knew that would cool him down.*

\_ *The coach talked to them for a long time. That cooled*

*them off.* **3.** *Fig.* to reduce someone’s passion or love.

(Reducing the “heat” of passion.) \_ *When she slapped*

*him, that really cooled him down.* \_ *Seeing Mary was too*

*intense, so Bill cooled himself off by breaking it off for a*

*while.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14330, 14334]

**cooperate with** someone **(on** something**)** and **cooperate**

**(with** someone**) on** something to work together in harmony

with someone on something. \_ *Please cooperate*

*with me on this project.* \_ *Can you cooperate on this with*

*me?* \_ *I hope we can cooperate on this.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14362, 14369]

**cop out (of** something**)** and **cop out (on** something**) 1.** *Sl.*

to withdraw from doing something. \_*Are you copping out*

*of this job?* \_*No, I’m not copping out!* **2.** *Sl.* to break one’s

promise about doing something. \_ *You said you would*

*and now you are copping out of it.* \_ *I’m not copping out.*

*I just can’t find the time.* **3.** *Sl.* to plead guilty (to a lesser

charge). \_ *Frank copped out and got off with a night in*

*the cooler.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14395, 14399]

**copy** something **out of** something and **copy** something **out†**

to copy something onto paper from a book or document.

\_ *Did you copy this out of a book?* \_ *I did not copy this*

*paper or any part of it out of anything.* \_ *I copied out most*

*of it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14411, 14415]

**corner the market on** something and **corner the** something

**market** *Fig.* to develop or obtain a monopoly of

something. \_*The company sought to corner the market on*

*frozen yogurt.* \_ *Standard Oil had the oil market cornered*

*at the end of the nineteenth century.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14440, 14446]

**cost a pretty penny** and **cost an arm and a leg; cost**

**the earth** *Fig.* to be expensive; to cost a lot of money. \_

*Mary’s dress is real silk. It must have cost a pretty penny.* \_

*Taking care of a fancy car like that can cost a pretty penny,*

*let me tell you.* \_ *It cost an arm and a leg, so I didn’t buy*

*it.* \_ *A house that size with an ocean view must cost the*

*earth!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14549, 14556]

**Could I have a lift?** and **How about a lift?** Would you

please give me a ride (in your car)? (This usually refers to

a destination that is the same as the driver’s or on the way

to the driver’s destination. Also used with *can* or *may* in

place of *could*.) \_ *Bob: Going north? Could I have a lift?*

*Bill: Sure. Hop in. Bob: Thanks. That’s such a long walk to*

*the north end of campus.* \_*Sue: Can I have a lift? I’m late.*

*Mary: Sure, if you’re going somewhere on Maple Street.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14569, 14574]

**Could I help you?** and **Can I help you?; May I help**

**you?** Could I assist you? (Said by shopkeepers, clerks,

food service workers, and people who answer the telephone.)

\_ *The clerk came over and said, “Could I help*

*you?”* \_ *Clerk: May I help you? Mary: No thanks, I’m just*

*looking.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14575, 14581]

**Could I join you?** and **(Do you) care if I join you?;**

**(Do you) mind if I join you?** Will you permit me to

sit with you? (An inquiry seeking permission to sit at

someone’s table or join someone else in some activity. Also

used with *can* or *may* in place of *could*.) \_*Tom came into*

*the cafe and saw Fred and Sally sitting in a booth by the window.*

*Coming up to them, Tom said, “Could I join you?”*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14582, 14586]

**Could I leave a message?** and **Can I leave a message?**

Can I request that a message be written down for

a person who is not available to come to the telephone. \_

*Bill: Can I talk to Fred? Mary: He’s not here. Bill: Could I*

*leave a message? Mary: Sure, I can leave a message for him.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14587, 14592]

**Could I see you again?** and **Can I see you again?;**

**May I see you again?** Could we go out again sometime?

\_ *Tom: I had a wonderful time, Mary. Can I see you*

*again? Mary: Call me tomorrow, Tom. Good night.* \_

*“Could I see you again?” muttered Tom, dizzy with the*

*magic of her kiss.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14593, 14598]

**Could I see you in my office?** and **Can I see you in**

**my office?** I want to talk to you in the privacy of my

office. (Typically said by a supervisor to a lower-ranking

employee.) \_*“Mr. Franklin,” said Bill’s boss sort of sternly,*

*“Could I see you in my office for a minute? We need to talk*

*about something.”*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14599, 14606]

**Could I speak to** someone? and **Can I speak to** someone?**;**

**May I speak to** someone? the phrase used to

request to talk to a particular person, usually on the telephone.

(Also used with *talk* in place of *speak*.) \_ *Tom*

*(answering the phone): Good morning, Acme Air Products.*

*With whom do you wish to speak? Bill: Can I speak to Mr.*

*Wilson? Tom: One moment.* \_ *Sally: May I speak to the*

*manager, please? Clerk: Certainly, madam. I’m the manager.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14607, 14611]

**Could I take a message?** and **Can I take a message?;**

**May I take a message?** the phrase used on

the telephone to offer to take a message and give it to the

person the caller is seeking. \_ *Bill: Can I talk to Fred?*

*Mary: He’s not here. Could I take a message for him?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14612, 14619]

**Could I take your order (now)?** and **Can I take your**

**order (now)?; May I take your order (now)?** an

expression used by food service personnel to determine

if the customer is ready to order food. \_ *Waiter: May I*

*take your order now? Mary: Of course. Jane, what are you*

*going to have? Jane: I’m still trying to decide. Waiter: I’ll be*

*back in a minute.* \_ *Waiter: Can I take your order? Mary:*

*Yes, we’re ready.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14620, 14628]

**Could I tell him who’s calling?** and **Can I tell her**

**who’s calling?; May I tell him who’s calling?** a

question asked by people who answer the telephone to

find out politely who is asking for someone. (*Him* or *her*

can be replaced by a person’s name or by a plural pronoun.)

\_*Mary (on the phone): Hello. Could I speak to Bill*

*Franklin? Sally: Could I tell him who’s calling? Mary: It’s*

*Mary Peters. Sally: Oh yes, he’s expecting your call. I’ll get*

*him for you.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14629, 14638]

**Could I use your powder room?** and **Can I use your**

**powder room?; May I use your powder room?;**

**Where is your powder room?** *Euph.* a polite way to

ask to use the bathroom in someone’s home. (Alludes to

a woman powdering her nose. Sometimes used jocularly

by men. See also powder one’s nose.) \_*Mary: Oh, Sally,*

*could I use your powder room? Sally: Of course. It’s just off*

*the kitchen, on the left.* \_ *Tom: Nice place you’ve got here.*

*Uh, where is your powder room? Beth: At the top of the*

*stairs.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14639, 14643]

**Could we continue this later?** and **Can we continue**

**this later?** Could we go on with this conversation at a

later time? \_*As Mary and John were discussing something*

*private, Bob entered the room. “Could we continue this*

*later?” whispered John. “Yes, of course,” answered Mary.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14644, 14650]

**Could you excuse us, please?** and **Can you excuse**

**us, please?; Would you excuse us, please?; Will**

**you excuse us, please?**We must leave. I hope you will

forgive us. (A polite way of announcing a departure.) \_

*Bill: Could you excuse us, please? We simply must rush off.*

*Alice: So sorry you have to go. Come back when you can stay*

*longer.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14651, 14655]

**Could you hold?** and **Can you hold?; Will you hold?**

Do you mind if I put your telephone call on hold? \_

*“Could you hold?” asked the operator.* \_ *Sue: Hello. Acme*

*Motors. Can you hold? Bob: I guess. Sue (after a while):*

*Hello. Thank you for holding. Can I help you?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14656, 14661]

**Could you keep a secret?** and **Can you keep a**

**secret?** I am going to tell you something that I hope you

will keep a secret. (Also used with *can* in place of *could*.)

\_ *Tom: Could you keep a secret? Mary: Sure. Tom: Don’t*

*tell anybody, but I’m going to be a daddy.* \_ *Sue: Can you*

*keep a secret? Alice: Of course. Sue: We’re moving to Atlanta.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14704, 14707]

**count heads** and **count noses** *Fig.* to count people. \_

*I’ll tell you how many people are here after I count heads.*

\_ *Let’s count noses so we can be sure everyone is back on*

*the bus.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14727, 14731]

**count** someone **in (for** something**)** and **count** someone **in**

**(on** something**); count** someone **in†** to include someone

as part of something. \_ *Please count me in for the party.*

\_ *Do count me in on it.* \_ *Count in everybody who said*

*they would attend.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14796, 14800]

**couple** something **(on)to** something and **couple** something

**on(to** something**); couple** something **on†** to attach something

to something. \_ *Couple this connector to that one.*

\_ *The railroad worker coupled on the next car in line.* \_

*Couple the green one onto the red one.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14893, 14899]

**cow chip** and **cow pie; cow patty; cow flop** *Inf.* a

piece of cow manure. \_ *The pioneers didn’t have much*

*wood, so they burned dried cow chips.* \_ *How did that big*

*ol’ cow pie get in the middle of my f lower bed?* \_ *Tom*

*slipped on a cow patty.*

cram **cow juice** *Sl.* milk. \_ *Here’s a little cow juice to pour on*

*your cereal.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14918, 14921]

**cower down (from** something**)** and **cower down (with**

something**)** to crouch down, displaying an emotion, such

as fear. \_ *They cowered down with sheer terror.* \_ *I would*

*cower down from fright in a similar situation.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14973, 14976]

**crack the door (open)** and **crack the window**

**(open)** to open the door or window a very small amount.

\_*I cracked open the door to peek out.* \_*Just crack the window*

*a bit to let some air inside.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[14995, 15000]

**cracked up to be** something and **cracked up to be;**

**cracked up as** something alleged or understood to be

something. \_*She was cracked up to be a pretty good player.*

\_*She was cracked up as a pretty good golfer.* \_(Used with

the negative.) *He is not the problem solving CEO that he*

*was cracked up to be.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15002, 15005]

**cram for an examination** and **cram for a test** *Fig.* to

study very hard for an exam. \_*I have to go cram for a test*

*now.* \_ *If you would study during the school term, you*

*would not have to cram.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15006, 15010]

**cram** someone or something **into** something and **cram** someone

or something **in†** to stuff or crush someone or something

into something. \_ *Can you really cram seven kids*

*into that car?* \_ *He crammed in his clothes and closed the*

*drawer.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15099, 15105]

**crawl across** something and **crawl along** something [for

someone] to move across something on hands and knees;

[for an insect or something similar] to walk across something.

\_ *The wounded officer had to crawl across the open*

*area to get to safety.* \_ *The caterpillar crawled across the*

*leaf and stopped at the end.* \_ *She crawled along the catwalk,*

*fearing to look down.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15139, 15143]

**crazy about** someone or something and **mad about** someone

or something; **nuts about** someone or something; **crazy**

**for** someone or something *Fig.* very fond of someone or

something. \_ *Ann is crazy about John.* \_ *He’s crazy about*

*her, too.* \_ *I’m mad about their new song.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15144, 15150]

**\*crazy as a betsy bug** and **\*crazy as a peachorchard**

**boar; \*crazy as a loon** *Rur.* acting as if

insane. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *Tom: Susan says she’s really the*

*Queen of England. Bill: She’s crazy as a betsy bug.* \_ *Jill:*

*David’s a little eccentric, isn’t he? Jane: Crazy as a loon, I’d*

*say.* \_ *What’s wrong with Jim? He’s acting as crazy as a*

*peach-orchard boar.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15160, 15165]

A **creaking door hangs longest.** and A **creaking gate**

**hangs longest.** *Prov.* Sickly people often live longer than

healthy ones. \_*Jill: I’m worried that my grandmother may*

*not live much longer. She’s been sick for so many years. Jane:*

*Well, if it’s any comfort, I’ve heard that a creaking door*

*hangs longest.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15176, 15182]

**create a stink (about** something**)** and **make a stink**

**(about** something**); raise a stink (about** something**)**

*Fig.* to make a major issue out of something; to make

much over something; to make a lot of complaints and

criticisms about something. \_ *Tom created a stink about*

*Bob’s remarks.* \_ *Why did he make a stink about that?* \_

*Tom is always trying to raise a stink.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15183, 15185]

**create an uproar** and **make an uproar** to cause an outburst

or sensation. \_*The dog got into church and made an*

*uproar.* \_ *Her poodle created an uproar in the restaurant.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15271, 15274]

**\***the **creeps** and **\***the **willies** a state of anxiety or uneasiness.

(\*Typically: **get ~; have ~; give** someone **~**.)

\_ *I get the creeps when I see that old house.* \_ *I really had*

*the willies when I went down into the dark basement.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15290, 15295]

**cringe away from** someone or something and **cringe from**

someone or something to pull back or away from someone

or something, as from fear. \_*The child cringed away from*

*the teacher.* \_ *Why did you cringe away from the dentist’s*

*chair?* \_ *The cat cringed from the fire.* \_ *The child cringed*

*from the huge dog.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15308, 15312]

**\*crooked as a barrel of fish hooks** and **\*crooked**

**as a fish hook; \*crooked as a dog’s hind leg** very

dishonest. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *Don’t play cards with him.*

*He’s as crooked as a barrel of fish hooks.* \_ *Mary says all*

*politicians are crooked as a dog’s hind leg.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15324, 15330]

**cross a bridge before** one **comes to it** and **cross that**

**bridge before** one**comes to it** *Fig.* to worry excessively

about something before it happens. (Note the variations

in the examples. See also cross that bridge when one

comes to it.) \_ *There is no sense in crossing that bridge*

*before you come to it.* \_*She’s always crossing bridges before*

*coming to them. She needs to learn to relax.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15360, 15364]

**cross** someone or something **off (of )** something and **cross**

someone or something **off†** to eliminate a name from a list

or record. (*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.) \_*We*

*will have to cross her off of our list.* \_*We crossed off Sarah.*

\_ *I crossed the sweater off the list of what I needed to buy.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15431, 15436]

**crow about** something and **crow over** something **1.** *Lit.*

[for a rooster] to cry out or squawk about something. \_

*The rooster was crowing about something—you never know*

*what.* **2.** *Fig.* [for someone] to brag about something. \_

*Stop crowing about your successes!* \_ *She is crowing over*

*her new car.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15453, 15455]

**crowd in(to)** some place and **crowd in** to push or squeeze

into some place. \_*Please don’t try to crowd into this place.*

\_ *Too many people are trying to crowd in.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15456, 15461]

**crowd** someone or something **in(to)** something and **crowd**

someone or something **in†** to push or squeeze someone or

something into a place or a container. \_ *They tried to*

*crowd a dozen people into that tiny room.* \_ *Then they*

*crowded in one more.* \_ *They all tried to crowd themselves*

*into the same room.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15462, 15466]

**crowd** someone or something **out of** something and **crowd**

someone or something **out†** to push or force someone,

something, or an animal out of something. \_*Don’t crowd*

*your brother out of line!* \_ *Don’t crowd out my favorite*

*plants with all your rosebushes!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15494, 15496]

**cruising for a bruising** and **cruisin’ for a bruisin’** *Sl.*

asking for trouble. \_ *You are cruising for a bruising, you*

*know that?* \_ *Who’s cruisin’ for a bruisin’?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15497, 15499]

**crum** something **up†** and **crumb** something **up†** *Sl.* to mess

something up. \_*Who crummed the bird feeder up?* \_*Now*

*don’t crum up this deal.* \_ *Who crumbed up my room?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15565, 15569]

**crush** something **out of** someone or something and **crush**

something **out†** to press or squeeze something from someone

or something. \_*He crushed the juice out of the grapes.*

\_*He thought that the weight of the lumber would crush the*

*life out of him.* \_ *Robert crushed out the juice.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15586, 15591]

**\***the **crux of the matter** and **\***the **root of the matter;**

**\***the **heart of the matter** the central issue of the matter.

(*Crux* is an old word meaning “cross.” \*Typically: **be**

**at ~; get at ~; go to ~; look at ~**.) \_ *All right,*

*this is the crux of the matter.* \_ *It’s about time that we got*

*to the heart of the matter.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15624, 15628]

**cry** one’s **heart out** and **sing** one’s **heart out; play** one’s

**heart out; sob** one’s **heart out** *Fig.* to do something

with vigor or intensity. \_ *She suffered such grief—alone*

*and sobbing her heart out.* \_ *The bird sang its little heart*

*out each morning.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15642, 15645]

**cry out (in** something**)** and **cry out (with** something**)** to

scream or shout in pain, joy, anger, etc. \_ *The child cried*

*out in pain.* \_ *On seeing his father, the overjoyed little boy*

*cried out.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15675, 15679]

**cuddle up (to** someone or something**)** and **cuddle up**

**(with** someone**)** to nestle or snuggle close to someone or

something to get warm or to be intimate. \_ *Let’s cuddle*

*up to the warmth, near the fireplace.* \_*She cuddled up with*

*him and went to sleep.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15680, 15684]

**cuddle up with a (good) book** and **curl up (with a**

**(good) book)** to snuggle into a chair or bed comfortably

to read a book. \_ *I want to go home and cuddle up*

*with a good book.* \_ *She went home and curled up with a*

*good book.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15693, 15696]

**cull** someone or something **out of** something and **cull** someone

or something **out†** to eliminate someone or something

from a group. \_*We will cull the older pigeons out from the*

*f lock.* \_ *They culled out the slower runners from the team.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15705, 15708]

**culturally deprived** and **culturally disadvantaged**

*Euph.* poor; lower-class. \_ *Joe is working at a summer*

*camp for culturally deprived children.* \_ *Jane grew up in a*

*culturally disadvantaged neighborhood.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15735, 15739]

**curl** someone’s **hair** and **make** someone’s **hair curl** *Fig.* to

frighten or alarm someone; to shock someone with sight,

sound, or taste. \_ *Don’t ever sneak up on me like that*

*again. You really curled my hair.* \_ *The horror film made*

*my hair curl.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15757, 15762]

**curly dirt** and **house moss; slut’s wool** puffs of dirt

and dust. \_*How long has it been since you swept under this*

*bed? There’s a mountain of curly dirt under here!* \_*No one’s*

*been in this room for an age. Look at all the cobwebs and*

*curly dirt.* \_ *She was a terrible housekeeper. House moss*

*collected in all the corners of her rooms.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15828, 15831]

**cut a wide swath** and **cut a big swath** to seem important;

to attract a lot of attention. \_*In social matters, Mrs.*

*Smith cuts a wide swath.* \_ *Bob cuts a big swath whenever*

*he appears in his military uniform.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15875, 15878]

**cut at** something and **cut away at** to cut on something to

slice something. \_ *He cut at the chair leg carefully, trying*

*not to remove too much.* \_*Dad cut away at the turkey and*

*asked us what part we wanted.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15897, 15900]

**cut class** and **cut school** to skip a school class or a day

of school without an excuse. \_ *As a joke, one day all the*

*students cut their math class and went to lunch.* \_*Jane was*

*grounded after she cut school last Friday.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15910, 15915]

**cut from the same cloth** and **made from the same**

**mold** *Fig.* sharing a lot of similarities; seeming to have

been created, reared, or fashioned in the same way. \_*She*

*and her brother are cut from the same cloth. They both tell*

*lies all the time.* \_ *Father and son are made from the same*

*mold and even sound alike on the telephone.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15954, 15959]

**cut** one’s **coat according to** one’s **cloth** and **cut** one’s

**coat to suit** one’s **cloth** *Prov.* to plan one’s aims and

activities in line with one’s resources and circumstances.

\_ *We would like a bigger house, but we must cut our coat*

*according to our cloth.* \_ *They can’t afford a vacation*

*abroad—they have to cut their coat according to their cloth.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[15998, 16001]

**cut out (for** some place**)** and **light out (for** some place**)** to

leave quickly for some place. \_ *The kids all cut out for*

*home.* \_*When they heard their mother call, the Wilson kids*

*cut out for home.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16016, 16021]

**cut** someone **a break** and **cut** someone **some slack** *Sl.* to

give someone a break; to allow someone a reprieve from

the consequences of an action. \_*Come on, cut me a break!*

*I’m a good guy!* \_ *I was only a few minutes late! Cut me a*

*break! Don’t dock my pay!* \_ *Cut me some slack and I’ll be*

*sure to pay you all I owe in a month.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16034, 16038]

**cut** someone **down (to size)** and **take** someone **down**

**(to size)** *Fig.* to make a person humble; to put one in one’s

place. \_ *John’s critical remarks really cut me down to size.*

\_ *Jane is too conceited. I think her new boss will take her*

*down to size.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16082, 16085]

**cut** someone or something **with** something and **cut** someone

or something **on** something to slice someone or something

with or on something. \_ *Don’t cut yourself on that sharp*

*blade.* \_ *He cut the bread with a dull knife and crushed it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16095, 16102]

**cut** someone **to the quick** and **cut** someone **to the bone**

**1.** *Lit.* to slice the flesh of someone or some animal clear

through to the underlying layer of flesh or to the bone. \_

*With the very sharp knife, David cut the beast to the quick*

*in one blow.* \_ *He cut his finger to the quick with the sharp*

*knife.* **2.** *Fig.* to injure someone emotionally. (See also cut

something to the bone.) \_*Your heartless comments cut me*

*to the quick.* \_ *Her remarks cut him to the bone.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16154, 16160]

**cut** something **out of** something and **cut** something **out†** to

cut a pattern or shape from cloth, paper, sheet metal, etc.;

to remove something from something by cutting; to excise

something from something. (When both *out* and *of* are

used, no direct object can intervene.) \_*Sam cut a pig out*

*from the paper.* \_ *I cut the picture out of a magazine.* \_ *I*

*cut out the shape of the moon from the paper.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16175, 16178]

**cut the cheese** and **cut the mustard** *Sl.* to release

intestinal gas. (Crude. Use caution with the topic.) \_*Who*

*cut the cheese?* \_*People who cut the mustard in the car have*

*to get out and walk.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16179, 16186]

**Cut the comedy!** and **Cut the funny stuff!; Cut the**

**shit!** Stop acting silly and telling jokes!; Be serious! (Use

*shit* with caution, as it is considered vulgar.) \_ *John: All*

*right, you guys! Cut the comedy and get to work! Bill: Can’t*

*we ever have any fun? John: No.* \_*Bill: Come on, Mary, let’s*

*throw Tom in the pool! Mary: Yeah, let’s drag him over and*

*give him a good dunking! Tom: Okay, you clowns, cut the*

*funny stuff! I’ll throw both of you in!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16252, 16256]

**dab** something **off (of )** something and **dab** something **off†**

to pat or wipe something off something. (*Of* is usually

retained before pronouns.) \_*Please dab the butter off your*

*chin.* \_*Please dab off the butter.* \_*Dab the moisture off of*

*the apples.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16257, 16260]

**dab** something **on(to)** something and **dab** something **on†** to

pat or spread carefully something onto something else.

\_ *Dab some medicine onto the scratch.* \_ *Dab on some*

*medicine.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16272, 16275]

the **daddy of them all** and the **granddaddy of them**

**all** *Fig.* the biggest or oldest of all; the patriarch. \_ *This*

*old fish is the granddaddy of them all.* \_ *This tree is the*

*daddy of them all. It’s been here since the place was built.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16346, 16350]

**dance to another tune** and **dance to a different**

**tune** *Fig.* to shift quickly to different behavior; to change

one’s behavior or attitude. \_ *After being yelled at, Ann*

*danced to another tune.* \_*A stern talking-to will make her*

*dance to a different tune.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16365, 16372]

**dangle** something **before** someone and **dangle** something

**in front of** someone **1.** *Lit.* to tempt someone by dangling

a tempting object in front of them. \_ *Don’t dangle*

*that string of pearls in front of me unless you intend to give*

*them to me!* **2.** *Fig.* to lure someone with something. \_

*He dangled the keys before Wally, hoping to get him to drive.*

\_ *He dangled the money in front of Eric, hoping to make*

*him change his mind.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16399, 16404]

The **darkest hour is just before the dawn.** and **It’s**

**always darkest just before the dawn.** *Prov.* When

things are extremely bad, it may signal that they are about

to get much better. \_ *Jill: I feel like giving up. I don’t have*

*a job, my boyfriend left me, and they’re raising the rent for*

*my apartment. Jane: It’s always darkest just before the dawn.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16405, 16406]

**darn tooting** and **darn tootin’** absolutely. \_*You’re darn*

*tooting I’ll be there. I wouldn’t miss it for the world.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16429, 16431]

**dash a note off†** and **dash a letter off†** to write a note

or letter quickly and send it off. \_ *I have to dash this letter*

*off, then I will be with you.* \_ *I’ll dash off a note to her.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16436, 16439]

**dash away** and **dash off** to run away; to leave in a hurry.

\_*I must dash away. See you tomorrow.* \_*Juan had to dash*

*away to an appointment.* \_ *Ken dashed off and left me*

*behind to deal with the angry customer.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16473, 16476]

**daub** something **on(to)** something and **daub** something **on†**

to smear or paint something onto something else. \_ *The*

*painter daubed a bit of yellow onto the canvas.* \_ *Daub on*

*a bit of yellow here.* \_ *She daubed the medicine on.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16511, 16513]

**day and night** and **night and day** all the time; around

the clock. \_ *The nurse was at her bedside day and night.*

\_ *The house is guarded night and day.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16514, 16516]

**day in and day out** and **day in, day out** on every day;

for each day. \_*She watches soap operas day in and day out.*

\_ *They eat nothing but vegetables, day in, day out.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16539, 16543]

**days running** and **weeks running; months running;**

**years running** days in a series; months in a series; etc.

(Follows a number.) \_ *I had a bad cold for five days running.*

\_ *For two years running, I brought work home from*

*the office every night.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16559, 16563]

**\*dead as a dodo** and **\*dead as a doornail; deader**

**than a doornail** dead; no longer in existence. (\*Also:

**as ~**.) \_ *That silly old idea is dead as a dodo.* \_ *When I*

*tried to start my car this morning, I discovered that the battery*

*was deader than a doornail.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16629, 16632]

**dead on** one’s **feet** and **dead on its feet** *Fig.* exhausted;

worn out; no longer useful. \_ *Ann is so tired. She’s really*

*dead on her feet.* \_ *He can’t teach well anymore. He’s dead*

*on his feet.* \_ *This inefficient company is dead on its feet.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16674, 16680]

**deal** someone **into** something and **deal** someone **in† 1.** *Lit.*

to pass out cards to someone, making that person a player

in a card game. \_*Can you deal me into this hand?* \_*Deal*

*in anyone who wants to play.* \_ *Deal me in!* **2.** *Fig.* to permit

someone to take part in something. \_ *Let’s deal him*

*into this project.* \_ *Yes, deal in this guy.* \_ *Should we deal*

*her in?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16681, 16687]

**deal** someone **out of** something and **deal** someone **out†**

**1.** *Lit.* to skip someone when dealing a hand of cards. \_

*Please deal me out of the next hand. I have to go make a*

*telephone call.* \_ *They dealt out the old lady because she*

*would not pay attention to the game.* **2.** *Fig.* to remove

someone from participation in something. \_ *They dealt*

*me out at the last minute.* \_ *They dealt out Fred, too.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16760, 16764]

**decide among** someone **and** someone else and **decide**

**among** something **and** something else to choose from

three or more people; to choose from three or more

things. \_ *I couldn’t decide among all the choices on the*

*menu.* \_ *I will decide among Fred, Tom, and Alice.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16765, 16769]

**decide between** someone **and** someone else and **decide**

**between** something **and** something else to choose one

from two people; to choose one from two things. \_*I could*

*not decide between Tom and Wally.* \_*We could not decide*

*between those two.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16783, 16788]

**deck** someone or something **out† (in** something**)** and **deck**

someone or something **out (with** something**)** to decorate

someone or something with something. \_*Sally decked all*

*her children out for the holiday party.* \_*She decked out her*

*children in Halloween costumes.* \_ *Tom decked the room*

*out with garlands of f lowers.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16799, 16806]

**declare war against** someone or something and **declare**

**war on** someone or something **1.** *Lit.* to formally announce

that one will fight a war with someone or some country.

\_ *A group of countries declared war against the aggressor.*

**2.** *Fig.* to announce a serious campaign against a type of

person or a serious problem. \_*The president declared war*

*against crime and criminals.* \_*The pressure group declared*

*war on waste.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16836, 16839]

**deem it (to be) necessary** and **deem that it is necessary**

to decide that something is necessary. \_ *Mary*

*deemed that it was necessary to leave town that night.* \_

*Lisa deemed it necessary to go home.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16882, 16885]

**Definitely not!** and **Certainly not!** No, without any

doubt at all. (Compare this with Absolutely not!) \_*Bill:*

*Will you lend me some money? Bob: No way! Definitely not!*

\_*Bob: Have you ever stolen anything? Fred: Certainly not!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16915, 16920]

**deliberate about** someone or something and **deliberate**

**on** someone or something to think about someone or something;

to consider what to do about someone or something.

\_*How long do you intend to deliberate about Carol?*

\_*We will deliberate about this matter as long as it takes to*

*do it right.* \_ *Let’s deliberate on this for a while.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16974, 16981]

**demand** something **from** someone or something and

**demand** something **of** someone or something to command

that something be received from someone or a group or

something; to demand that someone or a group or something

do something. \_ *The muggers demanded money*

*from everyone.* \_ *The petitioners demanded a response*

*from the board of directors.* \_ *She demanded too much of*

*her automobile.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[16995, 16999]

**demote** someone **from** something **(to** something**)** and

**demote** someone **(from** something**) to** something to lower

someone’s rank from one rank to another. \_*The manager*

*demoted Bill from cashier to clerk.* \_*The army demoted her*

*from lieutenant to sergeant.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[17113, 17120]

**desert a sinking ship** and **leave a sinking ship** *Fig.*

to leave a place, a person, or a situation when things

become difficult or unpleasant. (Rats are said to be the

first to leave a ship that is sinking.) \_ *I hate to be the one*

*to desert a sinking ship, but I can’t work for a company that*

*continues to lose money.* \_ *There goes Tom. Wouldn’t you*

*know he’d leave a sinking ship rather than stay around and*

*try to help?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[17219, 17225]

**develop from** someone or something **(into** someone or

something**)** and **develop (from** someone or something**)**

**into** someone or something to grow or evolve out of someone

or something into someone or something else. \_*Her*

*interest in music developed from a childlike curiosity to a*

*full-f ledged professional career.* \_ *The f lower developed*

*from a little knot of a bulb.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[17238, 17248]

The **devil can quote Scripture for his own purpose.**

and The **devil can cite Scripture for his own**

**purpose.** *Prov.* Evil people sometimes try to win the confidence

of good people by quoting persuasive passages of

Scripture.; Just because someone can quote Scripture to

support his or her argument does not mean that the argument

is virtuous. (*Scripture* usually refers to the Bible, but

it can refer to other religious writings.) \_*Sadie: Dad, you*

*really ought to give me permission to go out with Nathan.*

*He’s such a polite boy, and he can even quote the Bible.*

*Father: The devil can quote Scripture for his own purpose.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[17267, 17269]

a **devil of a job** and the **devil’s own job** the most difficult

task. \_ *We had a devil of a job fixing the car.* \_ *It*

*was the devil’s own job finding a hotel with vacancies.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[17270, 17273]

a **devil of a time** and the **devil’s own time** a very difficult

time. \_*I had a devil of a time with my taxes.* \_*This*

*cold has been giving me a devil of a time.* \_ *Fixing the car*

*seemed easy, but I had the devil’s own time doing it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[17286, 17290]

**devil-may-care attitude** and **devil-may-care manner**

a very casual attitude; a worry-free or carefree attitude.

\_*You must get rid of your devil-may-care attitude if*

*you want to succeed.* \_ *She acts so thoughtless—with her*

*devil-may-care manner.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[17316, 17319]

**diarrhea of the mouth** and **diarrhea of the jawbone**

*Fig.* constant talking; a “disorder” involving constant talking.

\_ *Wow, does he ever have diarrhea of the mouth!* \_

*You’re getting diarrhea of the jawbone again.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[17323, 17328]

**dicker with** someone **(for** something**)** and **dicker with**

someone **(over** something**)** to bargain with someone for

something; to haggle with someone for something. \_ *I*

*don’t want to stand here dickering with you for a cheap trinket.*

\_ *I don’t want to waste time dickering with them over*

*a few dollars.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[17350, 17353]

**didn’t care a whit** and **don’t care a whit** didn’t care

at all. \_*Sally thought Joe liked her, but he didn’t care a whit*

*about her.* \_ *I don’t care a whit what you do with my old*

*clothes.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[17404, 17409]

**die in** one’s **boots** and **die with** one’s **boots on** *Fig.* to

go down fighting; to die in some fashion other than in bed;

to die fighting. (Popularized by western movies. Heroes

and villains of these movies said they preferred death in

a gunfight to showing cowardice or giving up.) \_ *I won’t*

*let him get me. I’ll die in my boots.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[17435, 17438]

**die of curiosity** and **die from curiosity** *Fig.* to experience

a strongly felt need to know about something. \_ *I*

*was just dying of curiosity!* \_ *I almost died from curiosity*

*to finish the book and see how the mystery was solved.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[17439, 17441]

**die of** something and **die from** something to perish from

an injury or a particular disease. \_*The doctors did all they*

*could, but he finally died of cancer.* \_*What did it die from?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[17472, 17479]

**differ (with** someone**) about** something and **differ (with**

someone**) on** something **1.** [for someone] to disagree with

someone about something. \_*I must differ with you about*

*that.* \_ *We differ about that.* \_ *I don’t differ with you on*

*that point.* **2.** [for someone] to argue with someone about

something. \_ *Tom was differing with Terry rather loudly*

*about which one of them was going to carry the f lag.* \_*Let’s*

*stop differing with each other on these simple things!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[17533, 17540]

**dig down** and **dig deep 1.** *Lit.* to excavate deeply. \_*They*

*are really having to dig deep to reach bedrock.* \_ *We are*

*not to the buried cable yet. We will have to dig down some*

*more.* **2.** *Fig.* to be generous; to dig deep into one’s pockets

and come up with as much money as possible to donate

to something. (As if digging into one’s pocket.) \_ *Please*

*dig down. We need every penny you can spare.* \_*Dig down*

*deep. Give all you can.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[17581, 17586]

**dig** someone or something **out of** something and **dig** someone

or something **out†** to excavate in order to get someone or

something out of something; to dig about in order to get

someone or something out of something. \_ *She dug out*

*the roots of the tree.* \_ *The dog dug itself out of the rubble*

*of the fallen building.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[17594, 17596]

**dig** something **into** something and **dig** something **in†** to stab

or jab something into something. \_*Dig your fork into that*

*heavenly cake!* \_ *He dug in his fork.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[17646, 17650]

**din** something **into** someone and **din** something **in†** to repeat

something over and over to someone. (As if one could

“hammer” words into someone.) \_ *The teacher dinned it*

*into her constantly, but it did no good.* \_ *He dinned in the*

*same message over and over.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[17687, 17690]

**dip** something **in(to)** something and **dip** something **in†** to put

something into a substance in order to take some of it. \_

*Tom dipped some of the bread into the cheese sauce.* \_ *Dip*

*in the bread again and get some more cheese on it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[17760, 17766]

**disagree (with** someone**) (about** someone or something**)**

and **disagree (with** someone**) (on** someone or something**)**

to hold views about someone or something that are

opposed to someone else’s views. \_ *I take it you disagree*

*with me about Tom.* \_ *Don’t disagree about Tom with me.*

\_ *I disagree about this with almost everyone.* \_ *I disagree*

*with you.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[17777, 17781]

**disappointed at** someone or something and **disappointed**

**in** someone or something becoming sad because

of someone or something. \_ *I am really disappointed at*

*what you did.* \_ *I am very disappointed in you. That was*

*a terrible thing to do.* \_*They were disappointed in the outcome.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[17981, 17986]

**disqualify** someone or something **for** something and **disqualify**

someone or something **from** something to invalidate

someone’s or something’s claim to something. \_*Does*

*being late for practice disqualify me for the team?* \_ *This*

*loss disqualifies our team, doesn’t it?* \_*Does it disqualify us*

*from competition?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[18100, 18104]

**dive in with both feet** and **jump in with both feet**

*Fig.* to become completely involved with something

quickly, especially something new. \_ *I had never done*

*anything like this before, but I just jumped in with both feet*

*and learned it in no time.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[18172, 18175]

**divide** something **fifty-fifty** and **split** something **fiftyfifty**

to divide something into two equal parts. (The *fifty*

means 50 percent.) \_ *Tommy and Billy divided the candy*

*fifty-fifty.* \_ *The robbers split the money fifty-fifty.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[18191, 18197]

**divide** something **(up†) (between** someone or something**)**

and **divide** something **(up†) (among** someone or something**)**

to give something out in shares to people or groups.

(More informal with *up*. *Between* with two; *among* with

more.) \_ *Please divide this up between the visitors.* \_ *Cut*

*the birthday cake and divide it up among all the party*

*guests.* \_ *Please divide up this pie between the children.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[18216, 18222]

**divvy** something **up (between** someone**)** and **divvy** something

**up (among** someone**); divvy** something **up†** to

divide something up between two people or among three

or more people. (*Between* is for two and *among* is for more

than two.) \_ *Would you like to divvy this money up?* \_

*Please divvy up this money between you.* \_ *Let’s divvy up*

*the leftovers among all the dinner guests.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[18233, 18237]

**do a flip-flop (on** something**)** and **do an about-face**

*Fig.* to make a total reversal of opinion. \_*Without warning,*

*the government did a f lip-f lop on taxation.* \_*The candidate*

*had done an about-face on the question of deductions*

*last year.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[18256, 18261]

**do a one-eighty** and **turn one hundred and eighty**

**degrees 1.** *Lit.*to turn around and go in the opposite

direction. \_*When I hollered, the dog did a one-eighty and*

*headed back to its own yard.* **2.** *Fig.* to radically reverse a

decision or opinion. \_*His political philosophy turned one*

*hundred and eighty degrees when he grew a little older.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[18273, 18279]

**do a three-sixty** and **turn three-hundred and sixty**

**degrees 1.** *Lit.* to turn completely around. \_*I was really*

*lost. I did a three-sixty in the middle of the street because I*

*couldn’t make up my mind which way to go.* **2.** *Fig.* to

reverse a decision or an opinion and then return to one’s

original stance. \_ *Over time, he did a three-sixty in his*

*thinking about integration.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[18309, 18311]

**do credit to** someone and **do** someone **credit** to add positively

to the reputation of someone. \_*Your new job really*

*does credit to you.* \_ *Yes, it really does you credit.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[18313, 18316]

**do drugs** and **do dope** to take illegal drugs; to use illegal

drugs habitually. \_ *Sam doesn’t do drugs, and he doesn’t*

*drink.* \_ *Richard started doing dope when he was very*

*young.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[18333, 18341]

**Do I have to spell it out (for you)?** and **Do I have**

**to paint (you) a picture?; Do I need to paint you**

**a picture?** *Fig.* What do I have to do to make this clear

enough for you to understand? (Shows impatience.) \_

*Mary: I don’t think I understand what you’re trying to tell*

*me, Fred. Fred: Do I have to spell it out for you? Mary: I*

*guess so. Fred: We’re through, Mary.* \_ *Sally: Would you*

*please go over the part about the square root again? Mary:*

*Do I have to paint you a picture? Pay attention!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[18362, 18369]

**Do not let the sun go down on your wrath.** and **Do**

**not let the sun go down on your anger.** *Prov.* Do

not stay angry with anybody; calm your anger by the end

of the day. \_ *Son: Billy broke my bicycle, and I’m never*

*going to speak to him again. Mother: Now, now, don’t let the*

*sun go down on your wrath.* \_ *I was very upset by what*

*you did, but I don’t want to let the sun go down on my anger.*

*Let’s make up.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[18392, 18395]

**do** one’s **part** and **do** one’s **bit** to do one’s share of the work;

to do whatever one can do to help. \_*All people everywhere*

*must do their part to conserve energy.* \_ *I always try to do*

*my bit. How can I help this time?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[18428, 18431]

**do** someone **a favor** and **do** someone **a good turn** to perform

a helpful service to someone. \_ *Would you please*

*do me a favor and take this letter to the post office?* \_ *My*

*neighbor did me a good turn by lending me his car.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[18439, 18442]

**do** someone **a power of good** and **do** someone **a heap**

**of good** *Rur.* to be very good for someone. \_*You should*

*take a vacation. It’d do you a power of good.* \_ *Just hearing*

*your voice does me a heap of good.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[18473, 18476]

**do** someone **over†** and **make** someone **over†** to buy a new

wardrobe for someone; to redo someone’s hairstyle,

makeup, etc. \_ *Sally’s mother did Sally over for the play*

*tryouts.* \_ *The designer made over Sally completely.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[18572, 18576]

**do too** and **do so** to do something (despite anything to

the contrary). (An emphatic way of saying *do.)* \_*Bob: You*

*don’t have your money with you. Bill: I do too!* \_ *He does*

*so! I saw him put it in his pocket.* \_*She did too take a cookie.*

*I saw her do it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[18577, 18585]

**Do unto others as you would have them do unto**

**you.** and **Do as you would be done by.** *Prov.* You

should treat other people the way you want them to treat

you. (From Luke 6:31; it is also known as “The Golden

Rule.”) \_*Mother: Don’t call your playmates names. Child:*

*Why not? Mother: Because you should follow the Golden*

*Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.*

\_ *It’s hard to be kind to people sometimes, but I try to*

*remember to do as I’d be done by.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[18608, 18615]

**(Do) you eat with that mouth?** and **(Do) you kiss**

**your momma with that mouth?** *Sl.* Do you actually

eat with the mouth you use to talk that filth?; Do you actually

use that filthy mouth to kiss your mother? (A phrase

said to someone who talks dirty all the time.) \_ *That’s a*

*lot of foul talk. Do you eat with that mouth?* \_*After the suspect*

*finished swearing at him, the police officer said, “Do*

*you kiss your momma with that mouth?”*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[18647, 18651]

**(Do you) know what?** and **You know what?** an

expression used to open a conversation or switch to a new

topic. \_*Bob: You know what? Mary: No, what? Bob: I think*

*this milk is spoiled.* \_ *Bob: Know what? Bill: Tell me. Bob:*

*Your hair needs cutting. Bill: So what?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[18653, 18657]

**(Do you) know what I’m saying?** and **You know**

**what I’m saying?; (Do you) know what I mean?;**

**You know what I mean?** Do you understand me?; Do

you agree? \_*Sue: This is, like, really great! You know what*

*I’m saying? Mary: Yeah, I’ve been there. It’s great.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[18658, 18665]

**(Do) you mean to say** something? and **(Do) you mean**

**to tell me** something? Do you really mean to say what you

said? (A way of giving someone an opportunity to alter a

comment. The *something* represents a quote or a paraphrase.)

\_ *Mary: I’m leaving tomorrow. Sally: Do you*

*mean to say you’re leaving school for good? Mary: Yes.* \_

*Bob: Do you mean to tell me that this is all you’ve accomplished*

*in two weeks? Bill: I guess so. Bob: I expected more.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[18698, 18703]

**(Do you) want to know something?** and **(You want**

**to) know something?** an expression used to open a

conversation or switch to a new topic. \_ *John: Do you*

*want to know something? Sue: What? John: Your hem is*

*torn.* \_ *Bill: Hey, Tom! Know something? Tom: What is it?*

*Bill: It’s really hot today. Tom: Don’t I know it!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[18704, 18710]

**(Do you) want to make something of it?** and **You**

**want to make something of it?** Do you want to start

a fight about it? (Rude and contentious.) \_ *Tom: You’re*

*really bugging me. It’s not fair to pick on me all the time.*

*Bill: You want to make something of it?* \_ *Bob: Please be*

*quiet. You’re making too much noise. Fred: Do you want to*

*make something of it?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[18759, 18768]

**doesn’t have enough sense to bell a cat** and

**doesn’t have enough sense to come in out of**

**the rain** acts foolish. (Also with *don’t*. *Don’t* used with

all persons is folksy.) \_ *I should’ve known Mary would*

*mess things up completely. She doesn’t have enough sense to*

*bell a cat.* \_*Look after Joe and make sure he doesn’t get into*

*trouble. You know he doesn’t have enough sense to bell a cat.*

\_*I ain’t surprised that Jim spends a hundred dollars a week*

*on the lottery. Everyone knows he don’t have enough sense*

*to come in out of the rain.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[18771, 18779]

**doesn’t have the sense God gave geese** and

**doesn’t have the sense God gave him (or her)**

*Prov.* Doesn’t have basic common sense. (Also with *don’t*.

*Don’t* used with all persons is folksy.) \_ *Mary’s going out*

*in this incredibly cold weather without a hat or gloves. She*

*doesn’t have the sense God gave geese.* \_*It was obvious that*

*the man was a swindler, but George gave him all his money*

*anyway. I swear, George doesn’t have the sense God gave*

*him.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[18787, 18793]

**doesn’t know his ass from a hole in the ground**

and **doesn’t know his ass from his elbow** doesn’t

know anything; acts ignorant. (Use *ass* with caution. Also

with *don’t*. *Don’t* used with all persons is folksy.) \_ *That*

*teacher doesn’t know his ass from a hole in the ground.* \_

*She’s supposed to be an expert, but she doesn’t know her ass*

*from her elbow.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[18855, 18859]

**done by mirrors** and **done with mirrors** *Fig.* illusory;

purposefully deceptive. (See also smoke and mirrors.)

\_*The whole legislative budgetary process is done with mirrors.*

\_*The company’s self-review was done by mirrors and*

*didn’t come off too bad, despite our falling stock price.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[18993, 18995]

**Don’t give me that line!** and **Don’t hand me that**

**(line)!** Don’t tell me those lies! \_ *Don’t give me that line!*

*I know the truth! You’re lying to me!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[19046, 19052]

**Don’t judge a book by its cover.** and **You can’t tell**

**a book by its cover.** *Prov.* Do not draw a conclusion

about someone or something just from outward appearances.

\_ *Just because Sam dresses sloppy doesn’t mean he’s*

*a bad person. Don’t judge a book by its cover.* \_ *Jill: How*

*can you be so sure this will be a boring movie? Jane: The*

*poster for it is so boring. Jill: Don’t judge a book by its cover!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[19062, 19066]

**Don’t let it go any further.** and **Don’t let it out of**

**this room.** Don’t tell this secret to anyone else. (Also

literal.) \_ *This is a strict secret. Don’t let it go any further.*

\_*I’ll tell you what you what to know, but don’t let it go out*

*of this room.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[19090, 19095]

**Don’t make me say it again!** and **Don’t make me**

**tell you again!** I have told you once, and now I’m mad,

and I’ll be madder if I have to tell you again. (Typically

said to a child who will not obey.) \_ *Mother: I told you*

*thirty minutes ago to clean up this room! Don’t make me*

*tell you again!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[19128, 19133]

**Don’t quit your day job.** and **Don’t give up your day**

**job.** Don’t quit your regular job in hopes that you can support

yourself doing this task that you do not do very well.

\_ *I saw your comedy act at the nightclub. Don’t quit your*

*day job!* \_ *So, you laid the bricks in this wall. Well, don’t*

*quit your day job.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[19449, 19453]

**down the road a piece** and **down the road a stretch**

*Rur.* a short distance down the road. \_*Smith’s Dry Goods*

*Store? It’s down the road a piece, on the left-hand side.* \_

*I’m not sure we’re lost. Let’s go on down the road a stretch*

*and see if we recognize anything.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[19551, 19554]

**drag on** and **drag out** to go on slowly for a very long time;

to last a very long time. \_ *The lecture dragged on and on.*

\_ *Why do these things have to drag on so?* \_ *How much*

*longer do you think his speech will drag out?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[19561, 19568]

**drag** one’s **feet (on** or **over** something**)** and **drag** one’s

**heels (on** or **over** something**)** to progress slowly or stall

in the doing of something. \_ *Why is she taking so long? I*

*think she is just dragging her feet on this matter.* \_ *I didn’t*

*mean to drag my feet on this decision.* \_ *If the planning*

*department had not dragged their heels, the building would*

*have been built by now.* \_*You must not drag your heels over*

*this; we must get finished.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[19581, 19589]

**drag** someone or something **into** something and **drag** someone

or something **in† 1.** *Lit.* to haul or pull someone or

something into something or some place. \_ *She dragged*

*in the child to make him put on this jacket.* \_ *Despite his*

*broken leg, he dragged himself into the shelter.* **2.** *Fig.* to

involve someone or a group in something. \_ *Please don’t*

*drag me into your argument.* \_ *Don’t drag the committee*

*into this discussion.* \_*It is a serious dispute, and please don’t*

*drag me in.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[19590, 19595]

**drag** someone or something **off of** someone or something and

**drag** someone or something **off†** to pull or remove someone

or something off someone or something. (The *of* is

informal.) \_*The police officers dragged the boys off the top*

*of the wall.* \_ *The cops dragged off the boys and took them*

*home.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[19600, 19604]

**drag** someone or something **on(to)** something and **drag** someone

or something **on†** to pull or lead someone or something

to a particular place, such as a stage, platform, dance floor,

etc. \_*The master of ceremonies dragged her onto the stage*

*for another bow.* \_*Then he dragged on the next performer.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[19605, 19609]

**drag** someone or something **over to** someone or something

and **drag** someone or something **over†** to pull or haul someone

or something to someone or something. \_*He dragged*

*the chair over to the window so he could sit and watch the*

*children.* \_ *Drag over a chair and sit down.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[19627, 19632]

**drag** something **away (from** something**)** and **drag** something

**away†** to push or pull something away from something

or some place. \_ *He dragged the sofa away from the*

*wall so he could clean behind it.* \_*He had to drag away the*

*sofa in order to plug in the lamp.* \_ *We worked together to*

*drag it away.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[19640, 19644]

**drag** something **out of** someone and **drag** something **out†**

to force someone to reveal something; to extract an answer

or information out of someone laboriously. \_ *Why don’t*

*you just tell me? Do I have to drag it out of you?* \_ *We had*

*to drag out the information, but she finally told us.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[19680, 19683]

**drain** something **off** something and **drain** something **off†** to

cause or permit something to flow from the surface or

contents of something. \_ *Drain some of the broth off the*

*chicken.* \_ *Drain off the fat at the bottom of the pan.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[19684, 19688]

**drain** something **out of** something and **drain** something **out†**

to cause something to flow from something; to empty all

of some liquid out of something. \_ *She drained the last*

*drop out of the bottle.* \_*She drained out all the water in the*

*pot.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[19710, 19717]

**draw a bead on** someone or something and **get a bead**

**on** someone or something **1.** *Lit.* to locate someone or

something in the sights of a gun. \_ *Fred drew a bead on*

*the target and pulled the trigger.* \_*The hunter drew a bead*

*on the deer.* **2.** *Fig.* to prepare to deal with or obtain someone

or something. \_ *As soon as I get a bead on how widespread*

*the problem really is, I will set up a meeting about*

*it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[19725, 19731]

**draw a line between** something **and** something else and

**draw the line between** something **and** something else

*Fig.* to separate two things; to distinguish or differentiate

between two things. (Also with *the*.) \_ *I draw a line*

*between just bumping into people and actually striking*

*them.* \_ *It’s very hard to draw a line between slamming a*

*door and just closing it loudly.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[19745, 19749]

**draw apart (from** someone or something**)** and **draw away**

**(from** someone or something**)** to pull back or away from

someone or something. \_ *Don’t draw apart from the rest*

*of us.* \_ *Please don’t draw away from me. I won’t bite.* \_

*She drew away slowly and left the room.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[19760, 19767]

**draw for** something and **draw lots** to choose lots for something,

without looking; to draw a token for something

from a set of tokens concealed in something. (The tokens

are typically slips of paper, one of which is marked as the

winner. See also draw straws.) \_*Let’s draw for the prize.*

*The winner gets it.* \_ *We will draw for a winner from the*

*five finalists.* \_ *The players drew lots to determine who*

*would go first.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[19768, 19772]

**draw in** one’s **horns** and **pull in** one’s **horns** *Fig.* to back

down from a fight. \_*For a minute it looked like they were*

*gonna start sluggin’ each other, but then they drew in their*

*horns.* \_*We tried to calm him down and get him to pull in*

*his horns.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[19787, 19793]

**draw on** someone or something and **draw upon** someone

or something to use someone or something in some beneficial

way; to extract from a resource, reserve, etc. \_*I may*

*have to draw on your advice in order to complete this project.*

\_ *If there is some way you can draw on me to your*

*advantage, let me know.* \_ *By the end of the contest I had*

*drawn upon all the energy I had.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[19814, 19818]

**draw** someone or an animal **out of** something and **draw**

someone or an animal **out†** to lure someone or an animal

out of something or some place. \_ *I thought the smell of*

*breakfast would draw him out of his slumber.* \_*The catnip*

*drew out the cat from under the front porch.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[19824, 19835]

**draw** someone or something **into** something and **draw** someone

or something **in† 1.** *Lit.* to pull someone or something

into something; to attract someone or something in. \_

*She drew the child into the shoe store and plunked her down.*

\_ *Liz opened the door and drew in the children who were*

*all bundled in their parkas.* **2.** *Lit.* to sketch a picture,

adding someone or something into the picture. \_ *She*

*drew a little dog into the lower corner of the picture.* \_ *I*

*drew in a large tree and the ruins of an abbey.* \_ *She drew*

*herself into the scene.* **3.** *Fig.* to involve someone or something

in something. \_ *Don’t draw me into this argument.*

\_ *This is not the time to draw that argument into the discussion.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[19836, 19840]

**draw** someone or something **out of** some place and **draw**

someone or something **out†** to pull someone or something

out of a place. \_*We drew him out of the crawl space where*

*he lay hiding.* \_ *We drew the concealed microphone out of*

*the cabinet.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[19845, 19852]

**draw** someone **out on** someone or something and **draw**

someone **out about** someone or something; **draw** someone

**out†** to bring out someone’s private thoughts about someone

or something. \_ *I tried to draw him out on this matter,*

*but he would not say any more.* \_ *I tried to draw out*

*the speaker, but she would not elaborate on what she had*

*said.* \_ *Fred wanted to draw out information about the*

*company’s plans, but the controller had nothing to say.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[19858, 19866]

**draw (**someone’s**) fire (away) from** someone, something,

or an animal and **draw (**someone’s**) fire away†** to attract

the attention of someone firing a gun away from the target,

hoping to protect the target; to make oneself a target

in order to protect someone or something. (Can be verbal

“fire,” such as questions, etc.) \_*The mother bird drew*

*fire away from her chicks.* \_*The hen drew away the hunter’s*

*fire.* \_ *The president drew fire away from Congress by*

*proposing a compromise.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[19895, 19898]

**draw** something **out of** someone and **draw** something **out†**

to get some kind of information from someone. \_*He kept*

*his mouth closed, and we couldn’t draw anything out of him.*

\_ *We were able to draw out the information we wanted.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[19937, 19940]

**draw (up) alongside** someone or something and **draw**

**(up) alongside** to move up even with someone or something

in motion. \_ *The police officer drew up alongside us*

*and ordered us to pull over.* \_ *A car drew up alongside us.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[19959, 19963]

**dream about** someone or something and **dream of** someone

or something to have mental pictures about someone

or something, especially in one’s sleep. \_*I dreamed about*

*you all night last night.* \_ *I dreamed of a huge chocolate*

*cake.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[19968, 19973]

**Dream of a funeral and you hear of a marriage.**

and **Dream of a funeral and you hear of a wedding.**

*Prov.* If you dream that a person has died, you will

learn that person is to be married. \_ *Alan: I had a dream*

*last night that my sister was killed. Jane: Dream of a funeral*

*and you hear of a marriage.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20001, 20005]

**drench** someone or something **in** something and **drench**

someone or something **with** something to soak someone or

something in something. \_ *A sudden summer shower*

*drenched them in sheets of rain.* \_ *My raincoat was*

*drenched with droplets from the foggy night air.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20035, 20040]

**dressed to kill** and **dressed (up) fit to kill** *Fig.* dressed

in fancy or stylish clothes. (See also dressed (up) fit to

kill.) \_ *Wow, look at Sally! She’s really dressed to kill.* \_ *A*

*person doesn’t go on vacation dressed to kill.* \_ *When Joe*

*came to pick Mary up for the movie, he was dressed up fit*

*to kill and carrying a dozen roses.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20041, 20044]

**dressed to the nines** and **dressed to the teeth** *Fig.*

dressed very stylishly with nothing overlooked. \_ *She*

*showed up for the picnic dressed to the nines.* \_*Clare is usually*

*dressed to the teeth in order to impress people.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20115, 20118]

**drill** something **into** someone or something and **drill** something

**in†** *Fig.* to force knowledge into someone or something.

\_ *Learn this stuff! Drill it into your brain.* \_ *Drill*

*in this information so you know it by heart!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20149, 20152]

**drip** something **into** something and **drip** something **in†** to

make something fall into something drop by drop. \_*Alice*

*dripped a little candle wax into the base of the candlestick.*

\_ *Don’t pour it all into the jar. Drip in a little at a time.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20175, 20177]

**drive** a price **up** and **force** something **up†** to force the price

of something upwards. \_ *Someone is buying a lot of gold*

*and driving the price up.* \_ *They are driving up the price.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20248, 20252]

**drive** someone **batty** and **drive** someone **bonkers; drive**

someone **nuts** *Fig.* to annoy or irritate someone. \_ *You*

*are certainly annoying! You’re going to drive me batty.* \_

*This cold is driving me bonkers.* \_*These tax forms are driving*

*me nuts.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20254, 20260]

**drive** someone **crazy** and **drive** someone **insane; drive**

someone **mad 1.** *Lit.* to force someone into a state of

insanity or mental instability. \_ *The sound of the wind*

*howling drove me crazy.* \_*The dog’s constant barking drove*

*me insane.* **2.** *Fig.* to annoy or irritate someone. \_ *This*

*itch is driving me crazy.* \_*All these telephone calls are driving*

*me mad.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20286, 20290]

**drive** someone or an animal **out of** something and **drive**

someone or an animal **out†** to force or chase someone or

an animal out of something or some place. \_ *We drove*

*them all out of the country.* \_*We drove out the troublesome*

*kids.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20319, 20323]

**drive** someone **to the edge** and **drive** someone **to the**

**brink** *Fig.* to drive someone almost insane; to drive someone

close to doing something desperate. \_ *Your trouble*

*with the police has driven me to the brink! The next time*

*you are arrested, I will not get you out of jail.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20346, 20351]

**drive** something **home** and **drive** something **home† (to**

someone**)** *Fig.* to emphasize an important point about

something (to someone). \_*The teacher repeated the point*

*three times just to drive it home.* \_ *I hope this really drives*

*the importance of safety home to you.* \_*The accident drove*

*home the importance of wearing seatbelts to everyone concerned.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20356, 20361]

**drive** something **into** something and **drive** something **in†**

**1.** to steer or guide a vehicle into something. \_ *Liz drove*

*the car into the garage.* \_*She drove in the car.* **2.** to pound

or hammer something into something. \_ *Using a heavy*

*mallet, he drove the stake into the hard earth.* \_ *With a*

*mighty hammer blow, she drove in the nail.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20396, 20403]

**drop a bomb(shell)** and **explode a bombshell; drop**

**a brick** *Fig.* to announce shocking or startling news. \_

*They really dropped a bombshell when they announced that*

*the mayor would resign.* \_ *Friday is a good day to drop a*

*bomb like that. It gives the business world the weekend to*

*recover.* \_*They must choose their words very carefully when*

*they explode a bombshell like that.* \_ *They really dropped*

*a brick when they told her the cause of her illness.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20405, 20409]

**drop a bundle (on** someone**)** and **blow a bundle (on**

someone**)** *Inf.* to spend a lot of money pleasing or entertaining

someone. \_ *I blew a bundle on the candidate, and*

*it didn’t help me at all.* \_ *Over the years, I’ve dropped a*

*bundle on clients at that restaurant.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20426, 20430]

**drop around (**sometime**)** and **drop by (**sometime**)** to come

and visit (someone) at some future time. (Similar to drop

in (on someone).) \_ *Nice to see you, Mary. You and Bob*

*must drop around sometime.* \_*Please do drop around when*

*you’re out driving.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20461, 20467]

**drop by the wayside** and **fall by the wayside 1.** *Lit.*

to leave a march or procession in exhaustion to recover

beside the pathway. \_ *A few of the marchers dropped by*

*the wayside in the intense heat.* **2.** *Fig.* to fail to keep up

with others. \_ *Many of the students will drop by the wayside*

*and never finish.* \_ *Those who fall by the wayside will*

*find it hard to catch up.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20489, 20492]

**drop in (on** someone**)** and **drop in (to say hello)** to pay

someone a casual visit, perhaps a surprise visit. \_ *I hate*

*to drop in on people when they aren’t expecting me.* \_*You’re*

*welcome to drop in at any time.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20502, 20508]

a **drop in the bucket** and a **drop in the ocean** *Fig.* an

insignificant contribution toward solving a large problem.

\_ *Jane: We need to stop spending so much. Alan: OK. I’ll*

*buy a cheaper brand of toothpaste. Jane: But that’s just a*

*drop in the bucket.* \_ *Many companies donated food and*

*medicine to help the survivors of the earthquake, but it was*

*just a drop in the ocean of what was needed.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20515, 20521]

**drop names** and **drop** someone’s **name** to mention a

name or the names of important or famous people as if

they were personal friends. (See also drop someone’s

name.) \_*Mary always tries to impress people by dropping*

*the name of some big-time executives she claims to know.*

\_ *Bill’s such a snob. Leave it to him to drop the names of*

*all the local gentry.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20561, 20566]

**drop** someone **a line** and **drop** someone **a few lines;**

**drop someone a note** to write a letter or a note to

someone. (The *line* refers to lines of writing.) \_*I dropped*

*Aunt Jane a line last Thanksgiving.* \_*She usually drops me*

*a few lines around the first of the year.* \_ *Drop me a note*

*when you get a chance.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20579, 20584]

**drop** someone or something **into** something and **drop** someone

or something **in†** to let someone or something fall into

something. \_*He dropped a quarter into the slot and waited*

*for something to happen.* \_ *He dropped in a quarter.* \_

*Johnny Green dropped a cat into a well.* \_ *He went to the*

*well and dropped a coin in.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20599, 20604]

**drop** someone or something **off** something and **drop** someone

or something **off†** to let someone or something fall

from something; to make someone or something fall from

something. \_ *They dropped the feather off the top of the*

*building.* \_ *Jake dropped off a feather and it fell to the*

*ground.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20609, 20614]

**drop** someone or something **out of** something and **drop**

someone or something **out†** to let someone or something

fall out of something. \_ *She dropped the paper out of the*

*window.* \_ *Max threatened to drop Lefty out of the open*

*door of the plane.* \_ *I opened the window and dropped out*

*the caterpillar.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20640, 20645]

**Drop the subject!** and **Drop it!** *Fig.* Do not discuss it further!

\_ *Bill: Sally, you’re gaining a little weight. I thought*

*you were on a diet. Sally: That’s enough! Drop the subject!*

\_*Bill: That house is a mess. I wonder who lives there. Mary:*

*That’s my aunt’s house. Just what did you want to know*

*about it? Bill: Oh, drop it! Sorry I asked.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20660, 20663]

**drown** one’s **troubles** and **drown** one’s **sorrows** *Fig.* to

try to forget one’s problems by drinking a lot of alcohol.

\_*Bill is in the bar, drowning his troubles.* \_*Jane is at home,*

*drowning her sorrows.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20685, 20688]

a **drug on the market** and a **glut on the market** something

that is on the market in great abundance. \_ *Right*

*now, small computers are a drug on the market.* \_ *Twenty*

*years ago, small transistor radios were a glut on the market.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20693, 20697]

**drum** someone **out of** something and **drum** someone **out†**

*Fig.* to expel or send someone away from something, especially

in a formal or public fashion. \_*They drummed Bill*

*out of the bridge club for having a bad attitude.* \_*The corps*

*drums out a few cadets each year.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20698, 20702]

**drum** something **into** someone and **drum** something **into**

someone’s **head; drum** something **in†** *Fig.* to teach someone

something intensely. \_ *Her mother had drummed*

*good manners into her.* \_ *She drummed in good manners*

*day after day.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20716, 20719]

**\*drunk as a lord** and **\*drunk as a skunk** very drunk.

(\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *After his fifth cocktail, Michael was as*

*drunk as a lord.* \_ *Judy bought herself a case of beer and*

*proceeded to get as drunk as a skunk.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20722, 20727]

**\*dry as dust** and **\*dry as a bone 1.** *Cliché* very dry.

(\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *The bread is as dry as dust.* \_ *When the*

*leaves are dry as a bone, they break into powder easily.*

**2.** *Cliché* very dull; very boring. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *This*

*book is as dry as dust. I am going to stop reading it.* \_ *Her*

*lecture was dry as dust—just like her subject.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20803, 20806]

**\*dull as dishwater** and **\*dull as ditchwater** very uninteresting.

(\*Also: **as ~**.) \_*I’m not surprised that he can’t*

*find a partner. He’s as dull as dishwater.* \_ *Mr. Black’s*

*speech was as dull as dishwater.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20839, 20844]

**dunk** someone or something **into** something and **dunk** someone

or something **in†** to submerge someone or something

in something, fully or partially. \_ *They dunked him into*

*the pool as a way of celebrating.* \_*Liz pulled the cup of coffee*

*toward herself and dunked in her doughnut.* \_ *She*

*dunked herself into the cold water for just a minute.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20845, 20849]

a **dust bunny** and a **dust kitten;** a **turkey’s nest** *Fig.*

a clump of dust and lint. \_*She swept the dust bunnies out*

*from under the bed.* \_*There’s a huge dust kitten behind the*

*chiffarobe.* \_*He hasn’t cleaned in weeks. There are turkey’s*

*nests in every corner.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20900, 20903]

**dwindle away (to** something**)** and **dwindle down (to**

something**)** to shrink, contract, or diminish to something.

\_ *The noise dwindled away to nothing.* \_ *It just dwindled*

*down and was gone.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20946, 20953]

**Early ripe, early rotten.** and **Soon ripe, soon rotten.**

*Prov.* A child with extraordinary talent or intelligence will

probably lose those qualities by the time he or she grows

up. \_ *Jill: Philip was such a fine young boy; I’m surprised*

*he’s become such a good-for-nothing adult. Jane: Early ripe,*

*early rotten.* \_ *Jane: You must be very proud of your little*

*boy. He seems so mature for his age. Ellen: I’m afraid it won’t*

*last. You know what they say: “Soon ripe, soon rotten.”*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[20990, 20996]

**ease off (on** someone or something**)** and **ease up (on**

someone or something**)** to reduce the urgency with which

one deals with someone or something; to put less pressure

on someone or something. \_*Ease off on John. He has been*

*yelled at enough today.* \_ *Yes, please ease off. I can’t stand*

*any more.* \_ *Tell them to ease up on the horses. They are*

*getting tired.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[21021, 21028]

**ease** someone **out of** something and **ease** someone **out†**

**1.** *Lit.* to get someone out of something carefully. \_ *The*

*paramedics eased the injured man out of the wreckage.* \_

*Please ease out the patient carefully.* **2.** *Fig.* to get someone

out of an office or position quietly and without much

embarrassment. \_ *We eased the sheriff out of office without*

*a fight.* \_ *The board eased out the chairman by offering*

*him a huge bonus.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[21042, 21045]

**East, west, home’s best.** and **East or west, home is**

**best.** *Prov.* Home is the best place to be no matter where

it is. \_ *You may think that traveling all the time is fun, but*

*eventually you’ll discover that east or west, home is best.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[21046, 21052]

**\*easy as A, B, C** and **\*easy as falling off a log; \*easy**

**as rolling off a log; \*easy as (apple) pie; \*easy**

**as duck soup** very easy. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *If you use a*

*cake mix, baking a cake is easy as A, B, C.* \_ *Mountain*

*climbing is as easy as pie.* \_ *Finding your way to the shopping*

*center is easy as duck soup.* \_ *Getting out of jail was*

*easy as rolling off a log.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[21086, 21089]

**eat (a meal) out** and **dine out** to eat a meal at a restaurant.

\_ *I like to eat a meal out every now and then.* \_ *Yes,*

*it’s good to eat out and try different kinds of food.* \_*It costs*

*a lot of money to dine out often.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[21192, 21195]

**eat** something **off (of )** something and **eat** something **off†** to

erode something off a larger part. (*Of* is usually retained

before pronouns.) \_ *The acidic rain ate the finish off the*

*steeple.* \_ *The acid ate off the finish.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[21240, 21252]

**Eavesdroppers never hear any good of themselves.**

and **Listeners never hear any good of**

**themselves.** *Prov.* If you eavesdrop on people who are

talking about you, chances are that you will hear them say

unfavorable things about you. (This implies that you

should not eavesdrop.) \_*Child: Mommy, I heard Suzy and*

*Lisa talking about me, and they said I was a crybaby!*

*Mother: That just goes to show you, dear, that eavesdroppers*

*never hear any good of themselves.* \_ *I knew that*

*Mother and Dad had gone into the other room to discuss my*

*situation, and I was tempted to put my ear to the door and*

*listen to them, but I remembered that listeners never hear*

*any good of themselves.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[21303, 21307]

**edge** something **out of** something and **edge** something **out†**

to move something out of something very carefully, bit by

bit. \_ *Sam edged the control rod out of the reactor, using*

*the remote control device.* \_ *Mary edged the car out of the*

*parking place.* \_ *Carefully, she edged out the car.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[21312, 21316]

**edit** something **out of** something and **edit** something **out†**

to strike out words or sentences from something that is

going to be published; to cut out textual material in the

editing process. \_ *She edited the foul language out of the*

*essay.* \_ *Frank edited out the misspelled words.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[21362, 21366]

**elbow** someone **out of** something and **elbow** someone **out†**

*Fig.* to force or pressure someone out of something, such

as an office, post, or status. \_*The board managed to elbow*

*out the old head of the company.* \_ *They tried to elbow me*

*out, but I held on to what was mine.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[21520, 21523]

**empty** something **into** something and **empty** something **in†**

to pour something into something else. \_*Now, empty the*

*can of soup into the pan.* \_ *Open the can and empty in the*

*contents.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[21608, 21618]

the **end of the road** and the **end of the line 1.** *Lit.* the

place where the road stops; the end of the route, such as

a bus, train, or subway route. \_ *Our house is at the end of*

*the road.* \_*We drove to the end of the road and began our*

*hike into the mountains.* **2.** *Fig.* the end of the whole process.

\_ *When we reach the end of the road on this project,*

*we’ll get paid.* \_ *You’ve come to the end of the line. I’ll not*

*lend you another penny.* **3.** *Euph.* death. \_ *When I reach*

*the end of the road, I wish to be buried in a quiet place, near*

*some trees.* \_ *She was nearly ninety when she came to the*

*end of the line.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[21631, 21636]

**end up (by)** doing something and **wind up (by)** doing something

**1.** to conclude something by doing something. \_*We*

*ended up by going back to my house.* \_ *They danced until*

*midnight and wound up by having pizza in the front room.*

**2.** to end by doing something [anyway]. \_*I wound up by*

*going home early.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[21644, 21647]

**end up (**somewhere**)** and **wind up (**somewhere**)** to finish

at a certain place. \_*If you don’t get straightened out, you’ll*

*end up in jail.* \_ *I fell and hurt myself, and I wound up in*

*the hospital.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[21702, 21707]

**engorge (itself ) on** someone or something and **engorge**

**(itself) with** something [for an animal] to drink its fill

of blood. \_ *The vampire bat engorged itself on a number*

*of creatures last night.* \_*Mosquitoes engorge on human victims.*

\_*The mosquitoes engorged themselves with my blood*

*all night long.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[21760, 21766]

**enlighten** someone **(about** someone or something**)** and

**enlighten** someone **(on** someone or something**)** to tell

someone the facts about someone or something. \_*Please*

*enlighten me about this trip you are planning.* \_*Would you*

*enlighten me on the current state of things?* \_*Enlighten me*

*about Sarah.* \_ *She enlightened herself about automobile*

*engines.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[21805, 21809]

**enough** something **to plague a saint** and something **is**

**enough to plague a saint** *Rur.* enough of something

to annoy even a patient person. \_ *That little boy has*

*enough curiosity to plague a saint!* \_*Sally’s a well-meaning*

*woman, but her endless gossiping is enough to plague a saint.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[21838, 21841]

**enshrine** someone **in** one’s **heart** and **enshrine** someone’s

**memory in** one’s **heart** *Fig.* to keep the memory of

someone in a special place in one’s heart or mind. \_ *Bob*

*enshrined Jill’s memory in his heart.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[21889, 21893]

**enter (**something**) by** something and **enter (**something**)**

**through** something to enter something or some place by

way of a certain entrance. \_ *We entered the building by*

*the west door.* \_*You should enter through the revolving door*

*only.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[21976, 21980]

**envision** someone **as** someone else and **envision** something

**as** something else to imagine or fantasize someone as

someone else; to imagine or fantasize something as something

else. \_ *I envision her as the next company president.*

\_ *We envisioned this as larger than it turned out to be.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[22002, 22007]

**equate** someone **to** someone else and **equate** something **to**

something else to claim that someone is in some manner

the same as someone else; to claim that something is in

some manner the same as something else. \_ *I would*

*equate Tom to Wally when it comes to native ability.* \_*You*

*cannot equate my car to that jalopy you drive!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[22079, 22082]

**etch** something **in(to)** something and **etch** something **in†** to

erode a design or message into something, usually with

acid. \_ *They etched their family crest into their good crystal.*

\_ *He etched in his initials.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[22160, 22163]

**Every dog has its day.** and **Every dog has his day.**

*Prov.* Everyone gets a chance eventually. \_ *Don’t worry,*

*you’ll get chosen for the team. Every dog has its day.* \_ *You*

*may become famous someday. Every dog has his day.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[22173, 22176]

**every inch a** something and **every inch the** something

completely; in every way. (Usually strengthening a following

adjective.) \_ *Mary is every inch the schoolteacher.*

\_ *Her father is every inch a gentleman.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[22192, 22202]

**Every man for himself (and the devil take the**

**hindmost).** and **Devil take the hindmost** *Prov.*

Everyone has to fight for his or her own survival. (You can

use this to describe an extremely competitive situation.)

\_ *At first we tried to help each other study for the exam,*

*but soon it was every man for himself, and the devil take the*

*hindmost.* \_ *The inventors tried to collaborate, agreeing to*

*share the profits from their invention, but they grew so suspicious*

*of each other that each began to work separately, and*

*devil take the hindmost.* \_ *When the ship began to sink, it*

*was every man for himself.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[22227, 22232]

**Every minute counts.** and **Every moment counts.**

*Fig.* time is very important. (Used especially in situations

where time is very limited.) \_*Doctor, please try to get here*

*quickly. Every minute counts.* \_ *When you take a test, you*

*must work rapidly because every minute counts.* \_ *When*

*you’re trying to meet a deadline, every moment counts.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[22245, 22248]

**(every) now and then** and **(every) now and again;**

**(every) once in a while** occasionally; infrequently. \_

*We eat lamb every now and then.* \_ *We eat pork now and*

*then.* \_ *I read a novel every now and again.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[22256, 22261]

**(every) Tom, Dick, and Harry** and **any Tom, Dick,**

**and Harry** *Fig.* everyone, without discrimination; ordinary

people. (Not necessarily males.) \_ *The golf club is*

*very exclusive. They don’t let any Tom, Dick, or Harry join.*

\_*Mary’s sending out very few invitations. She doesn’t want*

*every Tom, Dick, and Harry turning up.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[22262, 22267]

**Every tub must stand on its own bottom.** and **Let**

**every tub stand on its own bottom.** *Prov.* People

should be independent. \_ *Emily did not want to join the*

*other students, who were helping each other study for the*

*exam. “Every tub must stand on its own bottom,” she said.*

\_*Don’t ask me for help. Let every tub stand on its own bottom.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[22275, 22278]

**everybody and his brother** and **everybody and his**

**uncle** *Fig.* everybody; lots of people. \_*The state fair was*

*packed. Everybody and his brother was there.* \_ *Everybody*

*and his uncle was asking me where you was today.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[22297, 22300]

**everything from soup to nuts** and **everything from**

**A to Z** *Cliché* almost everything one can think of. \_ *For*

*dinner we had everything from soup to nuts.* \_ *In college I*

*studied everything from soup to nuts.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[22309, 22315]

**Everything’s going to be all right.** and **Everything**

**will be all right.; Everything will be okay.; Everything**

**will be just fine.; Everything will be great.**

Do not worry, everything will be okay. \_ *“Don’t worry,*

*Fred,” comforted Bill. “Everything will be all right.”* \_

*Mary: I just don’t know if I can go on! Bob: Now, now.*

*Everything will be just fine.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[22339, 22345]

**evolve (from** something**) (into** something**)** and **evolve**

**out of** something **(into** something**)** to develop from something

to something else; to develop from a more primitive

form to the present form. \_ *This creature evolved from a*

*smaller, horselike creature into what we know as a horse.* \_

*The human brain evolved out of a smaller and less complex*

*form into the brain of today.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[22378, 22381]

**excel at** something and **excel in** something to do something

in a superior fashion. \_ *She really excels at running.* \_

*Wally does not excel at anything.* \_ *Frank always hoped he*

*would excel in math.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[22398, 22408]

**exchange no more than** some number of **words with**

someone and **not exchange more than** some number of

**words with** someone**; hardly exchange more than**

some number of **words with** someone**; scarcely**

**exchange more than** some number of **words with**

someone to say hardly anything to someone. (Always negative.)

\_ *I know Tom was there, but I am sure that I didn’t*

*exchange more than three words with him before he left.* \_

*We hardly exchanged more than two words the whole evening.*

\_ *Sally and Liz didn’t have enough time to exchange*

*more than five words.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[22433, 22445]

**Excuse me.** and **Excuse, please.; Pardon (me).;**

**’Scuse (me).; ’Scuse, please. 1.** an expression asking

forgiveness for some minor social violation, such as

belching or bumping into someone. (*’Scuse* is colloquial,

and the apostrophe is not always used.) \_ *John: Ouch!*

*Bob: Excuse me. I didn’t see you there.* \_ *Mary: Oh! Ow!*

*Sue: Pardon me. I didn’t mean to bump into you.* \_ *Tom:*

*Ouch! Mary: Oh, dear! What happened? Tom: You stepped*

*on my toe. Mary: Excuse me. I’m sorry.* **2.** Please let me

through.; Please let me by. \_ *Tom: Excuse me. I need to*

*get past. Bob: Oh, sorry. I didn’t know I was in the way.* \_

*Mary: Pardon me. Sue: What? Mary: Pardon me. I want to*

*get past you.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[22478, 22484]

**exercise power over** someone or something and **exercise**

**control over** someone or something; **exercise influence**

**over** someone or something to have someone or

something under one’s control or influence. \_*The dictator*

*exercised power over the island for many years.* \_ *See if*

*you can exercise some control over your appetite.* \_ *I wish*

*I could exercise some inf luence over the committee.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[22509, 22512]

**exorcise** something **out of** someone and **exorcise** something

**out** to remove or cast out evil from someone. \_ *We*

*saw a movie about a priest who exorcised a demon out of a*

*young girl.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[22524, 22528]

**expand (up)on** something and **enlarge (up)on** something

*Fig.* to add detail to a report about something; to say more

about something. \_ *Would you please expand upon that*

*last remark?* \_ *Would you care to enlarge upon your*

*remarks?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[22584, 22590]

**Experience is the father of wisdom.** and **Experience**

**is the mother of wisdom.** *Prov.* The more that

happens to you, the more you will learn. \_*I never understood*

*why supervisors got so frustrated with me until I*

*became a supervisor and got frustrated with my subordinates.*

*Experience was definitely the mother of wisdom, in*

*my case.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[22670, 22675]

**expostulate about** someone or something and **expostulate**

**on** someone or something to comment or argue

intensely about someone or something. \_*He always seems*

*to be expostulating on something. Why can’t he simply say*

*“Yes” or “No”?* \_*Sam is expostulating on Bill’s many shortcomings*

*again.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[22712, 22718]

**extend credit (to** someone or a company**)** and **extend**

someone or a company **credit** to allow someone to purchase

something on credit. \_ *I’m sorry, Mr. Smith, but*

*because of your poor record of payment, we are no longer*

*able to extend credit to you.* \_ *Look at this letter, Jane. The*

*store won’t extend credit anymore.*

something

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[22781, 22784]

**exult at** something and **exult over** something to rejoice

because of something; to rejoice about something. \_ *We*

*exulted at the end of the hostilities.* \_ *The citizens exulted*

*over the downfall of the dictator.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[22796, 22802]

the **eye of the hurricane** and the **eye of the storm1.**

*Lit.* the area of calm in the center of a tornado, hurricane,

or cyclone. \_*It is calm and peaceful in the eye of the storm.*

**2.** *Fig.* a temporary peaceful time amidst more trouble

and strife yet to come. \_ *Don’t relax. This is the eye of the*

*storm. The lunch hour rush is over, but the dinner rush will*

*start soon.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[22860, 22864]

a **face (that) only a mother could love** and a **face**

**that could stop a clock** *Fig.* a very ugly face. (Usually

jocular. See also homely enough to stop a clock.) \_*The*

*poor baby has a face only a mother could love.* \_ *Look at*

*that guy. That’s a face that could stop a clock.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[22886, 22893]

**Fact is stranger than fiction.** and **Truth is stranger**

**than fiction.** *Prov.* Things that really happen are harder

to believe or more amazing than stories that people invent.

\_ *Did you see the story in the newspaper about the criminal*

*who attacks people with a toenail clipper? Fact is*

*stranger than fiction!* \_ *Jill: I can’t believe someone’s paying*

*900 dollars for Tom’s broken-down old car—it doesn’t*

*even run. Jane: Truth is stranger than fiction.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[22924, 22928]

**fade out** and **fade away** to diminish and go away altogether.

\_ *The light in the distance faded out as the sun*

*began to set.* \_ *The light faded out as the candles burned*

*themselves out, one by one.* \_ *As it got farther into the distance,*

*the car faded away.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[23022, 23028]

**fall (a)foul of** someone or something and **run (a)foul of**

someone or something to get into a situation where one is

opposed to someone or something; to get into trouble

with someone or something. \_ *Dan fell afoul of the law*

*at an early age.* \_ *I hope that you will avoid falling afoul of*

*the district manager. She can be a formidable enemy.* \_ *I*

*hope I don’t run afoul of your sister. She doesn’t like me.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[23037, 23043]

**fall apart (at the seams)** and **come apart at the**

**seams 1.** *Lit.* [for something] to break apart where its

parts are joined. \_ *The dress fell apart at the seams.* \_ *I*

*wouldn’t have thought that a coat that cost that much money*

*would just come apart at the seams.* **2.** *Fig.* to break down

mentally. \_ *Tom works too much and finally fell apart.* \_

*Poor Ralph simply fell apart at the seams.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[23069, 23076]

**fall behind (in** something**)** and **fall behind (on** something**);**

**fall behind (with** something**); get behind (in**

something**); get behind (on** something**); get behind**

**(with** something**)** to lag behind schedule in some kind of

work or some other scheduled activity. \_ *You are falling*

*behind in your car payments.* \_*I tried not to get behind on*

*them.* \_ *Please don’t fall behind with your payments.* \_ *I*

*won’t fall behind again.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[23264, 23267]

**fall on** one’s **knees** and **fall to** one’s **knees** to kneel

down, usually in respect. \_ *The people fell on their knees*

*and prayed in gratitude for their salvation from the f lood.*

\_ *They fell to their knees in awe.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[23293, 23296]

**fall out of favor (with** someone**)** and **lose favor (with**

someone**)** to lose someone’s approval or acceptance. \_*This*

*style of house has fallen out of favor with most people lately.*

\_ *Saving money has lost favor with most people.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[23304, 23309]

**fall out (with** someone**) (over** something**)** and **fall out**

**(with** someone**) (about** someone or something**)** to quarrel

or disagree with someone about something. \_*Tony fell*

*out with Nick about the video game.* \_*Bill fell out with Sally*

*over the question of buying a new car.* \_ *Bill fell out with*

*John about who would sleep on the bottom bunk.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[23316, 23322]

**fall over backwards (to** do something**)** and **bend over**

**backwards (to** do something**); lean over backwards**

**(to** do something**)** *Fig.* to do everything possible to please

someone. \_ *The taxi driver fell over backwards to be helpful.*

\_*The teacher bent over backwards to help the students*

*understand.* \_*You don’t have to lean over backwards to get*

*me to help. Just ask.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[23335, 23338]

**fall short of** one’s **goal(s)** and **fall short of the**

**goal(s); fall short of the record** to fail to achieve a

goal. \_ *We fell short of our goal of collecting a thousand*

*dollars.* \_ *Ann ran a fast race, but fell short of the record.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[23392, 23395]

a **false move** and **one false move** *Fig.* [even] a single

movement that indicates that one is disobeying an order

to remain still or in a nonthreatening posture. \_*The robber*

*threatened to shoot us if we made one false move.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[23470, 23475]

**Fancy that!** and **Imagine that!** I am very surprised to

hear that.; That is hard to imagine or believe. \_*Mary: My*

*father was elected president of the board. Sally: Fancy that!*

\_ *Sue: This computer is ten times faster than the one we*

*had before. Jane: Imagine that! Is it easy to operate? Sue: Of*

*course not.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[23512, 23516]

**faraway look** and **far-off look** *Fig.* an appearance on

one’s face of having one’s mind in another place. \_ *Dave*

*had a faraway look in his eyes, so I elbowed him to get his*

*attention.* \_ *Lisa’s face had a far-off look indicating that*

*she was daydreaming.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[23760, 23765]

**feel a glow of happiness** and **feel a glow of contentment;**

**feel a glow of satisfaction; feel a**

**glow of peacefulness** *Fig.* to have a good feeling of

some kind. \_ *Anne felt a glow of happiness as she held her*

*new baby.* \_*Sitting by the lake, the lovers felt a warm glow*

*of contentment.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[23766, 23771]

**feel around (for** someone or something**)** and **feel about**

**(for** someone or something**)** to try to find someone or

something by feel [rather than sight]. \_*He felt around for*

*the soap in the bathtub.* \_ *She felt about for the dog at the*

*foot of the bed, but it wasn’t there.* \_ *Gerald felt about for*

*a pencil.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[23846, 23850]

**feel pinched** and **feel the pinch** *Fig.* experiencing hardship

because of having too little money. \_*The Smiths used*

*to go abroad every year, but now that he’s retired, they’re*

*really feeling pinched.* \_*You’re bound to feel the pinch a little*

*when you’re a student.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[23863, 23866]

**feel** something **in** one’s **bones** and **know** something **in** one’s

**bones** *Fig.* to sense something; to have an intuition about

something. \_ *The train will be late. I feel it in my bones.*

\_ *I failed the test. I know it in my bones.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[23883, 23888]

**\***a **feeling (that** something is the case**)** and **\***a **feeling**

**about** something a premonition that [something might

happen or be the case]; an intuition about something.

(\*Typically: **get ~; have ~; give** someone **~**.) \_*I had*

*a feeling that you might be dropping by this afternoon.* \_ *I*

*didn’t have any facts to support it. I just had a feeling.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[23932, 23937]

**ferret** something **out of** someone or something and **ferret**

something **out†** *Fig.* to get, remove, or retrieve something

from someone or something, usually with cunning and

persistence. \_ *I tried very hard, but I couldn’t ferret the*

*information out of the clerk.* \_ *I had to ferret out the*

*answers one by one.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[23942, 23947]

**ferry** someone or something **across** something and **ferry**

someone or something **across†** to transport someone or

something across a river on a ferryboat. \_ *Can we get*

*someone to ferry us across the lake to the island?* \_ *After*

*they ferried across all the cars, they closed the ferryboat*

*down for the night.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[23960, 23963]

**fetch** something **out of** something and **fetch** something **out†**

to pull something out of something. \_*Could you fetch me*

*another hot dog out of the pot?* \_ *I’ll fetch out a hot dog for*

*you.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[23970, 23976]

**feud (with** someone**) (over** someone or something**)** and

**feud (with** someone**) about (**someone or something**)** to

fight with someone over someone or something; to have

an ongoing battle with someone about someone or some-

thing. \_*Some of the neighbors are feuding with each other*

*over the parking places on the street.* \_ *Don’t feud over her*

*with me!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[23981, 23990]

a **few bricks short of a load** and a **few cards shy of**

**a full deck;** a **few cards short of a deck; not playing**

**with a full deck; two bricks shy of a load**

*Fig.* lacking in intellectual ability. (Many other variants.)

\_ *Tom: Joe thinks he can build a car out of old milk jugs.*

*Mary: I think Joe’s a few bricks short of a load.* \_*Ever since*

*she fell and hit her head, Jane’s been a few bricks short of a*

*load, if you know what I’m saying.* \_*Bob’s nice, but he’s not*

*playing with a full deck.* \_ *You twit! You’re two bricks shy*

*of a load.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[23994, 24001]

**fiddle around (with** someone**)** and **fiddle about (with**

someone**)** to tease, annoy, or play with someone; to waste

someone’s time. \_ *All right, stop fiddling around with me*

*and tell me how much you will give me for my car.* \_ *Now*

*it’s time for all of you to quit fiddling around and get to*

*work.* \_ *Tom, you have to stop spending your time fiddling*

*about with your friends. It’s time to get serious with your*

*studies.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[24002, 24006]

**fiddle around (with** something**)** and **fiddle about**

**(with** something**)** to play with something; to tinker with

something ineptly. \_*My brother is outside fiddling around*

*with his car engine.* \_ *He should stop fiddling around and*

*go out and get a job.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[24026, 24029]

**field questions** and **field a question** to answer a series

of questions, especially from reporters. \_*After her speech,*

*Jane fielded questions from reporters.* \_ *The president’s*

*press agents field questions from the newspaper.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[24081, 24084]

**fight** one’s **way out (of** something**)** and **fight** one’s **way**

**out** to struggle to get out of something or some place. \_

*He fought his way out of the crowded room and out through*

*the door.* \_ *He couldn’t fight his way out of a paper bag.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[24102, 24108]

**fight** someone or something **hammer and tongs** and **fight**

someone or something **tooth and nail; go at it hammer**

**and tongs; go at it tooth and nail** *Fig.* to fight

against someone or something energetically and with

great determination. \_ *They fought against the robber*

*tooth and nail.* \_ *The dogs were fighting each other hammer*

*and tongs.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[24175, 24178]

**figure** someone or something **in((to)** something**)** and **figure**

someone or something **in†** to reckon someone or something

into the total. \_ *I will figure the electric bill into the*

*total.* \_ *We can figure in one more person.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[24211, 24216]

**file** something **away† (from** something**)** and **file** something

**off ((of )** something**); file** something off**†** to remove something

from something else by filing. (*Of* is usually retained

before pronouns.) \_*The dentist filed the sharp point away*

*from the tooth.* \_ *The dentist filed away the sharp point*

*from the tooth.* \_ *The dentist filed the point off.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[24242, 24244]

**fill** one’s **face** and **stuff** one’s **face** *Sl.* to eat food fast; to

stuff food into one’s face. \_ *Everytime I see you, you are*

*stuffing your face. No wonder you’re overweight!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[24283, 24285]

**fill the bill** and **fit the bill** to be acceptable. \_*Jane: I need*

*some string. Tom: Here’s some twine. Will it fill the bill?* \_

*I need cloth to make a shirt. This muslin ought to fit the bill.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[24307, 24310]

**filter** something **out of** something and **filter** something **out†**

to remove something from a fluid by running it through

a filter. \_ *We filtered the odors out of the water and made*

*it fit to drink.* \_ *I’m glad you filtered out the odor.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[24358, 24362]

**find it in** one’s **heart (to** do something**)** and **find it in** oneself

**(to** do something**)** *Fig.* to have the courage or compassion

to do something. \_ *She couldn’t find it in herself to*

*refuse to come home to him.* \_ *I can’t do it! I can’t find it*

*in my heart.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[24415, 24419]

**find** someone **guilty** and **find** someone **innocent; find**

someone **not guilty** to decide guilt or innocence and

deliver a verdict in a court of law. \_ *The judge found the*

*defendant not guilty by reason of insanity.* \_*The jury found*

*the defendant innocent.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[24573, 24578]

**fire** someone **with anger** and **fire** someone **with enthusiasm;**

**fire** someone **with hope; fire** someone **with**

**expectations** *Fig.* [for someone’s words] to fill someone

with eagerness or the desire to do something. \_ *The*

*speech fired the audience with enthusiasm for change.* \_*We*

*were fired with anger to protest against the government.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[24582, 24587]

**fire (**something**) at** someone or something and **fire (**something**)**

**away at** someone or something to shoot at someone

or something with a weapon. \_*Someone fired a gun at my*

*car!* \_ *The cowboy fired at the rattlesnake.* \_ *The hunters*

*fired away at the ducks.* \_*On television, somebody is always*

*firing away at somebody else.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[24631, 24639]

**firing on all cylinders** and **hitting on all cylinders**

**1.** *Lit.* [of an internal combustion engine] having all its

cylinders working and thus providing the maximum

amount of power. \_ *The old car is firing on all cylinders*

*despite its age.* \_ *This thing’s not hitting on all cylinders.*

**2.** *Fig.* working at full strength; making every possible

effort. \_ *The team is firing on all cylinders under the new*

*coach.* \_ *The factory is hitting on all cylinders to finish the*

*orders on time.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[24691, 24693]

the **first leg (of** a journey**)** and the **first leg (of** the journey**)**

the first segment of a journey; the first flight of a multiflight

trip. \_ *The first leg of the journey got me to London.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[24748, 24752]

**fish** someone or something **out of** something and **fish** someone

or something **out†** to pull someone or something out

of something or some place. \_ *She is down at the riverbank,*

*fishing driftwood out of the water.* \_ *She fished out*

*a lot of wood.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[24754, 24758]

**fish** something **up out of** something and **fish** something **up†**

to pull or hoist something out of something, especially

after searching or reaching for it. \_ *The old shopkeeper*

*fished a huge pickle up out of the barrel.* \_ *He fished up a*

*huge pickle.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[24759, 24762]

**fish story** and **fish tale** *Fig.* a great big lie. (Like a fisherman

who exaggerates the size of the fish that got away.)

\_*That’s just a fish story. Don’t try to fool me.* \_*He’s a master*

*at the fish tale. Maybe he should be a politician.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[24784, 24786]

**fit for a king** and **fit for the gods** *Fig.* very nice; luxurious.

\_*What a delicious meal. It was fit for a king.* \_*Our*

*room at the hotel was fit for a king.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[24811, 24815]

**fit** someone or something **in((to)** something**)** and **fit** someone

or something **in†** to manage to place someone or something

into something. \_ *I think I can fit you into my schedule.*

\_ *I have fit in three people already today.* \_ *The shelf is*

*tight, but I think I can fit one more book in.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[24825, 24831]

**fit** someone or something **up† (with** something**)** and **fit** someone

or something **(up†) with** something to provide someone

or something with something for a particular purpose.

\_*We fit the couple up with fins, masks, and snorkels*

*for skin diving.* \_ *The clerk fitted up the couple with diving*

*gear for their vacation.* \_ *She fit them with tanks and*

*weights.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[24833, 24836]

**fit** something **on(to)** something and **fit** something **on†** to

manage to place something onto something. \_ *See if you*

*can fit this lid onto that jar over there.* \_ *Sorry, I can’t fit*

*on this lid, because it’s too big.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[24893, 24897]

**fix** someone **up† (with** someone**)** and **line** someone **up†**

**(with** someone**)** to arrange for someone to have a date or

a companion. \_ *They lined John up with my cousin, Jane.*

\_ *John didn’t want us to fix him up.* \_ *We fixed up Bob*

*with a date.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[24943, 24946]

**flack out** and **flake out** *Sl.* to collapse with exhaustion;

to lie down because of exhaustion. \_*All the hikers f lacked*

*out when they reached the campsite.* \_ *After a few hours,*

*the hikers all f laked out.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[24966, 24970]

**flake** something **off of** something and **flake** something **off†**

to make bits or flakes break off from the whole. \_ *The*

*sculptor f laked bits of stone off the block, but you could not*

*yet see what the block was going to become.* \_ *She f laked*

*off a little more.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[24978, 24983]

**flame with anger** and **flame with resentment;**

**flame with lust; flame with vengeance** *Fig.* [for

someone’s eyes] to “blaze” or seem to communicate a particular

quality or excitement, usually a negative feeling. \_

*His eyes flamed with resentment when he heard Sally’s good*

*news.* \_ *Her eyes flamed with hatred.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[24996, 24999]

**flap** one’s **gums** and **flap** one’s **jaws** *Rur.* to talk aimlessly.

\_ *They’re still out on the porch, f lapping their gums.* \_

*Well, I can’t sit here flapping my jaws all day. Gotta get back*

*to work.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[25098, 25102]

**flash with anger** and **flash with recognition; flash**

**with eagerness** [for someone’s eyes] to “glimmer” or

seem to communicate a particular quality or excitement.

\_ *Her green eyes f lashed with anger.* \_ *Ellen’s eyes f lashed*

*with recognition when she saw me.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[25104, 25111]

**\*flat as a board** and **\*flat as a pancake** *Cliché* very

flat. (Also used to describe someone’s chest or abdomen,

referring to well-developed abdominal muscles or small

or nearly absent breasts or pectoral muscles—in either

sex. \*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *Jane was f lat as a board until she*

*was sixteen, when she suddenly blossomed.* \_ *Lucy can*

*mash an aluminum can f lat as a pancake with one blow*

*from her heel.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[25113, 25117]

**flat broke** and **flat busted** *Fig.* having no money at all.

\_ *Sorry, I’m flat broke. Not a cent on me.* \_ *You may be*

*f lat broke, but you will find a way to pay your electricity bill*

*or you will live in the dark.* \_ *Mary was f lat busted, and it*

*was two more weeks before she was due to get paid.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[25204, 25207]

**flick** something **off** someone or something and **flick** something

**off†** to brush or knock a speck of something off of someone

or something with a quick movement. \_ *She f licked*

*a speck of lint off his collar.* \_ *She f licked off the lint.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[25261, 25265]

**fling** someone or something **out of** something and **fling** someone

or something **out†** to sling or throw someone or some-

thing out of something or some place. \_ *In anger, she*

*f lung the cat out of the window.* \_*She f lung out the cat and*

*closed the window.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[25270, 25273]

**fling** something **in(to)** something and **fling** something **in†**

to throw something into something. \_ *I will f ling this*

*thing in the trash. It is junk!* \_*Liz opened the laundry chute*

*and f lung in her clothes.* \_ *She f lung them in.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[25274, 25279]

**fling** something **off of** oneself and **fling** something **off† 1.** to

pull or throw something off of oneself hastily. \_*She flung*

*the blanket off herself.* \_ *She f lung off the blanket.* **2.** to

pull or take off an article of clothing. \_ *Larry f lung his*

*jacket off and went straight to the kitchen.* \_ *He f lung off*

*his jacket.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[25280, 25284]

**fling** something **off (of )** something and **fling** something **off†**

to yank or pull something off something. (*Of* is usually

retained before pronouns.) \_ *He f lung the bedspread off*

*the bed and dived in.* \_ *He f lung off the covers and dived*

*into bed.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[25285, 25288]

**fling** something **on** oneself and **fling** something **on†** to put

an article of clothing onto oneself hastily. \_ *She got up*

*and f lung on her robe.* \_ *She f lung her robe on and went*

*to answer the door.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[25304, 25307]

**flip** one’s **wig** and **flip** one’s **lid** *Sl.* to suddenly become

angry, crazy, or enthusiastic. \_ *Whenever anyone mentions*

*taxes, Mr. Jones absolutely f lips his wig.* \_*Stop whistling.*

*You’re going to make me f lip my lid.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[25329, 25335]

**flip** someone **off†** and **flip** someone **out†; flip** someone **the**

**bird** *Sl.* to give someone the finger, that is raise the middle

finger, a rude sign. (The *digitus impudicus.*) \_ *The*

*youth f lipped the police officer off. Not a good idea.* \_ *He*

*f lipped off the cop.* \_ *You better not f lip a cop out!* \_ *The*

*little kid f lipped the cop the bird and didn’t even know what*

*it meant.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[25419, 25427]

**flog a dead horse** and **beat a dead horse** *Fig.* to insist

on talking about something that no one is interested in,

or that has already been thoroughly discussed. \_*The history*

*teacher lectured us every day about the importance of*

*studying history, until we begged him to stop f logging a dead*

*horse.* \_*Jill: I think I’ll write the company president another*

*letter asking him to prohibit smoking. Jane: There’s no use*

*beating a dead horse, Jill; he’s already decided to let people*

*smoke.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[25446, 25450]

**flood** someone or something **out of** something and **flood**

someone or something **out†** [for too much water] to force

someone or something to leave something or some place.

\_ *The high waters f looded them out of their home.* \_ *The*

*high waters f looded out a lot of people.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[25482, 25485]

**flop** something **down on(to)** something and **flop** something

**down†** to drop or slap something down on something.

\_ *She f lopped the liver down on the cutting board.* \_ *She*

*f lopped down the raw meat.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[25584, 25588]

**fluff** one’s **lines** and **blow** one’s **lines; muff** one’s **lines**

to speak one’s speech badly or forget one’s lines when one

is in a play. \_ *The actress f luffed her lines badly in the last*

*act.* \_ *I was in a play once, and I muffed my lines over and*

*over.* \_ *It’s okay to blow your lines in rehearsal.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[25601, 25605]

**flush** someone or something **out of** some place and **flush**

someone or something **out†** to cause someone or something

to leave a hiding place. (Originally from hunting.) \_ *The*

*police f lushed the gunman out from his hiding place.* \_*They*

*f lushed out the crooks.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[25620, 25625]

**flutter about** and **flutter around 1.** *Lit.* to fly about

with quick, flapping motions of the wings. \_ *The moths*

*f luttered about aimlessly.* \_ *A few birds f luttered around.*

**2.** *Fig.* [for someone] to move about quickly and busily.

\_ *Aunt Margaret f luttered about, picking up after everyone.*

\_ *Stop f luttering around and sit down!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[25626, 25632]

**flutter about** something and **flutter around** something

**1.** *Lit.* to fly around something or some place. \_ *The*

*moths were f luttering about the lightbulb.* \_*The butterf lies*

*f luttered around the bright f lowers.* **2.** *Fig.* to keep moving

busily within a particular place. \_*The maid fluttered*

*about the house, dusting and arranging.* \_ *She f luttered*

*around the house from room to room.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[25678, 25682]

**fly in the face of** someone or something and **fly in the**

**teeth of** someone or something *Fig.* to challenge someone

or something; to go against someone or something. \_*This*

*idea f lies in the face of everything we know about matter*

*and energy.* \_*You had better not f ly in the face of the committee.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[25734, 25738]

**fly** someone or something **in(to** some place**) (from** some

place**)** and **fly** someone or something **in†** to transport someone

or something to some place from some place. \_ *We*

*f lew the documents into Adamsville from Springfield.* \_*We*

*f lew in the documents to Chicago from Springfield.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[25739, 25743]

**fly** someone or something **out of** something and **fly** someone

or something **out†** to transport someone or something out

of something by air. \_ *They f lew the tourists out of the*

*troubled area on chartered f lights.* \_ *The tourists f lew out*

*to any destination that was available.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[25877, 25882]

**follow in** someone’s **tracks** and **follow in** someone’s

**footsteps** to follow someone’s example; to assume someone

else’s role or occupation. \_*The vice president was following*

*in the president’s footsteps when he called for budget*

*cuts.* \_ *She followed in her father’s footsteps and went*

*into medicine.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[25904, 25908]

**follow** someone or something **about** and **follow** someone

or something **around** to go the same route as someone or

something all the time; to trail someone or something. \_

*Why are you always following me about?* \_ *Stop following*

*me around.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[25917, 25920]

**follow** someone **up†** and **follow up (on** someone**)** to check

on the work that someone has done. \_ *I have to follow*

*Sally up and make sure she did everything right.* \_ *I follow*

*up Sally, checking on her work.* \_ *I’ll follow up on her.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[25923, 25930]

**follow** something **up†** and **follow up (on** something**) 1.** to

check something out; to find out more about something.

\_*Would you please follow this lead up? It might be important.*

\_ *Please follow up this lead.* \_ *I’ll follow up on it.* \_

*Yes, please follow up.* **2.** to make sure that something was

done the way it was intended. \_ *Please follow this up. I*

*want it done right.* \_ *Please follow up this business.* \_ *I’ll*

*follow up on it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[25940, 25944]

**follow through (on** something**)** and **carry through (on**

something**)** to complete a task; to see a task through to its

completion. \_ *You must follow through on the things that*

*you start.* \_ *Don’t start the job if you can’t follow through.*

\_ *Ask Sally to carry through on her project.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[25945, 25948]

**follow through (with** something**)** and **follow** something

**through** to complete an activity, doing what was

promised. \_*I wish you would follow through with the project*

*we talked about.* \_ *You never follow through!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26033, 26035]

**for a lark** and **on a lark** for a joke; as something done for

fun. \_ *For a lark, I wore a clown’s wig to school.* \_ *On a*

*lark, I skipped school and drove to the beach.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26045, 26048]

**\*for a spin** and **\*for a ride; \*for a drive** to take a ride

in a vehicle or on a bicycle. (\*Typically: **go ~; go out**

**~; take** something **~**.) \_ *Let’s get out our bikes and go*

*for a spin.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26062, 26066]

**for all it’s worth** and **for what(ever) it’s worth** if it

has any value. (Usually implies lack of confidence.) \_*My*

*idea—for all it’s worth—is to offer them only $300.* \_*Here*

*is my thinking, for whatever it’s worth.* \_*Ask her to give us*

*her opinion, for what it’s worth.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26090, 26094]

**for chicken feed** and **for peanuts** *Fig.* for nearly nothing;

for very little money. (Also used without *for*.) \_ *Bob*

*doesn’t get paid much. He works for chicken feed.* \_*You can*

*buy an old car for chicken feed.* \_ *I won’t do that kind of*

*work for peanuts!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26096, 26100]

**For crying out loud!** and **For crying in a bucket!** *Inf.*

an exclamation of shock, anger, or surprise. \_ *Fred: For*

*crying out loud! Answer the telephone! Bob: But it’s always*

*for you!* \_ *John: Good grief! What am I going to do? This*

*is the end! Sue: For crying in a bucket! What’s wrong?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26130, 26133]

**for kicks** and **for laughs; for giggles** *Fig.* for fun; just

for entertainment; for no good reason. \_ *They didn’t*

*mean any harm. They just did it for kicks.* \_*We drove over*

*to the next town for laughs.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26149, 26151]

**for openers** and **for starters** to start with. \_ *For openers,*

*they played a song everyone knows.* \_ *For starters, I’ll*

*serve a delicious soup.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26153, 26157]

**For Pete’s sake!** and **For pity’s sake!; For the love**

**of Mike!; For goodness sake!; For gosh sake!;**

**For heaven(’s) sake!** a mild exclamation of surprise or

shock. \_*For Pete’s sake! How’ve ya been?* \_*For pity’s sake!*

*Ask the man in out of the cold!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26176, 26181]

**for (**some**) days running** and **for (**some**) weeks running;**

**for (**some**) months running; for (**some**) years**

**running** days in a series; months in a series; etc. (The

*some* can be any number.) \_ *I had a bad cold for five days*

*running.* \_ *For two years running, I brought work home*

*from the office every night.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26184, 26189]

**for** someone or something’s **sake** and **for the sake of** someone

or something for the purpose or benefit of someone or

something; to satisfy the demands of someone or something.

\_*I made a meatless dinner for John’s sake; he’s a vegetarian.*

\_*The teacher repeated the assignment for the sake*

*of the slower students.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26208, 26211]

**for the devil of it** and **for the heck of it; for the hell**

**of it** because it is slightly evil; for no good reason. (Use

caution with hell.) \_ *The kids broke the window just for*

*the devil of it.* \_ *We just drove over for the heck of it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26229, 26233]

**for the moment** and **for the time being** for the present;

for now; temporarily. \_*This quick fix will have to do*

*for the moment.* \_ *This is all right for the time being. It’ll*

*have to be improved next week, however.* \_ *This good feeling*

*will last only for the time being.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26246, 26255]

**For want of a nail the shoe was lost; for want of**

**a shoe the horse was lost; and for want of a**

**horse the man was lost.** *Prov.* Overlooking small

details can have disastrous consequences. (You can quote

any of the sentences in this proverb by themselves.) \_*Jill:*

*I don’t think we need to check our bicycle tires before we go*

*for our ride. Jane: I disagree. For want of a nail the shoe*

*was lost.* \_*Before we began the hike into the mountains, we*

*checked our equipment painstakingly, remembering that for*

*want of a horse the man was lost.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26286, 26293]

**force** someone or something **in(to)** something and **force**

someone or something **in† 1.** to make someone or something

go into something. \_ *Please don’t force me into that*

*little room!* \_ *They forced in many people.* **2.** to make

someone or something fit into something. \_ *Don’t try to*

*force the plug into the socket.* \_ *Don’t force in the plug.* \_

*Sam forced his buddy into the cabinet, and left him well hidden*

*there.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26294, 26302]

**force** someone or something **off (of )** something and **force**

someone or something **off† 1.** *Lit.* to get someone, something,

or an animal off something. (*Of* is usually retained

before pronouns.) \_ *I had to force the cat off the sofa. She*

*just wouldn’t be coaxed off.* \_ *I had to force off the cat. She*

*is so stubborn.* **2.** *Fig.* to make someone or a group resign

from a board, committee, panel, etc. \_*They forced her off*

*the board before she could change any of their policies.* \_

*They forced off the dissenters as well as the CEO.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26307, 26310]

**force** someone or something **out of** something and **force**

someone or something **out†** to drive someone or something

out of something or some place. \_ *The citizen’s group*

*forced the governor out of office.* \_*They forced out the governor.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26316, 26320]

**force** someone **out of office** and **drive** someone **out of**

**office; drive** someone **out†; force** someone **out†** to

drive someone out of an elective office. \_ *The city coun-*

*cil forced out the mayor, who resigned under pressure.* \_

*Please resign immediately, or I’ll have to drive you out.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26326, 26330]

**force** someone **to the wall** and **drive** someone **to the**

**wall** *Fig.* to push someone to an extreme position; to put

someone into an awkward position. \_*He wouldn’t tell the*

*truth until we forced him to the wall.* \_*They don’t pay their*

*bills until you drive them to the wall.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26360, 26364]

**forever and ever** and **forever and a day** forever. \_ *I*

*will love you forever and ever.* \_ *This car won’t keep running*

*forever and ever. We’ll have to get a new one sometime*

*upcoming.* \_ *We have enough money to last forever and a*

*day.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26365, 26368]

**forewarn** someone **about** something and **forewarn** someone

**of** something to warn someone about someone or

something. \_ *They forewarned us of your strange behavior.*

\_ *Didn’t we forewarn you about Max’s problem?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26457, 26464]

**Fortune favors the brave.** and **Fortune favors the**

**bold.** *Prov.* You will have good luck if you carry out your

plans boldly. (Used to encourage people to have the

courage to carry out their plans.) \_ *Fortune favors the*

*bold, Bob. Quit your day job and work on your novel fulltime.*

\_ *Jill: Let’s wait till next year before trying to start*

*our own business. Jane: No. We’ll do it this year. Fortune*

*favors the brave.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26510, 26513]

**four sheets in the wind** and **four sheets (to the**

**wind)** intoxicated. (See comments at three sheets in the

wind.) \_*She’s not just tipsy. She’s four sheets!* \_*After only*

*three beers, Gary was four sheets to the wind.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26547, 26551]

**freak out (over** someone or something**)** and **freak out (at**

someone or something**)** to become very angry or lose control

of one’s mind because of someone or something that

has happened. \_ *I absolutely freaked out over the whole*

*business!* \_ *Don’t freak out at me!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26568, 26573]

**\*free as a bird** and **\*free as (the) air** *Cliché* carefree;

completely free and unhindered. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *Jane*

*is always happy and free as a bird.* \_ *The convict escaped*

*from jail and was as free as a bird for two days.* \_ *No, I’m*

*not married. I don’t even have a girlfriend. I’m free as the*

*air.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26601, 26606]

a **free translation** and a **loose translation** a translation

or restatement that is not completely accurate and not

well thought out; a translation or restatement done casually.

\_ *John gave a free translation of what our Japanese*

*client asked for, and we missed the main issue.* \_*Anne gave*

*a very free translation of the ancient Chinese poem.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26662, 26666]

**fresh out (of** something**)** and **clean out (of** something**)**

just now having sold or used up the last of something. \_

*Sorry, I can’t serve you scrambled eggs. We are fresh out of*

*eggs.* \_*We are fresh out of nails. I sold the last box just ten*

*minutes ago.* \_ *Lettuce? Sorry. I’m clean out.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26682, 26685]

**fret about** someone or something and **fret over** someone or

something to worry about someone or something. \_*Please*

*don’t fret about being a few minutes late.* \_*There is no need*

*to fret over Larry.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26702, 26709]

**frighten** one **out of** one’s **wits** and **scare** one **out of**

one’s **wits; frighten** someone **out of a year’s growth;**

**scare** someone **out of a year ’s growth; frighten** one

**out of** one’s **mind; scare** one **out of** one’s **mind** *Fig.*

to frighten one very badly. \_ *Oh! That loud noise scared*

*me out of my wits.* \_ *I’ll give him a good scolding and*

*frighten him out of his wits.* \_ *Oh, you frightened me out*

*of a year’s growth!* \_ *You frightened Bob out of his mind.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26725, 26731]

**frighten** someone or an animal **to death** and **scare** someone

or an animal **to death 1.** *Lit.* to frighten a living creature

badly enough to cause death. \_*The roar of the plane*

*engine seems to have frightened the little dog to death.* **2.**

*Fig.* to frighten someone severely. \_ *The dentist always*

*frightens me to death.* \_ *She scared me to death when she*

*screamed.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26732, 26736]

**frighten** someone or something **away†** and **frighten** someone

or something **off†** to scare someone or something off.

\_ *The noise frightened the burglar away.* \_ *Something*

*frightened away the prowlers.* \_*The high prices frightened*

*the shoppers off.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26739, 26747]

**frighten the hell out of** someone and **frighten the**

**pants off** someone**; frighten the living daylights**

**out of** someone**; scare the living daylights out of**

someone**; scare the shit out of** someone**; scare the**

**wits out of** someone to frighten someone badly, suddenly

or both. (Use of *hell* and *shit* are crude.) \_ *These*

*figures frighten the hell out of me.* \_ *The door blew shut*

*and scared the shit out of me.* \_ *It takes a lot to scare the*

*pants off a hardened criminal.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26749, 26754]

**frightened to death** and **scared to death 1.** *Lit.*

frightened to the point of dying. \_ *This poor animal has*

*been frightened to death by the attacking dogs.* **2.** *Fig.*

frightened or anxious. \_ *I don’t want to go to the dentist*

*today. I’m frightened to death.* \_*I’m frightened to death of*

*spiders.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26768, 26771]

**from all corners of the world** and **from the four**

**corners of the earth** *Fig.* from all places in the world.

\_ *People came from all corners of the world to attend the*

*conference.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26786, 26790]

**from far and near** and **from near and far** from all

around, both close by and farther away. (In either order.)

\_ *All the young people from far and near gathered at the*

*high school for the game.* \_ *The eagles gathered from near*

*and far at the river where the salmon were spawning.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26807, 26809]

**from here on (in)** and **from here on (out)** from this

point forward. \_ *From here on in we do it my way.* \_ *I*

*want everything clear from here on out.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26819, 26827]

**from my perspective** and **from where I stand; from**

**my point of view; the way I see it** *Fig.* in my own

opinion. \_*Mary: What do you think of all this? Tom: From*

*my perspective, it is just terrible.* \_ *Bob: From my point of*

*view, this looks like a very good deal. Bill: That’s good for*

*you. I stand to lose money on it.* \_ *Alice: From where I*

*stand, it appears that you’re going to have to pay a lot of*

*money to get this matter settled. Sue: I’ll pay anything. I just*

*want to get all this behind me.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26885, 26892]

**from the old school** and **of the old school** *Fig.* holding

attitudes or ideas that were popular and important in

the past, but which are no longer considered relevant or

in line with modern trends. (See also of the old school.)

\_ *Grammar is not taught much now, but fortunately my*

*son has a teacher from the old school.* \_ *Aunt Jane is from*

*the old school. She never goes out without wearing a hat and*

*gloves.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[26917, 26919]

**from this day on** and **from this day forward** from

today into the future. \_ *We’ll live in love and peace from*

*this day on.* \_ *I’ll treasure your gift from this day forward.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27003, 27007]

**full of hot air** and **full of beans; full of bull; full of**

**it; full of prunes** *Fig.* full of nonsense; talking nonsense.

\_ *Oh, shut up, Mary. You’re full of hot air.* \_ *Don’t*

*pay any attention to Bill. He’s full of beans.* \_ *My English*

*professor is full of bull.* \_ *You’re full of it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27014, 27017]

**full of the devil** and **full of Old Nick** always making

mischief. \_*Little Chuckie is sure full of the devil.* \_*Toward*

*the end of the school year, the kids are always full of Old*

*Nick.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27032, 27035]

**fume about** someone or something and **fume over** someone

or something to be very angry about someone or something.

\_ *She was just fuming over her broken vase.* \_ *She*

*was still fuming about Larry the next morning.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27054, 27057]

**funny bone** and **crazy bone** a spot near the elbow bone

that is very sensitive to the touch. \_ *Ouch, I hit my funny*

*bone.* \_ *Effie bumped her crazy bone and made a horrendous*

*face.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27078, 27082]

**furnish** something **for** someone or something and **furnish**

someone or something **with** something to provide something

for someone or a group. \_ *I would be happy to furnish*

*dinner for the visitors.* \_*I furnished the board of directors*

*with the information.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27097, 27100]

**fuss about** and **fuss around** to go about complaining;

to move about in a busy manner. \_ *Don’t fuss about so*

*much. Things will take care of themselves.* \_*Now, stop fussing*

*around and sit down.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27126, 27128]

**gad around** and **gad about** to go from place to place,

having fun. \_ *I’m too old to gad around like that.* \_ *She*

*wasted too much time gadding about with her friends.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27189, 27193]

The **game is up.** and The **jig is up.** *Fig.* The illegal activity

has been found out or has come to an end. \_ *When*

*the police were waiting for them inside the bank vault, the*

*would-be robbers knew that the game was up.* \_ *“The jig is*

*up!” said the cop as he grabbed the shoulder of the pickpocket.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27224, 27228]

**garner** something **in†** and **garner** something **up†** to take

something in and store it; to harvest something in and

store it. (Originally referred to grain stored in a granary.)

\_ *Will they garner the crop in on time this year?* \_ *They*

*had garnered in the entire crop by late October.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27264, 27268]

**gather** someone **into** something and **gather** someone **in†** to

assemble or bring people into something or some place.

\_ *The hostess gathered the children into the house just as*

*the storm hit.* \_*She gathered in the children.* \_*Harry gathered*

*them in before the storm.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27356, 27360]

**generalize about** someone or something and **generalize**

**on** someone or something to interpret someone or something

in very general terms. \_ *Sometimes it isn’t wise to*

*generalize about a complicated issue.* \_ *She is very complex*

*and it is difficult to generalize on her.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27367, 27370]

**Generation X** and **Generation X’er** people reaching

puberty during the 1970s and 1980s. \_*Three or four generation*

*X’ers were in the antique store looking eagerly at*

*some of those horrible old dinette chairs from the 1950s.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27402, 27407]

**get a charge out of** someone or something and **get a bang**

**out of** someone or something; **get a kick out of** someone

or something to receive special pleasure from someone

or something. \_*I really got a charge out of that comedian’s*

*routine.* \_*Tom is really funny. I always get a kick out of his*

*jokes.* \_*Bill really got a bang out of the present we gave him.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27408, 27410]

**get a hurry on** and **get a move on** to start to hurry. \_

*We are going to leave in five minutes, Jane. Get a hurry on!*

\_ *Mary! Get a move on! We can’t wait all day.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27426, 27430]

**get a rise from** someone and **get a rise out of** someone

*Fig.* to make someone react, usually angrily. \_ *Tease Joe*

*about his girlfriend. That generally gets a rise from him.* \_

*I pestered Mary for half the afternoon, but didn’t get a rise*

*out of her.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27437, 27443]

**get a word in edgewise** and **get a word in edgeways**

*Fig.* to manage to say something when other people

are talking and ignoring you. (Often in the negative.

Alludes to trying to “squeeze” a word into a running conversation.)

\_ *It was such an exciting conversation that I*

*could hardly get a word in edgewise.* \_ *Mary talks so fast*

*that nobody can get a word in edgeways.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27447, 27449]

**get about** and **get around** to manage to move around.

\_ *I broke my hip last year, but I can still get about.* \_ *Dad*

*can’t get around too much anymore, so I go over to help him.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27475, 27479]

**get along (on a shoestring)** and **get by (on a shoestring)**

*Fig.* to be able to afford to live on very little

money. \_ *For the last two years, we have had to get along*

*on a shoestring.* \_ *With so many expenses, it’s hard to get*

*by on a shoestring.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27552, 27555]

**get away with** something and **get by with** something to

do something and not get punished for it. (See also get

away with murder.) \_ *You can’t get away with that!* \_

*Larry got by with the lie.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27622, 27626]

**get down to business** and **get down to work** to begin

to get serious; to begin to negotiate or conduct business.

\_ *All right, everyone. Let’s get down to business. There has*

*been enough chitchat.* \_*When the president and vice president*

*arrive, we can get down to business.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27651, 27662]

**get enough nerve up† (to** do something**)** and **get**

**enough courage up† (to** do something**); get enough**

**guts up† (to** do something**); get enough pluck up†**

**(to** do something**); get enough spunk up† (to** do something**);**

**get the nerve up† (to** do something**); get the**

**courage up† (to** do something**); get the guts up† (to**

do something**); get the pluck up† (to** do something**); get**

**the spunk up† (to** do something**)** *Fig.* to work up enough

courage to do something. \_ *I hope I can get enough nerve*

*up to ask her for her autograph.* \_ *I wanted to do it, but I*

*couldn’t get up enough nerve.* \_ *I thought he would never*

*get up the courage to ask me for a date.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27668, 27675]

**get free of** someone or something and **get free from** someone

or something **1.** to rid oneself of the burden of someone

or something. \_ *Can’t I get free of this problem?* \_ *I*

*can’t seem to get free of Randy.* **2.** to liberate oneself from

someone or something. \_ *I tried to get free of Mr. Franklin,*

*but he kept talking and wouldn’t let me interrupt.* \_ *Is*

*there any way that somebody can get free of Tom?* \_ *I*

*couldn’t get free of the nail that had snagged my sleeve.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27704, 27710]

**get into an argument (with** someone**) (about** someone

or something**)** and **get into an argument (with**

someone**) (over** someone or something**)** to enter a quarrel

with someone about someone or something. \_ *I don’t*

*want to get into an argument with you about Dan.* \_*Mary*

*got into an argument about money with Fred.* \_ *I really*

*don’t want to get into an argument.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27813, 27816]

**get off (easy)** and **get off (lightly)** to receive very little

punishment (for doing something wrong). \_*It was a seri-*

*ous crime, but Mary got off easy.* \_ *Billy’s punishment was*

*very light. Considering what he did, he got off lightly.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27827, 27830]

**get off (of )** someone or something and **get off** to get down

from someone or something. (*Of* is usually retained before

pronouns.) \_ *Please get off of me. I can’t play piggyback*

*anymore.* \_ *Get off of the sofa!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27831, 27836]

**get off (of )** something and **get off** *Inf.* to stop discussing

the topic that one is supposed to be discussing [and start

discussing something else]; to stray from the topic at hand.

(*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.) \_ *I wish you*

*wouldn’t get off the subject so much.* \_ *This writer gets off*

*of his topic all the time.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27837, 27841]

**get off** one’s **ass** and **get off** one’s **rear; get off** one’s

**butt** *Sl.* to get up and get busy; to stop loafing and get to

work. (Caution with *ass*. *Butt* is also offensive to some

people.) \_ *Get off your ass and get busy!* \_ *It’s time you*

*got off your butt and started to work.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27846, 27849]

**Get off** someone’s **case!** and **Get off** someone’s **back!** *Fig.*

*Inf.* Leave someone alone!; Stop picking on someone!

(Usually a command.) \_ *I’m tired of your criticism, Bill.*

*Get off my case!* \_ *Quit picking on her. Get off her back!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27896, 27901]

**get on (with** someone**)** and **get along (with** someone**)**

to be friends with someone; to have a good relationship

with someone. (The friendship is always assumed to be

good unless it is stated to be otherwise.) \_*How do you get*

*on with John?* \_ *I get along with John just fine.* \_ *We get*

*along.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27909, 27917]

**get** one **on** one’s **feet** and **put** one **on** one’s **feet 1.** *Lit.*

to help someone stand up after a fall or prolonged bed rest.

\_ *We had to get him on his feet, but he was able to walk*

*without much help.* \_ *We put the child on his feet and he*

*took off running again.* **2.** *Fig.* to get someone back to normal,

financially, medically, mentally, etc. \_ *When he gets*

*himself on his feet, Tom will buy a new car.* \_ *We will put*

*him on his feet and help him along.* \_ *When I get myself*

*on my feet, things will be better.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27927, 27930]

**get** one’s **ass in gear** and **get one’s tail in gear** *Sl.* to

get moving; to get organized and get started. (Use cau-

tion.) \_ *Come on, you guys. Get moving. Get your ass in*

*gear!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27947, 27950]

**get** one’s **ears set out** and **get** one’s **ears lowered** *Fig.*

to get one’s ears made more visible by getting a haircut.

\_*Well, I see you got your ears set out!* \_*Better get my ears*

*lowered because I’m getting a little shaggy.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27967, 27974]

**get** one’s **hands dirty** and **dirty** one’s **hands; soil** one’s

**hands 1.** *Fig.* to get closely involved in a difficult task.

\_ *You have to get your hands dirty if you expect to get the*

*gutters cleaned out.* **2.** *Fig.* to become involved with something

illegal; to do a shameful thing; to do something that

is beneath one. \_ *The mayor would never get his hands*

*dirty by giving away political favors.* \_ *I will not dirty my*

*hands by breaking the law.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27975, 27982]

**get** one’s **head above water** and **have** one’s **head**

**above water 1.** *Lit.* to get one’s head above the surface

of the water while swimming. (See also keep one’s head

above water.) \_ *He finally got his head above water and*

*was able to get a good breath.* **2.** *Fig.* to manage to get oneself

caught up with one’s work or responsibilities. \_*I can’t*

*seem to get my head above water. Work just keeps piling up.*

\_ *I’ll be glad when I have my head above water.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27987, 27991]

**get** one’s **hooks in(to)** someone or something and **get** one’s

**hooks in†** *Fig.* to obtain a strong and possessive hold on

someone or something. \_ *She just can’t wait to get her*

*hooks into him.* \_ *He finally got in his hooks and guarded*

*her jealously.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[27992, 27996]

**get** one’s **just deserts** and **get** one’s **just reward(s);**

**get** one’s [specified by context] to get what one deserves. \_

*I feel better now that Jane got her just deserts. She really*

*insulted me.* \_ *The criminal who was sent to prison got his*

*just rewards.* \_ *You’ll get yours!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28013, 28017]

**get** one’s **nose out of joint** and **have** one’s **nose out**

**of joint; put** one’s **nose out of joint** *Fig.* to resent that

one has been slighted, neglected, or insulted. \_ *You get*

*your nose out of joint too easily about stuff like that.* \_*Now,*

*don’t get your nose out of joint. She didn’t mean it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28028, 28036]

**get** one’s **shit together** and **get** one’s **stuff together**

**1.** *Fig.* to get one’s possessions organized. (*Shit* is usually

taboo.) \_*Let me get my shit together, and I’ll be right with*

*you.* \_*I’ll get my shit together and be right with you.* \_*Will*

*you all please get your stuff together so we can get going?*

**2.** *Fig.* to get oneself mentally organized. (Shit is usually

taboo.) \_*As soon as I get my shit together, I can be of more*

*help.* \_*When you have your shit together you can start living*

*independently again.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28039, 28045]

**get** one’s **teeth into** something and **sink** one’s **teeth into**

something; **get** one’s **teeth in†; sink** one’s **teeth in†** *Fig.*

to begin to do something; to get completely involved in

something. \_ *I can’t wait to get my teeth into that Wallace*

*job.* \_ *Here, sink your teeth into this and see if you can’t*

*manage this project.* \_ *He’ll find it easier when he sinks in*

*his teeth.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28050, 28055]

**get** one’s **wits about** one and **have** one’s **wits about** one

*Fig.* to keep one’s thinking in order or make one’s mind

work smoothly, especially in a time of stress. (See also

keep one’s wits about one.) \_ *Let me get my wits about*

*me so I can figure this out.* \_*I don’t have my wits about me*

*at this time of the morning.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28068, 28072]

**get on(to) the (tele)phone** and **get on(to) the (telephone)**

**extension** to pick up a telephone receiver to

talk to someone or make a telephone call. \_ *I’ll get onto*

*the extension and talk with Fred.* \_*I’ll get on the phone and*

*call Fran right away.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28109, 28113]

**get (out) while the gettin(g)’s good** and **get (out)**

**while the goin(g)’s good** to leave while it is still safe

or possible to do so. \_ *I could tell that it was time for me*

*to get while the gettin’s good.* \_*I told her she should get out*

*while the goin’s good.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28165, 28169]

**get shut of** someone or something and **get shed of** someone

or something**; get shet of** someone or something *Rur.*

to get rid of someone or something. \_ *I can’t wait to get*

*shut of that old refrigerator.* \_*Tom followed me around for*

*months, but I finally got shed of him.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28225, 28230]

**get** someone or something **across** something and **get** someone

or something **across** to transport someone or something

across something. \_ *We have to get everyone across*

*the bridge before the f loodwaters rise any more.* \_ *Let’s get*

*the truck across also.* \_ *It’s foolhardy to try to get your car*

*across the desert without a few gallons of water with you.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28241, 28245]

**get** someone or something **by** someone or something and **get**

someone or something **by** to get someone or something past

an inspection. \_ *Do you think I can get my cousin by the*

*border guards?* \_ *I don’t think I can get this sausage by the*

*customs desk.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28250, 28254]

**get** someone or something **down** something and **get** someone

or something **down** to manage to put or force something

downward. \_*We finally got her down the stairs, but*

*it was a struggle.* \_ *Don had to push and push to get his*

*laundry down the chute.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28260, 28264]

**get** someone or something **in(to)** something and **get** someone

or something **in†** to manage to fit someone or something

into something. \_ *I will try to get you into the beginning*

*of the line.* \_ *The key is bent, but I think I can get it in.* \_

*He struggled to get in the key.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28265, 28268]

**get** someone or something **off** someone or something and **get**

someone or something **off** to remove someone or something

from someone, oneself, or something. \_ *Come in and get*

*those wet clothes off.* \_ *Get him off of me!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28269, 28274]

**get** someone or something **out of** one’s **mind** and **get** someone

or something **out of** one’s **head** to manage to forget

someone or something; to stop thinking about or wanting

someone or something. (Almost the same as put someone

or something out of one’s mind.) \_ *I can’t get him out*

*of my mind.* \_*Mary couldn’t get the song out of her mind.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28279, 28284]

**get** someone or something **out of** someone or something and

**get** someone or something **out†** to release or extricate

someone or something from someone, something, or

some place. \_ *See if you can get the cat out of this cabinet.*

\_*I can’t get the nail out of the board.* \_*I can get out almost*

*anything with my pry bar.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28305, 28312]

**get** someone’s **dander up** and **get** someone’s **back up;**

**get** someone’s **hackles up; get** someone’s **Irish up; put**

someone’s **back up** *Fig.* to make someone get angry.

(Fixed order.) \_ *Now, don’t get your dander up. Calm*

*down.* \_*I insulted him and really got his hackles up.* \_*Bob*

*had his Irish up all day yesterday. I don’t know what was*

*wrong.* \_ *Now, now, don’t get your back up. I didn’t mean*

*any harm.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28323, 28331]

**get** someone **through** something and **get** someone **through**

**1.** *Lit.* to manage to help someone move through some

kind of barrier or tight opening. \_ *I will do what I can to*

*get you through the front office. From then on, it’s up to you.*

\_*The first opening is tight. I can help you get through, but*

*not beyond that.* **2.** *Fig.* to help someone survive some

ordeal. \_ *The medication got her through the pain of the*

*surgery.* \_*We will get you through while you recover. Don’t*

*worry.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28344, 28348]

**get** something and **get it 1.** to receive punishment. \_ *Bill*

*broke the window, and he’s really going to get it.* \_*John got*

*it for arriving late at school.* **2.** to receive the meaning of a

joke; to understand a joke. \_ *John told a joke, but I didn’t*

*get it.* \_ *Bob laughed very hard, but Mary didn’t get it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28356, 28363]

**get** something **down (in black and white)** and **get** something

**down (on paper); get** something **down†** *Fig.* to

record some important information in writing. (Alludes

to the black of ink and the white of paper.) \_ *Be sure to*

*get his statement down in black and white.* \_ *I’m glad we*

*have agreed on a price. I want to get it down in black and*

*white.* \_ *Get down every word of it!* \_ *This is important.*

*Please get it down on paper.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28419, 28422]

**get** something **off (to** someone or something**)** and **get** something

**off†** to send something to someone or something. \_

*I have to get a letter off to Aunt Mary.* \_*Did you get off all*

*your packages?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28485, 28490]

**get** something **through** someone’s **thick skull** and **get**

something **into** someone’s **thick head** *Fig.* to manage to

get someone, including oneself, to understand something.

\_ *He can’t seem to get it through his thick skull that he has*

*to study to pass the exam.* \_*If I could get this into my thick*

*head once, I’d remember it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28506, 28511]

**get the ball rolling** and **set the ball rolling; start the**

**ball rolling** *Fig.* to get a process started. (See also keep

the ball rolling.) \_ *If I could just get the ball rolling, then*

*other people would help.* \_ *Who else would start the ball*

*rolling?* \_ *I had the ball rolling, but no one helped me with*

*the project.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28532, 28535]

**get the facts straight** and **have the facts straight**

*Fig.* to have an understanding of the real facts. \_*Ask a lot*

*of questions and get all of your facts straight.* \_ *Please be*

*sure you have the facts straight before you make a decision.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28553, 28557]

**get the lead out** and **shake the lead out** *Inf.* to hurry;

to move faster. (This originally refers to getting lead

weights (used in exercise) off so you can move faster.) \_

*Come on, you guys. Get the lead out!* \_ *If you’re going to*

*sell cars, you’re going to have to shake the lead out.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28558, 28563]

**Get the message?** and **Get the picture?** *Inf.* Do you

understand?; Are you able to figure out what is meant?

(See also (Do you) get my drift?) \_ *Things are tough*

*around here, and we need everyone’s cooperation. Get the*

*picture?* \_ *We don’t need lazy people around here. Get the*

*message?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28575, 28578]

**get the show on the road** and **get this show on the**

**road** *Fig.* to get (something) started. \_ *Let’s get started!*

*Get the show on the road!* \_ *Get this show on the road. We*

*don’t have all day.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28626, 28631]

**get to first base (with** someone or something**)** and **reach**

**first base (with** someone or something**)** *Fig.* to make a

major advance with someone or something. \_ *I wish I*

*could get to first base with this business deal.* \_*John adores*

*Sally, but he can’t even reach first base with her. She won’t*

*even speak to him.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28700, 28703]

**get up a thirst** and **work up a thirst** *Fig.* to do something

that will make one thirsty. (Fixed order.) \_ *Jogging*

*makes me work up a thirst.* \_ *Doing this kind of work*

*always gets up a thirst with me.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28724, 28727]

**get up on the wrong side of bed** and **get out of the**

**wrong side of bed** *Fig.* to seem grouchy on a particular

day. \_ *Did you get out of the wrong side of bed this*

*morning? You are a real grouch.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28742, 28745]

**get wind of** something and **catch wind of** something *Fig.*

to learn of something; to hear about something. \_ *The*

*police got wind of the illegal drug deal.* \_*John caught wind*

*of the gossip being spread about him.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28761, 28764]

**Get your ass over here!** and **Get your buns over**

**here!; Get your butt over here!** *Sl.* Get yourself over

here, now! \_*Get your butt over here and help me move this*

*trunk.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28804, 28810]

**give an account of** someone or something **(to** someone**)**

and **give someone an account of** someone or something

to tell a narrative about someone or something to

someone. \_ *You are going to have to give an account of*

*yourself to your parole officer.* \_ *Please give an account of*

*your day to my secretary.* \_ *Give me an account of every*

*minute.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28811, 28816]

**give (an) ear to** someone or something and **give** one’s **ear**

**to** someone or something *Fig.* to listen to someone or to

what someone is saying. (Compare this with get someone’s

ear.) \_*I gave an ear to Mary so she could tell me her problems.*

\_ *She wouldn’t give her ear to my story.* \_ *He gave*

*ear to the man’s request.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28859, 28862]

**give forth with** something and **give out with** something

to say or shout something. \_ *The kids in the street gave*

*forth with cries of excitement.* \_*Walter gave out with a loud*

*whoop when he heard the good news.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28863, 28868]

**give free rein to** someone and **give someone free rein**

*Fig.* to allow someone to be completely in charge (of

something). (Alludes to loosening the reins of a horse and

therefore control.) \_ *The boss gave the manager free rein*

*with the new project.* \_*The principal gave free rein to Mrs.*

*Brown in her classes.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28890, 28894]

**Give it the gun.** and **Give her the gun.** *Fig.* to make a

motor or engine run faster; to rev up an engine. (The *her*

is often pronounced “er.”) \_ *Bill: How fast will this thing*

*go? Bob: I’ll give it the gun and see.* \_*Hurry up, driver. Give*

*’er the gun. I’ve got to get there immediately.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28909, 28918]

**Give me a break!** and **Gimme a break! 1.** *Inf.* Don’t

be so harsh to me!; Give me another chance! \_ *I’m sorry!*

*I’ll do better! Give me a break!* \_ *I was only late once! Give*

*me a break!* **2.** *Inf.* That is enough, you’re bothering me!;

Stop it! \_ *Do you have to go on and on? Give me a break!*

\_ *Give me a break, you guys! That’s enough of your bickering!*

**3.** *Inf.* I don’t believe you!; You don’t expect anyone

to believe that! \_ *You say a gorilla is loose in the city?*

*Gimme a break!* \_ *Tom said he was late again because the*

*back stairs caved in. His boss said, “Gimme a break!”*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28919, 28924]

**Give me a call.** and **Give me a ring.** Please call me

(later) on the telephone. \_*Mary: See you later, Fred. Fred:*

*Give me a call if you get a chance.* \_ *“When you’re in town*

*again, Sue, give me a call,” said John.* \_ *Bob: When should*

*we talk about this again? Bill: Next week is soon enough.*

*Give me a ring.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28943, 28947]

**Give me five!** and **Give me (some) skin!; Skin me!;**

**Slip me five!; Slip me some skin!** *Sl.* Slap my hand!

(As a greeting or to show joy, etc.) \_ *“Yo, Tom! Give me*

*five!” shouted Henry, raising his hand.* \_ *Bob: Hey, man!*

*Skin me! Bill: How you doing, Bob?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28948, 28955]

**Give my best to** someone. and **All the best to** someone.

Please convey my good wishes to a particular person. (The

*someone* can be a person’s name or a pronoun. See also

Say hello to someone (for me).) \_ *Alice: Good-bye, Fred.*

*Give my best to your mother. Fred: Sure, Alice. Good-bye.*

\_*Tom: See you, Bob. Bob: Give my best to Jane. Tom: I sure*

*will. Bye.* \_ *Bill: Bye, Rachel. All the best to your family.*

*Rachel: Thanks. Bye.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[28971, 28975]

**give** one’s **right arm (for** someone or something**)** and **give**

one’s **eyeteeth (for** someone or something**)** *Fig.* to be willing

to give something of great value for someone or something.

\_ *I’d give my right arm for a nice cool drink.* \_ *I’d*

*give my eyeteeth to be there.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[29009, 29012]

**give** someone **a bang** and **give** someone **a charge; give**

someone **a kick** *Fig. Inf.* to give someone a bit of excitement.

\_ *John always gives me a bang.* \_ *The whole afternoon,*

*with all its silliness, gave me a charge anyway.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[29013, 29024]

**give** someone **a blank check** and **give a blank check**

**to** someone **1.** *Lit.* to give someone a signed check that

lacks only the amount or payment which can be filled in

by anyone. \_ *Sally sent a blank check to school with Billy*

*to pay for his books.* **2.** *Fig.* to give someone freedom or

permission to act as one wishes or thinks necessary. (See

also carte blanche.) \_*He’s been given a blank check with*

*regard to reorganizing the workforce.* \_ *The manager has*

*been given no instructions about how to train the staff. The*

*owner just gave him a blank check.* \_ *Jean gave the decorator*

*a blank check and said she wanted the whole house*

*done.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[29025, 29028]

**give** someone **a blank look** and **give** someone **a blank**

**stare** to look back at someone with a neutral look on

one’s face. \_ *After I told her to stop smoking, she just gave*

*me a blank look and kept puffing.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[29047, 29050]

**give** someone **a line** and **feed** someone **a line** to lead

someone on; to deceive someone with false talk. \_ *Don’t*

*pay any attention to John. He gives everybody a line.* \_*He’s*

*always feeding us a line.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[29065, 29068]

**give** someone **a ring** and **give** someone **a buzz; give** someone

**a call** *Fig.* to call someone on the telephone. \_ *Nice*

*talking to you. Give me a ring sometime.* \_ *Give me a buzz*

*when you’re in town.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[29070, 29076]

**Give** someone **an inch and** he’ll **take a mile.** and **Give**

someone **an inch and** he’ll **take a yard.** *Prov.* Be generous

to someone and the person will demand even more.

(Describes someone who will take advantage of you if you

are even a little kind to him or her.) \_*If you let Mark borrow*

*your tools for this weekend, he’ll wind up keeping them*

*for years. Give him an inch and he’ll take a mile.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[29213, 29216]

**give** something **a try** and **give** something **a go; give** something

**a whirl; give** something **a shot** to make a try at

something. \_ *Why don’t you give it a go and see if you like*

*it?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[29241, 29243]

**give** something one’s **best shot** and **give** one’s **best** *Fig.*

to give a task one’s best effort. \_*I gave the project my best*

*shot.* \_ *Sure, try it. Give it your best!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[29267, 29270]

**give teeth to** something and **put teeth in(to)** something

*Fig.* to make something powerful; to give something a real

effect. \_ *The severe penalty really gives teeth to the law.* \_

*Strong enforcement puts teeth in the regulation.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[29273, 29279]

**give the devil his due** and **give the devil her due**

*Fig.* to give your foe proper credit (for something). (This

usually refers to a person who has been evil—like the

devil.) \_ *She’s very messy in the kitchen, but I have to give*

*the devil her due. She bakes a terrific cherry pie.* \_ *John is*

*a bit too nosy, but he keeps his yard clean and is a kind*

*neighbor. I’ll give the devil his due.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[29298, 29303]

**give up the fight** and **give up the struggle 1.** *Lit.* to

quit fighting; to stop trying to do something. \_*Don’t give*

*up the fight. Keep trying.* \_ *Mary refused to give up the*

*struggle.* **2.** *Fig.* to give up and die. \_*At the end of months*

*of pain, she gave up the fight.* \_ *In the end, he lost interest*

*in life and just gave up the struggle.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[29460, 29463]

**glue** something **on(to)** something and **glue** something **to**

something; **glue** something **on†** to attach something to

something else with cement. \_*Please glue the binding onto*

*this book. Someone pulled it off.* \_ *Please glue on the binding.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[29501, 29505]

**go a long way toward** doing something and **go a long**

**way in** doing something *Fig.* almost to satisfy specific conditions;

to be almost right. \_*This machine goes a long way*

*toward meeting our needs.* \_ *Your plan went a long way in*

*helping us with our problem.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[29508, 29513]

**go about** and **go around 1.** [for a rumor] to go from person

to person. \_ *What is this story about you that I hear*

*going about?* \_*There was a nasty rumor about Gerald going*

*around.* **2.** [for a disease] to spread. \_ *There is a lot of*

*this f lu going about these days.* \_*There is a bad cough going*

*around.* **3.** Go to go around someone or something.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[29518, 29521]

**go about with** someone or something and **go around**

**with** someone or something to go around in the company

of someone or something. \_ *I always go about with my*

*friends.* \_ *Fran has been going around with James.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[29522, 29526]

**go above and beyond** one’s **duty** and **go above and**

**beyond the call of duty** *Fig.* to exceed what is required

of one. \_ *Doing what you ask goes above and beyond my*

*duty.* \_*My job requires me to go above and beyond the call*

*of duty almost every day.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[29592, 29595]

**go all the way (with** someone**)** and **go to bed (with**

someone**)** *Euph.* to have sexual intercourse with someone.

\_ *If you go all the way, you stand a chance of getting pregnant.*

\_ *I’ve heard that they go to bed all the time.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[29712, 29716]

**go back on** one’s **word** and **go back on** one’s **promise;**

**go back on** one’s **pledge** to break a promise that one

has made. \_ *I hate to go back on my word, but I won’t pay*

*you $100 after all.* \_*Going back on your promise makes you*

*a liar.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[29742, 29747]

**go ballistic** and **go postal** *Fig.* to become irrationally

enraged. (*Ballistic* refers to a missile launching; *postal*

refers to an enraged post office employee attacking those

at his place of work. See also go into orbit.) \_ *The boss*

*went ballistic when he saw my expense report.* \_ *She was*

*so mad, I thought she was going to go postal.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[29810, 29817]

**Go chase yourself!** and **Go climb a tree!; Go fly a**

**kite!; Go jump in the lake!** *Inf.* Go away and stop

bothering me! \_ *Bob: Get out of here. Bill! You’re driving*

*me crazy! Go chase yourself! Bill: What did I do to you? Bob:*

*You’re just in the way.* \_ *Bill: Dad, can I have ten bucks?*

*Father: Go climb a tree!* \_ *Fred: Stop pestering me, John.*

*Go jump in the lake! John: What did I do?* \_*Bob: Well, Bill,*

*don’t you owe me some money? Bill: Go f ly a kite!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[29823, 29825]

**go crazy** and **go nuts** to become crazy, disoriented, or

frustrated. \_ *It is so busy here that I think I will go crazy.*

\_ *Bob went nuts because his car got a f lat tire.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[29852, 29854]

**go down in defeat** and **go down to defeat** *Fig.* to submit

to defeat; to be defeated. \_ *The team went down in*

*defeat again.* \_ *She fears going down in defeat.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[29871, 29874]

**go down the chute** and **go down the drain; go**

**down the tube(s)** *Sl.* to fail; to be thrown away or

wasted. \_*Everything we have accomplished has gone down*

*the chute.* \_ *The whole project went down the drain.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[30015, 30025]

**go into a nosedive** and **take a nosedive 1.** *Lit.* [for

an airplane] suddenly to dive toward the ground, nose

first. \_ *It was a bad day for f lying, and I was afraid we’d*

*go into a nosedive.* \_ *The small plane took a nosedive. The*

*pilot was able to bring it out at the last minute, so the plane*

*didn’t crash.* **2.** *Fig.* [for someone] to fall to the ground

face first. \_*She took a nosedive and injured her face.* **3.** *Fig.*

to go into a rapid emotional or financial decline, or a

decline in health. \_ *Our profits took a nosedive last year.*

\_ *After he broke his hip, Mr. Brown’s health went into a*

*nosedive, and he never recovered.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[30026, 30033]

**go into a song and dance (about** something**)** and **go**

**into the same old song and dance about** something

*Fig.* to start repeating excuses or stories about something.

(See also go into one’s act.) \_ *Please don’t go into*

*your song and dance about how you always tried to do what*

*was right.* \_ *John went into his song and dance about how*

*he won the war all by himself.* \_ *He always goes into the*

*same old song and dance every time he makes a mistake.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[30043, 30046]

**go into action** and **swing into action** to start doing

something. \_*I usually get to work at 7:45, get some coffee,*

*and I go into action at 8:00.* \_ *When the ball is hit in my*

*direction, you should see me swing into action.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[30051, 30053]

**go into effect** and **take effect** [for a law or a rule] to

become effective. \_*When does this new law go into effect?*

\_ *The new tax laws won’t go into effect until next year.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[30133, 30144]

**go off the deep end** and **jump off the deep end**

**1.** *Lit.* to jump into a swimming pool where the water is

over one’s head and one needs to be able to swim \_ *You*

*are still only learning to swim. Are you ready to go off the*

*deep end?* \_ *He jumped off the deep end where he would*

*make a bigger splash.* **2.** *Fig.* to become deeply involved

(with someone or something) before one is ready. (Applies

especially to falling in love.) \_*Look at the way Bill is looking*

*at Sally. I think he’s about to go off the deep end.* **3.** *Fig.*

to act irrationally, following one’s emotions or fantasies.

\_*Now, John, I know you really want to go to Australia, but*

*don’t go jumping off the deep end. It isn’t all perfect there.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[30191, 30193]

**go on for an age** and **go on for ages** *Fig.* to continue

for a very long time. \_ *The symphony seemed to go on for*

*an age.* \_ *It seemed to go on for ages.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[30216, 30218]

**go on with** something and **go on** doing something to continue

with something. \_ *I can’t go on with this. I have to*

*rest.* \_ *You simply cannot go on behaving like this!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[30249, 30252]

**go out of fashion** and **go out of style; go out** to

become unfashionable; to become obsolete. \_ *That kind*

*of furniture went out of style years ago.* \_ *I hope this kind*

*of thing never goes out of fashion.* \_ *It went out years ago.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[30282, 30286]

**go (out) on strike** and **go out (on strike)** [for a group

of people] to quit working at their jobs until certain

demands are met. \_ *If we don’t have a contract by noon*

*tomorrow, we’ll go out on strike.* \_ *The entire workforce*

*went on strike at noon today.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[30318, 30324]

**go over** something **with a fine-tooth comb** and **search**

something **with a fine-tooth comb; go through**

something **with a fine-tooth comb** *Fig.* to search

through something very carefully. \_ *I can’t find my calculus*

*book. I went over the whole place with a fine-tooth*

*comb.* \_ *I searched this place with a fine-tooth comb and*

*didn’t find my ring.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[30367, 30373]

**go (right) through** someone and **go through** someone

**like a dose of the salts** *Fig.* [for something] to be

excreted very soon after being eaten; [for something] to

go immediately through the alimentary canal of a person.

(Use with discretion.) \_ *No, thanks. This stuff just goes*

*right through me.* \_*The coffee went through me like a dose*

*of salts.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[30374, 30377]

**go scot-free** and **get off scot-free** to go unpunished;

to be acquitted of a crime. (This *scot* is an old word meaning

“tax” or “tax burden.”) \_ *The thief went scot-free.* \_

*Jane cheated on the test and got caught, but she got off scotfree.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[30386, 30390]

**go (**someone**) one better** and **do** someone **one better** to

do something superior to what someone else has done; to

top someone. \_*That was a great joke, but I can go you one*

*better.* \_*Your last song was beautifully sung, but Mary can*

*do you one better.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[30396, 30405]

**go South** and **head South 1.** *Sl.* to make an escape; to

disappear. (Not necessarily in a southerly direction.) \_

*Lefty went South the minute he got out of the pen.* \_ *The*

*mugger headed South just after the crime.* **2.** *Sl.* to fall; to

go down. (Securities markets.) \_ *All the stock market*

*indexes went South today.* \_ *The market headed South*

*today at the opening bell.* **3.** *Sl.* to quit; to drop out of sight.

\_ *Fred got discouraged and went South. I think he gave up*

*football permanently.* \_ *After pulling the bank job, Wilbur*

*went South for a few months.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[30434, 30436]

**go the way of the dodo** and **go the way of the horse**

**and buggy** *Fig.* to become extinct; to become obsolete.

\_ *The f loppy disc has gone the way of the horse and buggy.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[30546, 30550]

**go to great lengths (to** do something**)** and **go to any**

**lengths (to** do something**)** to work very hard to accomplish

something; to expend great efforts in trying to do

something. (See also go to any length.) \_*I went to great*

*lengths to explain to him that he was not in any trouble.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[30551, 30557]

**go to hell** and **go to (the devil) 1.** *Inf.* to go to hell and

suffer the agonies therein. (Often a command. Caution

with *hell*.) \_*Oh, go to hell!* \_*Go to hell, you creep!* **2.** *Inf.*

to become ruined; to go away and stop bothering someone.

(Use *hell* with caution.) \_*This old house is just going*

*to hell. It’s falling apart everywhere.* \_ *Leave me alone! Go*

*to the devil!* \_ *Oh, go to, yourself!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[30558, 30562]

**go to hell in a bucket** and **go to hell in a handbasket**

*Fig.* to get rapidly worse and worse. \_*The school system*

*in this district is going to hell in a bucket, and no mistake.*

\_*His health is going to hell in a handbasket ever since*

*he started drinking again.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[30580, 30582]

**go to pot** and **go to the dogs** *Fig.* to go to ruin; to deteriorate.

\_*My whole life seems to be going to pot.* \_*My lawn*

*is going to pot. I had better weed it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[30591, 30595]

**go to rack and ruin** and **go to wrack and ruin** to

become ruined. (The words *rack* and *wrack* mean “wreckage”

and are found only in this expression.) \_*That lovely*

*old house on the corner is going to go to rack and ruin.* \_

*My lawn is going to wrack and ruin.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[30655, 30661]

**go to the trouble (of** doing something**)** and **go to the**

**trouble (to** do something**); go to the bother (of** doing

something**); go to the bother (to** do something**)** to

endure the effort or bother of doing something. \_*I really*

*don’t want to go to the trouble to cook.* \_ *Should I go to the*

*bother of cooking something for her to eat?* \_ *Don’t go to*

*the trouble. She can eat a sandwich.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[30740, 30745]

**go up in flames** and **go up in smoke 1.** *Lit.* to burn

up completely. \_ *The entire forest went up in f lames!* \_

*The expensive house went up in smoke.* **2.** *Fig.* [for value

or investment] to be lost suddenly and totally. \_ *Everything*

*we own has gone up in flames with the stock crash.* \_

*The entire investment went up in smoke.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[30774, 30778]

**go with** someone and **go steady with** someone to have a

romantic relationship with someone. (*Go steady* is dated.)

\_ *Sally has been going with Mark for two months now.* \_

*He wants to go steady with her. He doesn’t want her to see*

*other guys.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[30787, 30789]

**go with the flow** and **go with it** *Inf.* to cope with adversity;

to accept one’s lot. \_ *No, just relax and go with the*

*f low.* \_ *Go with it. Don’t fight it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[30795, 30799]

**go without** and **do without** to manage while not having

any of something that is needed; to not have any of something.

\_ *We were a poor family and usually went without.*

\_ *I didn’t have enough money to buy a new coat so I did*

*without.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[30824, 30828]

**God forbid!** and **Heaven forbid!** a phrase expressing the

desire that God would forbid the situation that the speaker

has just mentioned from ever happening. \_ *Tom: It looks*

*like taxes are going up again. Bob: God forbid!* \_ *Bob: Bill*

*was in a car wreck. I hope he wasn’t hurt! Sue: God forbid!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[30829, 30835]

**God helps them that help themselves.** and **God**

**helps those who help themselves.** *Prov.* You cannot

depend solely on divine help, but must work yourself

to get what you want. \_*You can’t spend your days waiting*

*for a good job to find you. God helps those that help themselves.*

\_*If you want a better education, start studying. God*

*helps those who help themselves.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[30859, 30864]

**God willing and the creek don’t rise** and **Lord willing**

**and the creek don’t rise** *Rur.* If all goes well. \_

*Tom: Will you be able to get the house painted before the*

*cold weather sets in? Jane: Yes, God willing and the creek*

*don’t rise.* \_ *We’ll be able to visit our daughter for Christmas,*

*Lord willing and the creek don’t rise.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[30896, 30899]

**going to tell** and **going to tattle** a threat that one is

going to report someone’s misdeed to someone in authority.

\_*If you do that again, I’m going to tell!* \_*Sue just went*

*to the teacher. She’s going to tattle.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[30901, 30903]

**gol dern** and **gol dang** *Rur.* God damn.; God-damned.

\_*Gol dern it, Mary, shut the screen door! Them bugs is gettin’*

*in here in droves.* \_*The gol dang car’s in the shop again.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[31035, 31041]

A **good husband makes a good wife.** and A **good**

**Jack makes a good Jill.** *Prov.* If a husband or man

wants his wife or girlfriend to be respectful and loving to

him, he should be respectful and loving to her. \_ *Don’t*

*blame your wife for being short-tempered with you; you’ve*

*been so unpleasant to her lately. A good husband makes a*

*good wife.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[31062, 31068]

**Good men are scarce.** and A **good man is hard to**

**find.** *Prov.*Men who make good husbands or workers are

rare. \_ *Larry is the best employee I’ve ever had, and I’ll go*

*to a good deal of effort to keep him, because good men are*

*scarce.* \_*“I think you should marry John,” Sue advised her*

*daughter. “He’s a good man, and a good man is hard to*

*find.”*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[31080, 31082]

**good old boy** and **good ole boy** *Rur.* a good guy; a

dependable companion. \_*Old Tom is a good old boy. He’ll*

*help.* \_ *One of these good ole boys will give you a hand.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[31106, 31112]

**Good things come to him who waits.** and **Everything**

**comes to him who waits.** *Prov.* If you are

patient you will get what you want. \_ *Fred: Why is it taking*

*you so long to get dinner ready? Can’t you hurry up?*

*Ellen: Good things come to him who waits.* \_*Jill: I wish our*

*train would get here. Jane: Everything comes to her who*

*waits.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[31131, 31139]

**Good-bye for now.** and **(Good-bye) until next time.;**

**Till next time.; Bye for now.; Till we meet again.;**

**Until we meet again.** Good-bye, I’ll see you soon.;

Good-bye, I’ll see you next time. (Often said by the host

at the end of a radio or television program.) \_ *Alice: See*

*you later. Good-bye for now. John: Bye, Alice.* \_ *Mary: See*

*you later. Bob: Good-bye for now.* \_ *The host of the talk*

*show always closed by saying, “Good-bye until next time.*

*This is Wally Ott, signing off.”*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[31140, 31146]

**(Good-bye) until then.** and **(Good-bye) till then.;**

**(Good-bye) till later.; (Good-bye) until later.**

Good-bye until sometime in the future. \_ *Sally: See you*

*tomorrow. Good-bye until then. Sue: Sure thing. See you.* \_

*Mary: See you later. Bob: Until later.* \_ *The announcer*

*always ended by saying, “Be with us again next week at this*

*time. Good-bye until then.”*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[31173, 31178]

**\*goose bumps** and **\*goose pimples** *Fig.* a prickly feeling

related to having bumps on one’s skin due to fear,

excitement, or cold. (\*Typically: **get ~; have ~; give**

someone **~**.) \_ *When I hear that old song, I get goose*

*bumps.* \_ *I never have goose pimples, but my teeth chatter*

*when it’s cold.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[31185, 31190]

**gorge** oneself **on** something and **gorge** oneself **with** something

to eat something to the point of fullness. \_ *Don’t*

*gorge yourself on the snacks. Dinner is in ten minutes.* \_

*You have gorged yourself with cheese! No wonder you’re not*

*hungry.* \_*Claire gorged herself on the doughnuts that Fred*

*bought.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[31218, 31221]

**gouge** something **out of** something and **gouge** something

**out†** to scoop or chisel something out of something. \_

*Tom gouged a horrible furrow out of the wood of the piano*

*bench.* \_ *He gouged out a horrible scratch.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[31225, 31226]

**grab a chair** and **grab a seat** *Fig.* to quickly sit down in

a seat. \_ *Grab a chair and join the group!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[31228, 31232]

**grab at** someone or something and **grab for** someone or something

to grasp quickly at someone or something; to try to

seize someone or something. \_*He grabbed at me, but I got*

*away unscathed.* \_*I grabbed at the rope, but missed.* \_*The*

*teacher grabbed for the little boy and held him.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[31242, 31246]

**grab** someone’s **attention** and **get** someone’s **attention;**

**grip** someone’s **attention** *Fig.* to draw or attract someone’s

attention. \_ *The bright colors on the poster are there*

*to grab your attention.* \_ *The scary movie gripped my*

*attention.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[31263, 31266]

a **gracious plenty** and an **elegant sufficiency** *Euph.*

enough (food). \_*No more, thanks. I have a gracious plenty*

*on my plate.* \_*At Thanksgiving, we always have an elegant*

*sufficiency and are mighty thankful for it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[31279, 31282]

**graft** something **on(to)** something and **graft** something **on†**

to splice a living part onto another living part. \_*The gardener*

*grafted a red rose onto the stem of another species.* \_

*The gardener grafted on a red rose.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[31297, 31301]

**grant** someone **no quarter** and **give** someone **no quarter**

*Fig.* not to allow someone any mercy or indulgence.

(Originally meant to refuse to imprison and simply to kill

one’s prisoner.) \_*The professor was harsh on lazy students.*

*During class, he granted them no quarter.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[31387, 31390]

**grease** someone’s **palm** and **oil** someone’s **palm** *Fig.* to

bribe someone. \_ *If you want to get something done*

*around here, you have to grease someone’s palm.* \_*I’d never*

*oil a police officer’s palm. That’s illegal.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[31422, 31425]

**Great oaks from little acorns grow.** and **Mighty**

**oaks from little acorns grow.** *Prov.* Immense things

can come from small sources. \_ *Don’t tell lies, not even*

*small ones. Great oaks from little acorns grow.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[31442, 31448]

the **greatest thing since indoor plumbing** and the

**greatest thing since sliced bread** *Rur.* the most

wonderful invention or useful item in a long time. \_ *As*

*far as I’m concerned, this new food processor is the greatest*

*thing since indoor plumbing.* \_*Joe thinks Sally is the greatest*

*thing since sliced bread. You can tell just by the way he*

*looks at her.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[31468, 31473]

**Greetings and felicitations!** and **Greetings and**

**salutations!** Hello and good wishes. (A bit stilted.) \_

*“Greetings and felicitations! Welcome to our talent show!”*

*said the master of ceremonies.* \_ *Bill: Greetings and salutations,*

*Bob! Bob: Come off it, Bill. Can’t you just say “Hi”*

*or something?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[31568, 31573]

**grist for the mill** and **grist for** someone’s **mill; grist to**

**the mill** *Fig.* something useful or needed. \_ *Bob bases*

*the novels he writes on his own experience, so everything*

*that happens to him is grist for the mill.* \_ *Ever since I*

*started making patchwork quilts, every scrap of cloth I find*

*is grist for the mill.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[31610, 31614]

**grope (about) (for** someone or something**)** and **grope**

**(around) (for** someone or something**)** to feel around

blindly for someone or something. \_ *In the darkness, he*

*groped about for his glasses.* \_ *Fran groped for the light*

*switch and found it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[31799, 31803]

a **growth experience** and a **growth opportunity;** a

**learning experience** *Euph.* an unpleasant experience.

\_*This job has been a growth experience for me. I’ve learned*

*so much.* \_ *Jim said that his trip to Mexico turned out to*

*be a real learning experience.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[31865, 31869]

**guide** someone **around** something and **guide** someone

**around** to lead or escort someone on a tour of something

or some place. \_*Please let me guide you around the plant,*

*so you can see how we do things here.* \_ *I would be happy*

*to guide you around.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[31870, 31876]

**guide** someone **away from** someone or something and

**guide** someone **away†** to lead or escort someone away

from someone, something, or some place. (Usually said

of someone who requires help or guidance.) \_ *A police*

*officer guided the children away from the busy street.* \_

*Please guide away those people before they bump into your*

*grandmother.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[31907, 31910]

**gum** something **up†** and **gum the works up†** *Fig.* to make

something inoperable; to ruin someone’s plans. \_ *Please,*

*Bill, be careful and don’t gum up the works.* \_ *Tom sure*

*gummed up the whole plan.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[31920, 31928]

**gush (forth) (from** someone or something**)** and **gush**

**(forth) (out of** someone or something**); gush (out)**

**(from** someone or something**)** to spout out of someone or

something. (Can be words, water, blood, vomit, etc. The

optional elements cannot be transposed.) \_ *The blood*

*gushed forth from his wound.* \_ *Curses gushed forth from*

*Sharon.* \_*Water gushed forth out of the broken pipe.* \_*The*

*words gushed out from her mouth.* \_*The curses gushed from*

*her mouth in torrents.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[31948, 31951]

**gut feeling** and **gut reaction; gut response** a personal,

intuitive feeling or response. \_ *I have a gut feeling*

*that something bad is going to happen.* \_ *My gut reaction*

*is that we should hire Susan for the job.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[31995, 32000]

**hack** something **out of** something and **hack** something **out†**

**1.** to cut or chop something out of something. \_ *Jill*

*hacked the bone out of the roast.* \_ *She hacked out the big*

*bone.* **2.** to fashion something by carving or chiseling from

something. \_*He hacked a rabbit out of the chunk of wood.*

\_ *In no time, the carver had hacked out a rabbit.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32017, 32023]

**had (just) as soon** do something and **would (just) as**

**soon** do something prefer to do something else; to be content

to do something. (The *would* or *had* is usually

expressed as the contraction *’d*.) \_*They want me to go into*

*town. I’d as soon stay home.* \_ *If you’re cooking stew*

*tonight, we’d as soon eat somewhere else.* \_ *I would just as*

*soon stay home as pay to go to see a bad movie.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32025, 32028]

**had rather** do something and **had sooner** do something

prefer to do something. (The *had* is usually expressed as

the contraction, *’d.*) \_ *I’d rather go to town than sit here*

*all evening.* \_ *They’d rather not.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32037, 32042]

**haggle (with** someone**) over** someone or something and

**haggle with** someone **(over** someone or something**)** to

argue with someone over someone or something. \_*I don’t*

*want to haggle with you over Tom and whose team he’s going*

*to be on.* \_ *Let’s not haggle over the price.* \_ *There is no*

*point in haggling with her.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32043, 32045]

**hail a cab** and **hail a taxi** to signal to a taxi that you want

to be picked up. \_ *See if you can hail a cab. I don’t want*

*to walk home in the rain.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32149, 32155]

**hammer** something **into** someone and **pound** something

**into** someone; **hammer** someone **in†; pound** someone

**in†** *Fig.* to teach something to someone intensively, as if

one were driving the information in by force. \_ *Her parents*

*had hammered good manners into her head since she*

*was a child.* \_*They hammered in good manners every day.*

\_ *They pounded proper behavior into the children.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32156, 32161]

**hammer** something **into** something and **pound** something

**into** something; **hammer** something **in†; pound** something

**in†** *Lit.* to drive something into something as with a

hammer. \_ *Todd hammered the spike into the beam.* \_

*He hammered in the spike.* \_ *He hammered it in with two*

*hard blows.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32162, 32165]

**hammer** something **onto** something and **hammer** something

**on†** to pound something onto something. \_ *I hammered*

*the lid onto the paint can.* \_ *She hammered on the*

*lid very tightly.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32188, 32192]

**\***a **hand in** something and **\***a **part in** something *Fig.* a part

in establishing or running something. (\*Typically: **get ~;**

**have ~; give** someone **~**.) \_*I would like to have a hand*

*in the planning process.* \_ *I will not let Jane have a part in*

*this project.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32294, 32297]

**Hands up!** and **Stick ’em up!; Put ’em up!** Raise your

hands in the air; this is a robbery! (Underworld and Old

West.) \_ *Hands up! Don’t anybody move a muscle. This is*

*a heist.* \_ *Stick ’em up! Give me all your valuables.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32325, 32328]

**hang around (with** someone**)** and **go around (with**

someone**)** *Fig.* to spend a lot of time with someone; to

waste away time with someone. \_*John hangs around with*

*Bill a lot.* \_ *They’ve been going around with the Smiths.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32361, 32365]

**hang five** and **hang ten** *Sl.* to stand toward the front of

a surfboard or diving board and hang the toes of one or

both feet over the edge. (Surfing.) \_*The coach told her to*

*hang ten and not to look down.* \_ *Get out there and hang*

*five. You can swim. Nothing can go wrong.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32380, 32382]

**hang loose** and **stay loose** to relax and stay calm. \_*Just*

*hang loose, man. Everything’ll be all right.* \_ *Stay loose,*

*chum. See ya later.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32413, 32418]

**hang on (to** someone or something**)** and **hold on (to** someone

or something**) 1.** *Lit.* to grasp someone or something.

\_ *She hung on to her husband to keep warm.* \_ *She sat*

*there and hung on, trying to keep warm.* **2.** *Fig.* to detain

someone or something. \_*Please hang on to Tom if he’s still*

*there. I need to talk to him.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32419, 32422]

**Hang on to your hat!** and **Hold on to your hat!** *Fig.*

Get ready for what’s coming!; Here comes a big shock! \_

*There is a rough road ahead. Hang on to your hat!* \_ *Here*

*we go! Hold on to your hat!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32533, 32536]

**hanker after** someone or something and **hanker for** someone

or something *Rur.* to want someone or something; to

long for someone or something. \_*I hanker after a nice big*

*beefsteak for dinner.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32551, 32558]

**\*happy as a clam (at high tide)** and **\*happy as a**

**clam (in butter sauce); \*happy as a lark; \*happy**

**as can be** contented; very happy. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *I’ve*

*been as happy as a clam since I moved to the country.* \_ *I*

*don’t need much. Just somewhere to live, some work to do,*

*and a TV to watch, and I’m happy as a clam at high tide.*

\_*Matthew was happy as a lark throughout his whole vacation.*

\_ *Bob was happy as can be when he won the lottery.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32581, 32585]

a **harbinger of things to come** and a **portent of**

**things to come;** a **sign of things to come** a sample

of the events that are to occur in the future. \_*The first*

*cuts in our budget are a harbinger of things to come.* \_

*Today’s visit from the auditors is a portent of things to come.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32592, 32594]

**\*hard as a rock** and **\*hard as stone** very hard. (\*Also:

**as ~**.) \_ *This cake is as hard as a rock!* \_ *I can’t drive a*

*nail into this wood. It’s hard as stone.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32600, 32602]

**hard at** something and **hard at** doing something working

hard at something. \_ *Tom’s busy. He’s hard at work on the*

*lawn.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32607, 32610]

a **hard nut to crack** and a **tough nut to crack** *Fig.* difficult

person or problem to deal with. \_ *This problem is*

*getting me down. It’s a hard nut to crack.* \_ *Tom sure is a*

*hard nut to crack. I can’t figure him out.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32618, 32621]

**hard put (to** do something**)** and **hard pressed (to** do

something**)** able to do something only with great difficulty.

\_ *I’m hard put to come up with enough money to pay the*

*rent.* \_ *I get hard put like that about once a month.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32627, 32630]

**hard sledding** and **tough sledding** *Fig.* a very difficult

time. \_ *They had some hard sledding when they were first*

*married.* \_ *It was tough sledding for sure when our crops*

*failed that year.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32631, 32634]

**\***a **hard time** and **\***a **bad time; \***a **rough time** trouble

[over something]; unnecessary difficulty. (\*Typically:

**have ~; give** someone **~**.) \_*Please don’t give me a hard*

*time.* \_ *The clerk got a hard time from the boss, so he quit.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32636, 32638]

**hard to believe** and **hard to swallow** not easily

believed; hardly believable. \_ *Her story was hard to swallow,*

*and it finally was proven to be a lie.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32675, 32678]

**hardly have time to breathe** and **scarcely have time**

**to breathe** *Fig.* to be very busy. \_ *This was such a busy*

*day. I hardly had time to breathe.* \_ *They made him work*

*so hard that he scarcely had time to breathe.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32737, 32740]

**hassle** someone **about** something and **hassle** someone

**with** something to harass someone about something. \_

*Come on! Don’t hassle me about the deadline!* \_ *Stop hassling*

*me with all the little details.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32790, 32794]

**haul** something **(from** some place**) to** some place and **haul**

something **from** some place **(to** some place**)** to drag something

from one place to another. \_*I don’t want to have to*

*haul this thing from home to office and back again.* \_ *I*

*hauled my suitcase to the airport from my hotel.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32798, 32801]

**haul up (**somewhere**)** and **pull up (**somewhere**)** to stop

somewhere; to come to rest somewhere. \_*The car hauled*

*up in front of the house.* \_ *My hat blew away just as the*

*bus pulled up to the stop.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32864, 32870]

**have a clear conscience (about** someone or something**)**

and **have a clean conscience (about** someone or

something**)** to be free of guilt about someone or something.

\_ *I’m sorry that John got the blame. I have a clean conscience*

*about the whole affair.* \_ *I have a clear conscience*

*about John and his problems.* \_*I didn’t do it. I swear to that*

*with a clean conscience.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32872, 32876]

**have a close shave** and **have a close call** *Fig.* to have

a narrow escape from something dangerous. \_ *What a*

*close shave I had! I nearly fell off the roof when I was working*

*there.* \_ *I almost got struck by a speeding car. It was a*

*close shave.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32886, 32894]

**have a corncob up** one’s **ass** and **have a poker up**

one’s **ass 1.** *Inf.* to be very stiff. (Use with caution.) \_

*How come you’re acting so high-and-mighty with me? Do*

*you have a corncob up your ass?* \_ *He was a terrible actor,*

*stiff and wooden. He looked like he had a poker up his ass.*

**2.** *Inf.* to be very touchy or irritable. \_*Wow! Old Mr. Webster*

*really has a corncob up his ass this morning. Watch out!*

\_ *Tom has a poker up his ass and he’s looking for you. Better*

*make yourself scarce.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32909, 32914]

**have a finger in the pie** and **have** one’s **finger in the**

**pie** *Fig.* to have a role in something; to be involved in

something. (See also have one’s finger in too many pies)

\_ *Tess wants to have a finger in the pie. She doesn’t think*

*we can do it by ourselves.* \_ *Sally always wants to have a*

*finger in the pie.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32915, 32918]

**have a fit** and **throw a fit** to be very angry; to show great

anger. (See also have a conniption (fit).) \_ *The teacher*

*had a fit when the dog ran through the classroom.* \_ *John*

*threw a fit when he found his car had been damaged.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32960, 32964]

**Have a good trip.** and **Have a nice trip.** Have a pleasant

journey. (Compare this with Have a safe trip. This

phrase avoids references to safety.) \_ *As Sue stepped onto*

*the plane, someone in a uniform said, “Have a nice trip.”*

\_ *“Have a good trip,” said Bill, waving his good-byes.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32990, 32992]

**have a hidden talent** and **have hidden talents** *Fig.*

to have talents or skills that no one knows about. \_*Wow,*

*Perry! I didn’t know you had so many hidden talents.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[32996, 33001]

**have a hunch (that** something is the case**)** and **have a**

**hunch about** something to have an idea about what did,

will, or should happen; to have a feeling that something

will or should happen. \_ *I had a hunch that you would be*

*here when I arrived.* \_*I have a hunch about the way things*

*will happen.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33011, 33014]

**have a load on** and **have got a load on** *Sl.* to be intoxicated.

\_*Fred has a load on and is finished drinking for the*

*evening.* \_ *You have a load on every time I see you at a*

*party.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33041, 33046]

**Have a nice day.** and **Have a good day.; Have a nice**

**one.; Have a good one.** *Cliché* an expression said

when parting or saying good-bye. (This is now quite hackneyed,

and many people are annoyed by it.) \_ *Clerk:*

*Thank you. Tom: Thank you. Clerk: Have a nice day.* \_*Bob:*

*See you, man! John: Bye, Bob. Have a good one!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33077, 33080]

**have a rough time (of it)** and **have a tough time**

**(of it)** to experience a difficult period. \_ *Since his wife*

*died, Mr. Brown has been having a rough time of it.* \_ *Be*

*nice to Bob. He’s been having a rough time at work.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33095, 33100]

**Have a safe trip.** and **Have a safe journey.** I hope that

your journey is safe.; Be careful and assure that your journey

is safe. (Said as someone is about to leave for a trip.)

\_ *Bill: Well, we’re off for London. Sally: Have a safe trip.*

\_*Bill: You’re driving all the way to San Francisco? Bob: Yes,*

*indeed. Bill: Well, have a safe trip.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33111, 33115]

**have a screw loose** and **have a loose screw; have**

**got a screw loose** *Inf. Fig.* to be silly or eccentric. \_

*He’s sort of strange. I think he’s got a loose screw.* \_ *Yes, he*

*has a screw loose somewhere. He wears a heavy jacket in*

*the middle of summer.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33153, 33156]

**have a thing going (with** someone**)** and **have something**

**going (with** someone**)** *Fig.* to have a romance or

a love affair with someone. \_*John and Mary have a thing*

*going.* \_ *Bill has something going with Ann.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33162, 33168]

**have a tiger by the tail** and **have got a tiger by the**

**tail; have a bear by the tail** *Fig.* to have become associated

with something powerful and potentially dangerous;

to have a very difficult problem to solve. \_ *You have*

*a tiger by the tail. You bit off more than you could chew.* \_

*You’ve had a bear by the tail ever since you agreed to finish*

*that big project.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33200, 33202]

**have a yellow belly** and **have a yellow streak down**

one’s **back** *Fig.* to be cowardly. \_ *Tex has a yellow streak*

*down his back a mile wide. He’s afraid to cross the street!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33221, 33224]

**have an alcohol problem** and **have a drinking problem**

*Euph.* to be a drunkard. \_ *He has an alcohol problem.*

*It got so bad that he almost lost his job.* \_ *If you have*

*a drinking problem, our clinic can help.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33256, 33261]

**have another think coming** and **have another guess**

**coming** to have to rethink something because one was

wrong the first time. (*Think* is a noun here.) \_*She’s quite*

*wrong. She has another think coming if she wants to walk*

*in here like that.* \_ *You have another guess coming if you*

*think you can treat me like that!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33287, 33292]

**have bigger fish to fry** and **have other fish to fry;**

**have more important fish to fry** *Fig.* to have other

things to do; to have more important things to do. \_ *I*

*can’t take time for your problem. I have other fish to fry.* \_

*I won’t waste time on your question. I have bigger fish to*

*fry.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33300, 33306]

**have calluses from patting** one’s **own back** and

**break** one’s **arm patting oneself on the back** *Fig.*

to be a braggart. \_ *If you haven’t heard about Bill’s latest*

*achievement, he’d be glad to tell you. He has calluses from*

*patting his own back.* \_ *Jane: I did a really wonderful job,*

*if I do say so myself. Tom: If you’re not careful, you’ll break*

*your arm patting yourself on the back.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33392, 33396]

**have half a notion to** do something and **have half a**

**mind to** do something *Fig.* to have almost decided to do

something, especially something unpleasant. \_*I have half*

*a mind to go off and leave you here.* \_ *The cook had half a*

*notion to serve cold chicken.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33419, 33422]

**have it all together** and **have got it all together** to

be mentally and physically organized; to be of sound

mind. \_ *I don’t have it all together today.* \_ *Try me again*

*later when I have it all together.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33436, 33439]

**have it made** and **have got it made** to have succeeded;

to be set for life. \_ *I have a good job and a nice little family.*

*I have it made.* \_ *He’s really got it made since he won*

*the lottery.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33440, 33443]

**have it made in the shade** and **have got it made in**

**the shade** *Sl.* to have succeeded; to be set for life. \_

*Wow, is he lucky! He has it made in the shade.* \_ *Sarah’s*

*got it made in the shade with her huge inheritance.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33503, 33508]

**have nothing to do with** someone or something and **not**

**have anything to do with** someone or something to

prefer not to associate or be associated with someone or

something. \_ *I don’t like Mike so I won’t have anything to*

*do with the books he writes.* \_ *Bob will have nothing to do*

*with Mary since she quit her job.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33514, 33518]

**have** one’s **ass in a sling** and **have got** one’s **ass in a**

**sling** *Sl.* to be dejected or hurt; to be pouting. (Potentially

offensive. Use only with discretion.) \_ *She’s got her ass in*

*a sling because she got stood up.* \_ *So you didn’t get a perfect*

*score. Why do you have your ass in a sling?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33525, 33531]

**have** one’s **cake and eat it too** and **eat** one’s **cake and**

**have it too** *Cliché* to have in one’s possession something

and be able to use or exploit it; to have it both ways.

(Usually stated in the negative.) \_ *Tom wants to have his*

*cake and eat it too. It can’t be done.* \_ *Don’t buy a car if*

*you want to walk and stay healthy. You can’t eat your cake*

*and have it too.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33554, 33558]

**have** one’s **hand in the till** and **have** one’s **finger(s) in**

**the till** *Fig.* to steal money from one’s employer. \_*James*

*couldn’t afford that car on just his salary. He must have his*

*hand in the till.* \_ *Sally was outraged when she found that*

*one of her salesclerks had his fingers in the till.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33607, 33612]

**have** one’s **mind in the gutter** and **have got** one’s

**mind in the gutter** *Fig.* tending to think of or say things

that are obscene. \_ *Tiffany has her mind in the gutter.*

*That’s why she laughs at all that dirty stuff.* \_ *Why do you*

*tell so many dirty jokes? Do you always have your mind in*

*the gutter.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33627, 33631]

**have** one’s **rathers** and **have** one’s **druthers** (More

informal with *druthers*.) to have what one prefers; to have

one’s way. \_ *If I had my rathers, we’d go out every Friday*

*night.* \_ *I suspect that if Joe had his druthers, he’d be taking*

*Mary to the dance instead of Jill.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33632, 33637]

**have** one’s **shoulder to the wheel** and **keep** one’s

**shoulder to the wheel; pit** one’s **shoulder to the**

**wheel** *Fig.* to do the hard work that needs to be done; to

focus on getting a job done. \_ *You won’t accomplish anything*

*unless you put your shoulder to the wheel.* \_*I put my*

*shoulder to the wheel and finished the job quickly.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33656, 33659]

**have one too many** and **have a few too many** *Euph.*

to be drunk. \_ *He had one too many, and now he’s throwing*

*up.* \_ *You’d better not drive. I think you’ve had a few*

*too many.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33740, 33743]

**have** someone **in** one’s **spell** and **have** someone **under**

one’s **spell** *Fig.* to have enchanted or captivated the attention

of someone. \_ *She has him in her spell with her grace*

*and beauty.* \_ *Ken has Karen under his spell.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33749, 33753]

**have** someone or something **about** and **have** someone or

something **around** to have someone or something nearby

habitually. \_ *I really don’t want to have all those people*

*about all the time.* \_ *It’s good to have a fire extinguisher*

*around.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33789, 33794]

**have** someone or something **on** one’s **mind** and **have** someone

or something **on the brain** (More informal with

*brain*.) to think often about someone or something; to be

obsessed with someone or something. \_*Bill has chocolate*

*on his mind.* \_ *John has Mary on his mind every minute.*

\_ *Karen has Ken on the brain.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33850, 33853]

**have** something **at** one’s **fingertips** and **have** something

**at hand** *Fig.* to have something within (one’s) easy reach.

(*Have* can be replaced with *keep.*) \_ *I have a dictionary*

*at my fingertips.* \_ *I try to have everything I need at hand.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33861, 33866]

**have** something **doing** and **have** something **on** to have

plans for a particular period of time. (Note the variation

with *anything* in the examples. Fixed order.) \_ *Bob: Are*

*you busy Saturday night? Bill: Yes, I’ve got something doing.*

\_*I don’t have anything doing Sunday night.* \_*I have something*

*on almost every Saturday.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33948, 33953]

**have** something **to do with** something and **not have anything**

**to do with** something; **have nothing to do**

**with** something to be associated with or related to something.

\_ *Does your dislike for Sally have something to do*

*with the way she insulted you?* \_ *My illness has something*

*to do with my lungs.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33957, 33963]

**have** something **up** one’s **sleeve** and **have an ace up**

one’s **sleeve** *Fig.* to have a secret or surprise plan or solution

(to a problem). (Alludes to cheating at cards by having

a card hidden in one’s sleeve.) \_*I’ve got something up*

*my sleeve, and it should solve all your problems. I’ll tell you*

*what it is after I’m elected.* \_ *The manager has an ace up*

*her sleeve. She’ll surprise us with it later.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33981, 33987]

**have the cards stacked against** one and **have the**

**deck stacked against** one *Fig.* to have one’s chance at

future success limited by factors over which one has no

control; to have luck against one. \_ *You can’t get very far*

*in life if you have the deck stacked against you.* \_ *I can’t*

*seem to get ahead. I always have the cards stacked against*

*me.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[33996, 33999]

**have the devil to pay** and **have hell to pay** *Inf.* to have

a great deal of trouble. (Use *hell* with caution.) \_ *If you*

*cheat on your income taxes, you’ll have the devil to pay.* \_

*I came home after three in the morning and had hell to pay.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[34006, 34011]

**have the gift of gab** and **have a gift for gab** *Fig.* to

have a great facility with language; to be able to use language

very effectively. (See also have a way with words.)

\_ *My brother really has the gift of gab. He can convince*

*anyone of anything.* \_*I don’t talk a lot. I just don’t have the*

*gift for gab.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[34028, 34032]

**have the patience of a saint** and **have the patience**

**of Job** *Fig.* to have a great deal of patience. \_ *Steve has*

*the patience of Job given the way his wife nags him.* \_*Dear*

*Martha has the patience of a saint; she raised six children*

*by herself.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[34078, 34082]

**have too** and **have so** to have done something (despite

anything to the contrary). (This is an emphatic way of

affirming that something has happened.) \_ *Mother: You*

*haven’t made your bed. Bob: I have too!* \_ *I have so turned*

*in my paper! If you don’t have it, you lost it!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[34095, 34098]

**have too much on** one’s **plate** and **have a lot on** one’s

**plate** *Fig.* to be too busy. \_*I’m sorry, I just have too much*

*on my plate right now.* \_ *If you have too much on your*

*plate, can I help?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[34106, 34109]

**have what it takes** and **have got what it takes** to

have the skills, power, intelligence, etc., to do something.

\_ *I know I’ve got what it takes.* \_ *I guess I don’t have what*

*it takes to be a composer.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[34117, 34122]

**(Have you) been keeping busy?** and **(Have you**

**been) keeping busy?; You been keeping busy?**

*Inf.* a vague greeting asking about how someone has been

occupied. \_ *Tom: Been keeping busy? Bill: Yeah. Too busy.*

\_ *Sue: Hi, Fred. Have you been keeping busy? Fred: Not*

*really. Just doing what I have to.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[34123, 34129]

**(Have you) been keeping cool?** and **(Have you**

**been) keeping cool?; You been keeping cool?** *Inf.*

an inquiry about how someone is surviving very hot

weather. \_ *Tom: What do you think of this hot weather?*

*Been keeping cool? Sue: No, I like this weather just as it is.*

\_ *Mary: Keeping cool? Bill: Yup. Run the air-conditioning*

*all the time.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[34130, 34136]

**(Have you) been keeping out of trouble?** and **(Have**

**you been) keeping out of trouble?; You been**

**keeping out of trouble?** *Inf.* a vague greeting asking

one what one has been doing. \_ *Bob: Hi, Mary. Have you*

*been keeping out of trouble? Mary: Yeah. And you? Bob: Oh,*

*I’m getting by.* \_*Tom: Hey, man! Been keeping out of trouble?*

*Bob: Hell, no! What are you up to? Tom: Nothing.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[34137, 34142]

**(Have you) been okay?** and **You been okay?** *Inf.* a

vague greeting asking if one has been well. \_ *Tom: Hey,*

*man. How you doing? Bob: I’m okay. You been okay? Tom:*

*Sure. See you!* \_*Mary: I heard you were sick. Sally: Yes, but*

*I’m better. Have you been okay? Mary: Oh, sure. Healthy*

*as an ox.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[34143, 34147]

**(Have you) changed your mind?** and **You changed**

**your mind?** Have you decided to alter your decision? \_

*Sally: As of last week, they said you are leaving. Changed*

*your mind? Bill: No. I’m leaving for sure.* \_*Tom: Well, have*

*you changed your mind? Sally: Absolutely not!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[34148, 34154]

**Have you heard?** and **Did you hear?** a question used

to introduce a piece of news or gossip. \_ *Sally: Hi, Mary.*

*Mary: Hi. Have you heard about Tom and Sue? Sally: No,*

*what happened? Mary: I’ll let one of them tell you. Sally:*

*Oh, come on! Tell me!* \_ *Bob: Hi, Tom. What’s new? Tom:*

*Did you hear that they’re raising taxes again? Bob: That’s*

*not new.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[34163, 34168]

**Haven’t I seen you somewhere before?** and

**Haven’t we met before?** a polite or coy way of trying

to introduce yourself to someone. \_ *Bob: Hi. Haven’t I*

*seen you somewhere before? Mary: I hardly think so.* \_ *Bill*

*(moving toward Jane): Haven’t we met before? Jane (moving*

*away from Bill): No way!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[34265, 34270]

**He who laughs last, laughs longest.** and **He who**

**laughs last, laughs best.** *Prov.* If someone does something

nasty to you, that person may feel satisfaction, but

you will feel even more satisfaction if you get revenge on

that person. \_ *Joe pulled a dirty trick on me, but I’ll get*

*him back. He who laughs last, laughs best.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[34298, 34302]

**He will get his.** and **She will get hers.** One will be punished

for one’s misdeeds. \_ *Jill: It seems like Fred can do*

*any evil thing he wants. Jane: Don’t worry. He’ll get his.* \_

*You may think you will always profit by your life of crime,*

*but you’ll get yours.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[34303, 34305]

a **head** and **per head** [for] a person; [for] an individual.

\_ *How much do you charge per head for dinner?* \_ *It costs*

*four dollars a head.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[34323, 34328]

**head for the hills** and **take to the hills; run for the**

**hills 1.** *Lit.* to flee to higher ground. \_ *The river’s rising.*

*Head for the hills!* \_ *Head for the hills! Here comes the*

*f lood!* **2.** *Fig.* to depart quickly. \_ *Here comes crazy Joe.*

*Run for the hills.* \_*Everyone is heading for the hills because*

*that boring Mr. Simpson is coming here again.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[34598, 34604]

**\*hell** and **\***the **devil 1.** *Inf.* a severe scolding. (\*Typically:

**get ~; catch ~; give** someone **~**. Use caution with

*hell*.) \_ *The boss just gave me hell about it.* \_ *I’m really*

*going to give Tom hell when he gets home.* **2.** *Inf.* trouble;

pain. (\*Typically: **give** someone **~**. Use caution with

*hell*.) \_ *My arthritis is giving me hell in this weather.* \_

*This problem is giving us hell at the office.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[34623, 34628]

a **hell of a** someone or something and a **helluva** someone or

something **1.** *Inf.* a very bad person or thing. (Use caution

with *hell*.) \_*That’s a hell of a way to treat someone.* \_*He’s*

*a hell of a driver! Watch out!* **2.** *Inf.* a very good person or

thing. (Use caution with *hell*.) \_ *He is one hell of a guy.*

*We really like him.* \_ *We had a helluva good time.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[34811, 34814]

**hew** something **out of** something and **hew** something **out†**

to carve the shape of something out of something

wooden. \_*Dan hewed each of the posts out of a tree trunk.*

\_ *He hewed out a number of posts.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[34861, 34866]

**\*high as a kite** and **\*high as the sky 1.** *Lit.* very high.

(\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *The tree grew as high as a kite.* \_ *Our*

*pet bird got outside and f lew up high as the sky.* **2.** *Fig.*

drunk or drugged. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *Bill drank beer until*

*he got as high as a kite.* \_ *The thieves were high as the sky*

*on drugs.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[34999, 35002]

**hit and miss** and **hit or miss** carelessly; aimlessly; without

plan or direction. \_*There was no planning. It was justs*

*hit and miss.* \_ *We handed out the free tickets hit or miss.*

*Some people got one. Others got five or six.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[35013, 35017]

**hit home** and **strike home** *Fig.* to really make sense; [for

a comment] to make a very good point. \_ *Mary’s criticism*

*of my clothes hit home, so I changed.* \_ *The teacher’s*

*comment struck home and the student vowed to work*

*harder.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[35030, 35034]

**hit** one **where** one **lives** and **hit** one **close to home** *Fig.*

to affect one personally and intimately. \_ *Her comments*

*really hit me where I live. Her words seemed to apply directly*

*to me.* \_ *I listened carefully and didn’t think she hit close*

*to home at all.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[35100, 35102]

**hit the books** and **pound the books** *Inf. Fig.* to study

hard. \_ *I spent the weekend pounding the books.* \_ *I gotta*

*go home and hit the books. I have finals next week.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[35104, 35106]

**hit the bottle** and **hit the booze** *Fig. Inf.* to go on a

drinking bout; to get drunk. \_ *Jed’s hitting the bottle*

*again.* \_ *He’s been hitting the booze for a week now.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[35112, 35117]

**hit the bricks** and **hit the pavement 1.** *Fig. Inf.* to start

walking; to go into the streets. \_ *I have a long way to go.*

*I’d better hit the bricks.* \_ *Go on! Hit the pavement! Get*

*going!* **2.** *Inf. Fig.* to go out on strike. \_*The workers hit the*

*pavement on Friday and haven’t been back on the job since.*

\_ *Agree to our demands, or we hit the bricks.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[35128, 35131]

**hit the ceiling** and **hit the roof** *Fig.* to get very angry. \_

*She really hit the ceiling when she found out what happened.*

\_ *My dad’ll hit the roof when he finds out that I wrecked*

*his car.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[35146, 35148]

**hit the hay** and **hit the sack** *Fig.* to go to bed. \_ *I have*

*to go home and hit the hay pretty soon.* \_*Let’s hit the sack.*

*We have to get an early start in the morning.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[35168, 35171]

**hit the panic button** and **press the panic button;**

**push the panic button** *Fig.* to panic suddenly. \_ *She*

*hit the panic button and just went to pieces.* \_ *Don’t press*

*the panic button. Relax and keep your eyes open.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[35214, 35220]

**hither, thither, and yon** and **hither and thither** everywhere;

here, there, and everywhere. (Formal and archaic.)

\_ *The prince looked hither, thither, and yon for the beautiful*

*woman who had lost the glass slipper.* \_ *The terrible*

*wizard had sown the seeds of his evil vine hither, thither,*

*and yon. Soon the evil, twisted plants began to sprout in all*

*the land.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[35274, 35280]

**hold all the aces** and **hold all the cards** to be in a

favorable position; to be in a controlling position. (Alludes

to having possession of all four aces or all the high cards

in a card game.) \_ *How can I advance in my career when*

*my competitor holds all the aces?* \_*If I held all the aces, I’d*

*be able to do great things.* \_ *I tried to get my points across,*

*but Joan held all the cards and the board voted for her plan.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[35320, 35324]

**Hold on (a minute)!** and **Hold on for a minute!** Stop

right there!; Wait a minute! (*Minute* can be replaced by

*moment, second*, or other time periods.) \_ *Bob: Hold on,*

*Tom. Tom: What? Bob: I want to talk to you.* \_ *“Hold on!”*

*hollered Tom. “You’re running off with my shopping cart!”*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[35344, 35348]

**hold** one’s **end of the bargain up†** and **keep** one’s **end**

**of the bargain up†** *Fig.* to do one’s part as agreed; to

attend to one’s responsibilities as agreed. \_ *If you don’t*

*hold your end up, the whole project will fail.* \_ *Tom has to*

*learn to cooperate. He must keep up his end of the bargain.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[35411, 35415]

**hold** someone **accountable (for** something**)** and **hold**

someone **responsible (for** something**)** to consider someone

responsible for something; to blame something on

someone. \_*I hold you accountable for John’s well-being.* \_

*I must hold you responsible for the missing money.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[35457, 35462]

**hold** someone or something **in reserve** and **keep** someone

or something **in reserve** *Fig.* to hold back someone or

something for future needs. \_ *I am holding the frozen*

*desserts in reserve, in case we run out of cake.* \_ *We are*

*holding Sharon in reserve.* \_ *Keep a few good players in*

*reserve.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[35472, 35477]

**hold** someone or something **out (of** something**)** and **hold**

someone or something **out†** to set someone or something

aside from the rest; to prevent someone or a group from

participating. \_*Her parents held her out of sports because*

*of her health.* \_ *They held out every player who had an*

*injury.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[35594, 35598]

**hold still (for** someone or something**)** and **keep still (for**

someone or something**); stand still (for** someone or something**)**

to remain motionless for someone or something.

\_*Hold still for the doctor and the shot won’t hurt.* \_*Please*

*keep still for the doctor.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[35599, 35602]

**hold still for** something and **stand still for** something *Fig.*

to tolerate or endure something. (Often in the negative.)

\_ *I won’t stand still for that kind of behavior!* \_ *She won’t*

*hold still for that kind of talk.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[35655, 35657]

**Hold your horses!** and **Hold your tater!** *Fig. Inf.* Wait!

\_ *Tom: Let’s go! Let’s go! Mary: Hold your horses.* \_ *Hold*

*your tater, now. Where did you say you are going?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[35684, 35686]

**holler uncle** and **cry uncle; say uncle** *Fig.* to admit

defeat. \_ *Joe kept pounding on Jim, trying to get him to*

*holler uncle.* \_ *He twisted my arm until I cried uncle.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[35730, 35735]

**honest and aboveboard** and **open and aboveboard**

*Fig.* in the open; visible to the public; honest. \_*Don’t keep*

*it a secret. Let’s make sure that everything is honest and*

*aboveboard.* \_ *You can do whatever you wish, as long as*

*you keep it honest and aboveboard.* \_ *The inspector had to*

*make sure that everything was open and aboveboard.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[35737, 35741]

**Honest to goodness.** and **Honest to God.; Honest**

**to Pete.** I speak the truth. (Some people may object to

the use of *God* in this phrase.) \_ *Did he really say that?*

*Honest to goodness?* \_*Honest to Pete, I’ve been to the South*

*Pole.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[35802, 35807]

**hook** someone or something **up† (to** someone or something**)**

and **hook** someone or something **up† (with** someone or

something**) 1.** *Lit.* to attach someone or something to

someone or something. \_*The nurse hooked the patient up*

*to the oxygen tubes.* \_*They hooked up the patient with the*

*tubes.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[35823, 35827]

**hook** something **on(to** someone or something**)** and **hook**

something **on†** to attach something to someone or something

by a hook. \_ *Hook this sign on her and let her walk*

*around advertising our play.* \_ *Hook on the sign and hope*

*that it stays.* \_ *Hook it onto the tree carefully.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[35892, 35897]

**Hope deferred makes the heart sick.** and **Hope**

**deferred maketh the heart sick.** *Prov.* If you have

to wait a long time for something you want, you will

become despairing. (Biblical.) \_*Charlie waited so long for*

*the woman he loved that he decided he didn’t want to love*

*anybody. Hope deferred makes the heart sick.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[35905, 35913]

**Hope for the best and prepare for the worst.** and

**Hope for the best but expect the worst.** *Prov.* You

should have a positive attitude, but make sure you are

ready for disaster. \_ *While my father was in the hospital*

*after his heart attack, we hoped for the best and prepared*

*for the worst.* \_ *When you study for a major exam, hope*

*for the best but expect the worst. Don’t make yourself anxious*

*worrying that it will be too difficult, but review as if*

*you expect the exam to be extremely hard.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[35956, 35963]

**horse and buggy** and **horse and carriage; buggy**

**whip** *Fig.* a carriage pulled by a horse, as opposed to a

modern automobile; the horse was urged on with a whip.

(A symbol of old-fashionedness or out-of-dateness. Particularly

with *go out with*, as in the examples.) \_*That kind*

*of clothing went out with the horse and buggy.* \_ *I thought*

*suspenders went out with the horse and carriage, but I see*

*them everywhere now.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[35975, 35979]

a **horse of another color** and a **horse of a different**

**color** *Fig.* another matter altogether. \_*I was talking about*

*trees, not bushes. Bushes are a horse of another color.* \_

*Gambling is not the same as investing in the stock market.*

*It’s a horse of a different color.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36001, 36004]

**\*hot as fire** and **\*hot as hell** very hot; burning hot.

(\*Also: **as ~**. Use *hell* with caution.) \_ *I’m afraid Betsy*

*has a high fever. Her forehead is hot as fire.* \_ *It’s as hot as*

*hell outside. It must be near 100 degrees.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36009, 36014]

**Hot diggety (dog)!** and **Hot dog!; Hot ziggety!** *Inf.*

an expression of excitement and delight. (These expressions

have no meaning and no relationship to dogs or to

wieners.) \_ *Rachel: I got an A! Hot diggety dog! Henry:*

*Good for you!* \_ *Tom: You won first place! Mary: Hot*

*ziggety!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36050, 36054]

**hound** someone **from** some place and **hound** someone **out**

**(of** something or some place**)** to chase someone out of some

place; to force someone out of something or some place.

\_*They hounded Joel and his friends from the town.* \_*The*

*sheriff hounded Tex out of town.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36078, 36081]

a **house of ill repute** and a **house of ill fame** *Euph.*

a house of prostitution. \_*The sign says “Health Club,” but*

*everyone knows it’s a house of ill repute.* \_ *He made a lot*

*of money by running a house of ill fame.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36082, 36087]

**\***a **household name** and **\***a **household word** *Fig.* well

known by everyone; commonly and widely known.

(\*Typically: **be ~; become ~; make** something **~**.)

\_ *I want my invention to become a household word.* \_

*Some kid named Perry Hodder has become a household*

*name!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36135, 36140]

**How bout them apples?** and **How do you like them**

**apples?** *Rur.* What do you think of that? (Often used to

express admiration, as in the first example; *bout* is short

for *about*.) \_ *Tom: I got first prize! Mary: Well! How bout*

*them apples?* \_ *Joe got a job as a newspaper reporter. How*

*do you like them apples?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36215, 36216]

**How goes it (with you)?** and **How’s it going?** *Inf.*

Hello, how are you? \_ *Hi, Mary. How goes it with you?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36237, 36244]

**How may I help you?** and **How can I help you?;**

**How can I serve you?; May I help you?; What**

**can I do for you?** In what way can I serve you? (Usually

said by store clerks and food service personnel. The

first question is the most polite, and the last is the least

polite.) \_ *Waiter: How can I help you? Sue: I’m not ready*

*to order yet.* \_ *Clerk: May I help you? Jane: I’m looking for*

*a gift for my aunt.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36263, 36267]

**How’s my boy?** and **How’s the boy?** *Inf.* How are you?

(Male to male and familiar. The speaker may outrank the

person addressed.) \_ *Bob: How’s my boy? Bill: Hi, Tom.*

*How are you?* \_*Fred: Hello, old buddy. How’s the boy? Bob:*

*Hi, there! What’s cooking? Fred: Nothing much.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36274, 36279]

**How’s the family?** and **How’s your family?** an expression

used on greeting to ask about the state of the person’s

immediate family. \_ *Bob: Hello, Fred. How are you? Fred:*

*Fine, thanks. Bob: How’s the family? Fred: Great! How’s*

*yours? Bob: Couldn’t be better.* \_*“How’s the family?” asked*

*Bill, greeting his boss.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36294, 36298]

**How should I know?** and **Don’t ask me.** *Inf.* I do not

know.; Why should I be expected to know? (Shows impatience

or rudeness.) \_*Bill: Why is the orca called the killer*

*whale? Mary: How should I know?* \_ *Sally: Where did I*

*leave my glasses? Tom: Don’t ask me.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36313, 36319]

**How will I recognize you?** and **How will I know**

**you?** a question asked by one of two people who have

agreed to meet for the first time in a large busy place. \_

*Tom: Okay, I’ll meet you at the west door of the station.*

*Mary: Fine. How will I recognize you? Tom: I’ll be wearing*

*dark glasses.* \_ *Bill: I’ll meet you at six. How will I recognize*

*you? Mary: I’ll be carrying a brown umbrella.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36333, 36337]

**howl** someone **down†** and **hoot** someone **down†** *Fig.* to

yell at or boo someone’s performance; to force someone

to stop talking by yelling or booing. \_ *The audience*

*howled the inept magician down.* \_*They howled down the*

*musician.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36400, 36404]

**\*hungry as a bear** and **\*hungry as a hunter** *Cliché*

very hungry. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *I’m as hungry as a bear. I*

*could eat anything!* \_*We’d better have a big meal ready by*

*the time Tommy gets home; he’s always hungry as a hunter*

*after soccer practice.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36428, 36433]

**hunt high and low (for** someone or something**)** and **look**

**high and low (for** someone or something**); search high**

**and low (for** someone or something**)** *Fig.* to look carefully

in every possible place for someone or something. \_ *We*

*looked high and low for the right teacher.* \_*The Smiths are*

*searching high and low for the home of their dreams.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36450, 36454]

**hurl insults (at** someone**)** and **throw insults (at** someone**)**

*Fig.* to direct insults at someone; to say something

insulting directly to someone. \_ *Anne hurled an insult at*

*Bob that made him very angry.* \_ *If you two would stop*

*throwing insults, we could have a serious discussion.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36469, 36472]

**hurl** someone or something **out (of** some place**)** and **hurl**

someone or something **out†** to throw someone or something

out of some place. \_ *The manager hurled them out*

*of the tavern.* \_*The manager hurled out the annoying people.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36481, 36483]

**hurry away** and **hurry off** to leave in a hurry. \_ *I have*

*to hurry away. Excuse me, please. It’s an emergency.* \_*Don’t*

*hurry off. I need to talk to you.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36507, 36509]

**hurry up** and **hurry on** to move faster. \_*Hurry up! You’re*

*going to be late.* \_ *Please hurry on. We have a lot to do*

*today.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36574, 36579]

**I am not my brother’s keeper.** and **Am I my**

**brother’s keeper?** *Prov.* You are not responsible for

another person’s doings or whereabouts. (Biblical.) \_

*Fred: Where’s Robert? Jane: Am I my brother’s keeper?* \_

*Jill: How could you let Jane run off like that? Alan: I’m not*

*my brother’s keeper.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36582, 36589]

**(I) beg your pardon, but...** and **Begging your pardon,**

**but...** Please excuse me, but. (A very polite and formal

way of interrupting, bringing something to someone’s

attention, or asking a question of a stranger.) \_ *Rachel:*

*Beg your pardon, but I think your right front tire is a little*

*low. Henry: Well, I guess it is. Thank you.* \_ *John: Begging*

*your pardon, ma’am, but weren’t we on the same cruise ship*

*in Alaska last July? Rachel: Couldn’t have been me.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36624, 36628]

**(I) can’t beat that.** and **(I) can’t top that.** *Inf.* I cannot

do better than that.; I cannot exceed that. \_ *Henry:*

*That was really great. I can’t beat that. Rachel: Yes, that was*

*really good.* \_ *“What a great joke! I can’t top that,” said*

*Kate, still laughing.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36634, 36638]

**(I) can’t complain.** and **(I have) nothing to complain**

**about.** *Inf.* a response to a greeting inquiry asking

how one is or how things are going for one. \_ *Sue:*

*How are things going? Mary: I can’t complain.* \_*Mary: Hi,*

*Fred! How are you doing? Fred: Nothing to complain about.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36664, 36670]

**(I) can’t say that I do.** and **(I) can’t say’s I do.; (I)**

**can’t say (as) I do.** *Fig.* a vague response to a question

about whether one remembers, knows about, likes, etc.,

something or someone. (The *say as* and *say’s* are not standard

English.) \_*Jane: You remember Fred, don’t you? John:*

*Can’t say as I do.* \_ *Bob: This is a fine looking car. Do you*

*like it? Bill: I can’t say I do.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36671, 36677]

**(I) can’t say that I have.** and **(I) can’t say’s I have.;**

**(I) can’t say (as) I have.** *Fig.* a vague response to a

question about whether one has ever done something or

been somewhere. (A polite way of saying no.) \_*Bill: Have*

*you ever been to a real opera? Bob: I can’t say as I have.* \_

*Mary: Well, have you thought about going with me to Fairbanks?*

*Fred: I can’t say I have, actually.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36725, 36731]

**I didn’t catch the name.** and **I didn’t catch your**

**name.** I don’t remember your name.; I didn’t hear your

name when we were introduced. \_ *Bill: How do you like*

*this weather? Bob: It’s not too good. By the way, I didn’t catch*

*your name. I’m Bob Wilson. Bill: I’m Bill Franklin. Bob:*

*Nice to meet you, Bill.* \_*Bob: Sorry, I didn’t catch the name.*

*Bill: It’s Bill, Bill Franklin. And you? Bob: I’m Bob Wilson.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36733, 36738]

**I didn’t (quite) catch that (last) remark.** and **I didn’t**

**get that.; I didn’t hear you.** I didn’t hear what you

said, so would you please repeat it. \_ *John: What did you*

*say? I didn’t quite catch that last remark. Jane: I said it’s*

*really a hot day.* \_ *Bill: Have a nice time, if you can. Sally:*

*I didn’t get that. Bill: Have a nice time! Enjoy!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36770, 36775]

**I don’t have time to catch my breath.** and **I don’t**

**have time to breathe.** *Fig.* I am very busy.; I have been

very busy. \_ *Henry: I’m so busy these days. I don’t have*

*time to catch my breath. Rachel: Oh, I know what you mean.*

\_ *Sue: Would you mind finishing this for me? Bill: Sorry,*

*Sue. I’m busy. I don’t have time to breathe.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36799, 36804]

**I don’t understand (it).** and **I can’t understand (it).**

I am confused and bewildered (by what has happened).

\_ *Bill: Everyone is leaving the party. Mary: I don’t understand.*

*It’s still so early.* \_ *Bob: The very idea, Sue and Tom*

*doing something like that! Alice: It’s very strange. I can’t*

*understand it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36805, 36810]

**I don’t want to alarm you, but** and **I don’t want to**

**upset you, but** an expression used to introduce bad or

shocking news or gossip. \_*Bill: I don’t want to alarm you,*

*but I see someone prowling around your car. Mary: Oh,*

*goodness! I’ll call the police!* \_ *Bob: I don’t want to upset*

*you, but I have some bad news. Tom: Let me have it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36844, 36852]

**I guess** and **I expect; I suppose; I suspect 1.** a phrase

that introduces a supposition. (Frequently, in speech, *suppose*

is reduced to ’*spose*, and *expect* and *suspect* are

reduced to ’*spect*. The apostrophe is not always shown.)

\_ *Bob: I guess it’s going to rain. Bill: Oh, I don’t know.*

*Maybe so, maybe not.* \_*Alice: I expect you’ll be wanting to*

*leave pretty soon. John: Why? It’s early yet.* **2.** a vague way

of answering ‘yes’. \_ *John: You want some more coffee?*

*Jane: I ’spose.* \_ *Alice: Ready to go? John: I spect.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36853, 36860]

**I guess not.** and **(I) don’t think so.; I expect not.; I**

**suppose not.; I suspect not.; I think not.** a vague

statement of negation. (More polite or gentle than simply

saying *no*. Frequently, in speech, *suppose* is reduced to

’*spose*, and *expect* and *suspect* are reduced to ’*spect*. The

apostrophe is not always shown.) \_*Bill: It’s almost too late*

*to go to the movie. Shall we try anyway? Mary: I guess not.*

\_ *Tom: Will it rain? Mary: I ’spect not.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36861, 36867]

**I guess (so).** and **I believe so.; I expect (so).; I suppose**

**(so).; I suspect (so).; I think so.** a vague

expression of assent. (Frequently, in speech, *suppose* is

reduced to ’*spose*, and *expect* and *suspect* are reduced to

’*spect*. The apostrophe is not always shown.) \_ *Tom: Will*

*it rain today? Bob: I suppose so.* \_*Sue: Happy? Bill: I ’spect.*

*Sue: You don’t sound happy. Bill: I guess not.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36869, 36873]

**I had a lovely time.** and **We had a lovely time.** a

polite expression of thanks to the host or hostess. \_*Fred:*

*Good-bye. I had a lovely time. Bill: Nice to have you. Do*

*come again.* \_ *Jane: We had a lovely time. Mary: Thank*

*you and thanks for coming.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36874, 36878]

**(I) had a nice time.** and **(I) had a good time.** the standard

*good-bye and thank you* said to a host or hostess by

a departing guest. \_ *John: Thank you. I had a nice time.*

*Sally: Don’t stay away so long next time. Bye.* \_*Mary: Had*

*a nice time. Bye. Got to run. Sue: Bye. Drive safely.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36895, 36900]

**(I) have to be moving along.** and **(I) have to move**

**along.** It is time for me to leave. \_ *Bill: Bye, now. Have*

*to be moving along. Sally: See you later.* \_*Rachel: I have to*

*be moving along. See you later. Andrew: Bye, now.* \_ *Sally:*

*It’s late. I have to move along. Mary: If you must. Good-bye.*

*See you tomorrow.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36912, 36918]

**(I) have to shove off.** and **(I’ve) got to be shoving**

**off.; (I’ve) got to shove off.; (I) have to push off.;**

**(It ’s) time to shove off.** a phrase announcing one’s

need to depart. \_ *John: Look at the time! I have to shove*

*off! Jane: Bye, John.* \_*Jane: Time to shove off. I have to feed*

*the cats. John: Bye, Jane.* \_ *Fred: I have to push off. Bye.*

*Jane: See you around. Bye.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[36942, 36951]

**I hear what you’re saying.** and **I hear you. 1.** I know

exactly what you mean! \_*John: The prices in this place are*

*a bit steep. Jane: Man, I hear you!* \_ *Bill: I think it’s about*

*time for the whole management team to resign! Andrew: I*

*hear what you’re saying.* **2.** an expression indicating that

the speaker has been heard, but implying that there is no

agreement. \_ *Tom: Time has come to do something about*

*that ailing dog of yours. Mary: I hear what you’re saying.*

\_ *Jane: It would be a good idea to have the house painted.*

*John: I hear what you’re saying.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[37055, 37060]

**(I) won’t breathe a word (of it).** and **(I) won’t tell a**

**soul.** *Fig.* I will not tell anyone your secret. \_ *Bill: Don’t*

*tell anybody, but Sally is getting married. Mary: I won’t*

*breathe a word of it.* \_*Alice: The Jacksons are going to have*

*to sell their house. Don’t spread it around. Mary: I won’t tell*

*a soul.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[37075, 37081]

**I would like you to meet** someone. and **I would like**

**to introduce you to** someone. an expression used to

introduce one person to another. (The word *someone* can

be used as the someone.) \_*Mary: I would like you to meet*

*my Uncle Bill. Sally: Hello, Uncle Bill. Nice to meet you.* \_

*Tom: I would like to introduce you to Bill Franklin. John:*

*Hello, Bill. Glad to meet you. Bill: Glad to meet you, John.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[37082, 37088]

**(I) wouldn’t bet on it.** and **(I) wouldn’t count on it.**

*Fig.* I do not believe that something will happen. (Also

with *that* or some specific happening. See examples.) \_

*John: I’ll be a vice president in a year or two. Mary: I*

*wouldn’t bet on that.* \_ *John: I’ll pick up a turkey on the*

*day before Thanksgiving. Mary: Did you order one ahead*

*of time? John: No. Mary: Then I wouldn’t count on it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[37114, 37118]

**I wouldn’t wish that on my worst enemy.** and **I**

**wouldn’t wish that on a dog.** *Fig.* I would not wish

that to happen to even the worst or lowliest person. \_ *A*

*skunk sprayed him! I wouldn’t wish that on my worst enemy.*

\_ *What a hideous disease! I wouldn’t wish that on a dog.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[37133, 37139]

**(I’d be) happy to (**do something**).** and **Be happy to (**do

something**).** I would do it with pleasure. (The *something* is

often replaced with a description of an activity.) \_ *John:*

*I tried to get the book you wanted, but they didn’t have it.*

*Shall I try another store? Mary: No, never mind. John: I’d*

*be happy to give it a try.* \_*Alice: Would you fix this, please?*

*John: Be happy to.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[37143, 37148]

**(I’d) better be going.** and **(I’d) better be off.** an

expression announcing the need to depart. \_ *Bob: Better*

*be going. Got to get home. Bill: Well, if you must, you must.*

*Bye.* \_ *Fred: It’s midnight. I’d better be off. Henry: Okay.*

*Bye, Fred.* \_*Henry: Better be off. It’s starting to snow. John:*

*Yes, it looks bad out.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[37176, 37182]

**I’d like (to have) a word with you.** and **Could I have**

**a word with you?** I need to speak to you briefly in private.

(The alternate entry is also used with *can* or *may* in

place of *could*.) \_ *Bob: Can I have a word with you? Sally:*

*Sure. I’ll be with you in a minute.* \_ *Sally: Tom? Tom: Yes.*

*Sally: I’d like to have a word with you. Tom: Okay. What’s*

*it about?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[37221, 37226]

**Idle people have the least leisure.** and **Idle folk**

**have the least leisure.** *Prov.* If you are not energetic

and hardworking, you will never have any free time, since

you will have to spend all your time finishing your work.

\_*My grandmother always told me not to dawdle, since idle*

*people have the least leisure.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[37258, 37262]

**if anything should happen** and **if anything happens**

*Euph.* If a disaster or emergency happens. \_ *I’ll give you*

*the phone number of my hotel, so that you can reach me if*

*anything happens.* \_*If anything should happen, I want you*

*to look after my children.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[37269, 37277]

**If frogs had wheels, they wouldn’t bump their**

**butts.** and **If a toady frog had wings, he wouldn’t**

**bump his ass.** *Rur.* It is useless to wish for impossible

things. (Use caution with *ass*.) \_ *Tom: If I had two*

*hundred thousand dollars, I could buy that farm. Jane: Yeah,*

*and if frogs had wheels, they wouldn’t bump their butts.* \_

*Charlie: If I were rich and famous, I’d make people listen to*

*me. Bill: If a toady frog had wings, he wouldn’t bump his*

*ass.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[37346, 37353]

**If that don’t beat all!** and **That beats everything!;**

**Don’t that (just) beat all!** *Rur.* That surpasses everything!;

That is amazing!; That takes the cake! (The grammar

error, *that don’t* is built into this catchphrase.) \_*Tom:*

*The mayor is kicking the baseball team out of the city. Bill:*

*If that don’t beat all!* \_ *John: Now, here’s a funny thing.*

*South America used to be attached to Africa. Fred: That*

*beats everything! John: Yeah.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[37420, 37427]

**If you can’t beat them, join them.** and **If you can’t**

**lick ’em, join ’em.** *Prov.* If you have to give up fighting

some group because you can’t win, band together with

them. (The version with *lick* is informal.) \_ *Jill: I just got*

*a kitten. Jane: I can’t believe it! You used to hate people who*

*owned cats. Jill: If you can’t beat them, join them.* \_ *Alan:*

*I hear you’re a Republican now. Fred: Yeah, I figured, if you*

*can’t lick ’em, join ’em.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[37468, 37475]

**If you don’t see what you want, please ask (for**

**it).** and **If you don’t see what you want, just ask**

**(for it).** a polite phrase intended to help people get what

they want. (See also If there’s anything you need, don’t

hesitate to ask.) \_ *Clerk: May I help you? Sue: I’m just*

*looking. Clerk: If you don’t see what you want, please ask.*

\_*Clerk: I hope you enjoy your stay at our resort. If you don’t*

*see what you want, just ask for it. Sally: Great! Thanks.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[37503, 37511]

**if you please** and **if you would(, please) 1.** a polite

phrase indicating assent to a suggestion. \_ *Bill: Shall I*

*unload the car? Jane: If you please.* \_*Sue: Do you want me*

*to take you to the station? Bob: If you would, please.* **2.** a

polite phrase introducing or following a request. \_ *John:*

*If you please, the driveway needs sweeping. Jane: Here’s the*

*broom. Have at it.* \_*Jane: Take these down to the basement,*

*if you would, please. John: Can’t think of anything I’d rather*

*do, sweetie.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[37615, 37622]

**I’ll get back to you (on that).** and **Let me get back**

**to you (on that).** I will report back later with my decision.

(More likely said by a boss to an employee than vice

versa.) \_ *Bob: I have a question about the Wilson project.*

*Mary: I have to go to a meeting now. I’ll get back to you on*

*that. Bob: It’s sort of urgent. Mary: It can wait.* \_*Sue: Shall*

*I close the Wilson account? Jane: Let me get back to you on*

*that.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[37627, 37631]

**I’ll have the same.** and The **same for me.** I would like

the same thing that the last person chose. \_ *Waitress:*

*What would you like? Tom: Hamburger, fries, and coffee.*

*Jane: I’ll have the same.* \_*John: For dessert, I’ll have strawberry*

*ice cream. Bill: I’ll have the same.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[37659, 37662]

**I’ll see you later.** and **(See you) later.** Good-bye until

I see you again. \_ *John: Good-bye, Sally. I’ll see you later.*

*Sally: Until later, then.* \_ *Bob: Time to go. Later. Mary:*

*Later.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[37696, 37705]

**(I’ll) try to catch you some other time.** and **(I’ll) try**

**to catch you later.; I’ll try to see you later.** *Fig.* We

do not have time to talk now, so I’ll try to talk to you or

meet with you later. (An expression said when it is inconvenient

for one or both parties to meet or converse.) \_

*Bill: I need to get your signature on this contract. Sue: I really*

*don’t have a second to spare right now. Bill: Okay, I’ll try to*

*catch you some other time. Sue: Later this afternoon would*

*be fine.* \_*Bill: I’m sorry for the interruptions, Tom. Things*

*are very busy right now. Tom: I’ll try to see you later.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[37738, 37742]

**(I’m) afraid not.** and **’Fraid not.** I believe, regrettably,

that the answer is no. (The apostrophe is not always

shown.) \_ *Rachel: Can I expect any help with this problem?*

*Henry: I’m afraid not.* \_ *Andrew: Will you be there*

*when I get there? Bill: Afraid not.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[37743, 37747]

**(I’m) afraid so.** and **’Fraid so.** I believe, regrettably, that

the answer is yes. (The apostrophe is not always shown.)

\_*Alice: Do you have to go? John: Afraid so.* \_*Rachel: Can*

*I expect some difficulty with Mr. Franklin? Bob: I’m afraid*

*so.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[37764, 37770]

**(I’m) delighted to have you (here).** and **(We’re)**

**delighted to have you (here).** You’re welcome here

any time.; Glad you could come. (See also (It’s) good to

have you here.) \_*Bill: Thank you for inviting me for dinner,*

*Mr. Franklin. Bill: I’m delighted to have you.* \_*“We’re*

*delighted to see you,” said Tom’s grandparents. “It’s so nice*

*to have you here for a visit.”*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[37798, 37802]

**(I’m) glad you could come.** and **(We’re) glad you**

**could come.** a phrase said by the host or hostess [or

both] to a guest. \_ *Tom: Thank you so much for having*

*me. Sally: We’re glad you could come. John: Yes, we are. Bye.*

\_ *Bill: Bye. Sally: Bye, Bill. Glad you could come.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[37803, 37810]

**(I’m) glad you could drop by.** and **(We’re) glad you**

**could drop by.; (I’m) glad you could stop by.;**

**(We’re) glad you could stop by.** a phrase said by the

host or hostess (or both) to a guest who has appeared suddenly

or has come for only a short visit. \_*Tom: Good-bye.*

*Had a nice time. Mary: Thank you for coming, Tom. Glad*

*you could drop by.* \_ *Tom: Thank you so much for having*

*me. Sally: We’re glad you could drop by.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[37870, 37873]

**I’m listening.** and **I’m all ears.** *Inf.* You have my attention,

so you should talk. \_ *Bob: Look, old pal. I want to*

*talk to you about something. Tom: I’m listening.* \_ *Bill: I*

*guess I owe you an apology. Jane: I’m all ears.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[37886, 37890]

**I’m not surprised.** and **I don’t wonder.** It is not surprising.;

It should not surprise anyone. \_ *Mary: All this*

*talk about war has my cousin very worried. Sue: No doubt.*

*At his age, I don’t wonder.* \_ *John: All of the better-looking*

*ones sold out right away. Jane: I’m not surprised.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[37895, 37900]

**I’m only looking.** and **I’m just looking.** I am not a

buyer, I am only examining your merchandise. (A phrase

said to a shopkeeper or clerk who asks May I help you?)

\_ *Clerk: May I help you? Mary: No, thanks. I’m only looking.*

\_ *Clerk: May I help you? Jane: I’m just looking, thank*

*you.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[37901, 37903]

**I’m out of here.** and **I’m outa here.** *Inf.* I am leaving

this minute. \_ *In three minutes I’m outa here.* \_ *I’m out*

*of here. Bye.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[37937, 37941]

**I’m terrible at names.** and **I’m awful at names.** I

can’t seem to remember anyone’s name. (Said as an apology

to someone whose name you have forgotten.) \_ *I’m*

*terrible at names. Please tell me yours again.* \_ *Haven’t we*

*met already? I’m awful at names.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[38123, 38128]

**\*in a bind** and **\*in a jam** *Fig.* in a tight or difficult situation;

stuck on a problem. (\*Typically: **be ~; get [into]**

**~; find** oneself **~**.) \_*I’m in a bind. I owe a lot of money.*

\_ *Whenever I get into a jam, I ask my supervisor for help.*

\_ *When things get busy around here, we get in a bind. We*

*could use another helper.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[38140, 38143]

**in a coon’s age** and **in a month of Sundays** *Rur.* in a

very long time. (The *coon* is a *raccoon.*) \_ *How are you? I*

*haven’t seen you in a coon’s age.* \_ *I haven’t had a piece of*

*apple pie this good in a coon’s age.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[38153, 38156]

**\*in a family way** and **\*in the family way** *Fig.* pregnant.

(\*Typically: **be ~; get** someone **~**.) \_ *I’ve heard*

*that Mrs. Smith is in a family way.* \_*Our dog is in the family*

*way.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[38164, 38168]

**in a fog** and **in a haze** *Fig.* dazed; not paying attention to

what is going on around one; not alert. \_ *Jane always*

*seems to be in a fog.* \_ *When I get up, I’m in a fog for an*

*hour.* \_ *After surgery, I was in a haze until the anesthetic*

*wore off.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[38196, 38203]

**In a pig’s eye!** and **In a pig’s ass!; In a pig’s ear!** *Rur.*

Nonsense! (Use caution with *ass*.) \_ *Tom: I wasn’t going*

*to steal it. I was just looking at it. Jane: In a pig’s eye! I saw*

*you put it in your pocket!* \_ *Mary: Bill says he’s sorry and*

*he’ll never yell at me again if I take him back. Jane: In a pig’s*

*ass! He’s made those promises a hundred times before.* \_

*Tom: I thought you said I could keep this. Charlie: In a pig’s*

*ear! I said you could borrow* it.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[38329, 38331]

**in any case** and **in any event** no matter what happens.

\_ *I intend to be home by supper time, but in any case by*

*eight o’clock.* \_ *In any event, I’ll see you this evening.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[38351, 38357]

**in at the kill** and **in on the kill 1.** *Lit.* present and participating

in the killing of prey. \_ *The baby cheetah*

*wanted to be in on the kill.* **2.** *Fig.* involved at the final

moment of something in order to share in the spoils. \_

*At the end of the battle, everyone wanted to be in at the kill.*

\_ *The press packed the room, wanting to be in on the kill*

*of the governor’s resignation.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[38366, 38373]

**in bad shape** and **in a bad way 1.** *Lit.* injured or debilitated

in any manner. \_*Fred had a little accident, and he’s*

*in bad shape.* \_ *Tom needs exercise. He’s in bad shape.*

**2.** pregnant. \_*Jill’s in bad shape again, I hear.* \_*Yup, she’s*

*in bad shape all right—about three months in bad shape.*

**3.** *Fig. Inf.* intoxicated. \_*Two glasses of that stuff and I’m*

*in really bad shape.* \_*Fred is in bad shape. I think he’s going*

*to toss his cookies.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[38377, 38380]

**in bad taste** and **in poor taste** rude; vulgar; obscene.

\_ *Mrs. Franklin felt that your joke was in bad taste.* \_ *We*

*found the play to be in poor taste, so we walked out in the*

*middle of the second act.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[38384, 38391]

**in behalf of** someone and **in** someone’s **behalf; on**

**behalf of** someone; **on** someone’s **behalf; in** someone’s

**name** [doing something] as someone’s agent; [doing

something] in place of someone; for the benefit of someone.

\_*I’m writing in behalf of Mr. Smith, who has applied*

*for a job with your company.* \_ *I’m calling on behalf of my*

*client, who wishes to complain about your actions.* \_ *I’m*

*calling in her behalf.* \_ *I’m acting on your behalf.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[38401, 38403]

**in blossom** and **in bloom** blooming; covered with blossoms.

\_*All the apple trees are in blossom now.* \_*When are*

*the fruit trees in bloom in this part of the country?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[38459, 38462]

**in condition** and **in(to) shape** in good health; strong

and healthy; fit. \_ *Bob exercises frequently, so he’s in condition.*

\_ *If I were in shape, I could run faster and farther.*

\_ *I’m really overweight. I have to try to get into shape.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[38490, 38494]

**in custody (of** someone or something**)** and **in** someone’s or

something’s **custody** being kept guarded by legal authorities.

\_ *The suspect was in the sheriff ’s custody awaiting a*

*trial.* \_ *The prisoner is in the custody of the state.* \_ *The*

*police have two suspects in custody.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[38540, 38546]

**in due course** and **in due time; in good time; in the**

**course of time; in time** in a normal or expected

amount of time. \_ *The roses will bloom in due course.* \_

*The vice president will become president in due course.* \_

*I’ll retire in due time.* \_*Just wait, my dear. All in good time.*

\_ *It’ll all work out in the course of time.* \_ *In time, things*

*will improve.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[38597, 38599]

**in flux** and **in a (constant) state of flux** in constant

change; ever-changing. \_ *I can’t describe my job because*

*it’s in a constant state of f lux.* \_*The price of gold is in f lux.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[38625, 38630]

**\*in full swing** and **\*in high gear** *Fig.* at the peak of activity;

moving fast or efficiently. (\*Typically: **be ~; move**

**[into] ~; get [into] ~**.) \_ *In the summer months,*

*things really get into full swing around here.* \_ *We go skiing*

*in the mountains each winter. Things are in high gear*

*there in November.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[38655, 38661]

**\*in good shape** and **\*in good condition** physically and

functionally sound and sturdy. (Used for both people and

things. \*Typically: **be ~; get ~; keep ~**.) \_ *This car*

*isn’t in good shape. I’d like to have one that’s in better condition.*

\_ *Mary is in good condition. She exercises and eats*

*right to stay healthy.* \_ *You have to make an effort to get*

*into good shape.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[38703, 38707]

**in high cotton** and **in tall cotton** *Rur.* to be doing very

well; successful. \_*Jim’s in high cotton ever since he got that*

*raise.* \_ *Tom: How’s your sister? Mary: She’s in high cotton.*

*Just bought a nice new house.* \_*We were in tall cotton*

*until the IRS caught up with us.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[38746, 38749]

**in its entirety** and **in their entirety** completely; until

completely done or gone. \_*I watched the basketball game*

*in its entirety.* \_ *My friends and I ate the two large pizzas*

*in their entirety.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[38755, 38757]

**in (just) a second** and **in (just) a minute** in a very

short period of time. \_ *I’ll be there in a second.* \_ *I’ll be*

*with you in just a minute. I’m on the phone.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[38758, 38762]

**in keeping (with** something**)** and **in line with** something

in accord or harmony with something; following the rules

of something. \_ *In keeping with your instructions, I’ve*

*canceled your order.* \_ *I’m disappointed with your behavior.*

*It really wasn’t in line with what it should be.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[38800, 38803]

**in line** and **on line** standing and waiting in a line of people.

(*On line* is used especially in the New York City area.)

\_ *I’ve been in line for an hour.* \_ *Get in line if you want to*

*buy a ticket.* \_ *We waited on line to see the movie.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[38866, 38870]

**in nothing flat** and **in no time flat** *Fig.* very quickly;

in much less time than expected. \_ *Of course I can get*

*there in a hurry. I’ll be there in nothing f lat.* \_ *We covered*

*the distance between New York and Philadelphia in nothing*

*f lat.* \_ *The waiter brought our food in no time flat.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[39042, 39046]

**\*in plain language** and **\*in plain English** *Fig.* in simple,

clear, and straightforward language. (\*Typically: **be**

**~; put** something **[into] ~; say** something **~; write**

something **~**.) \_ *That’s too confusing. Please say it again*

*in plain English.* \_ *Tell me again in plain language.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[39095, 39099]

**in quest of** someone or something and **in search of** someone

or something seeking or hunting something; trying to

find something. \_ *They went into town in quest of a reasonably*

*priced restaurant.* \_ *Monday morning I’ll go out*

*in search of a job.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[39124, 39128]

**in reference to** someone or something and **with reference**

**to** someone or something concerning or about someone

or something; in connection with someone or something.

\_ *What shall we do in reference to Bill and his*

*problem?* \_ *With reference to what problem?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[39144, 39147]

**in retrospect** and **in hindsight** reconsidering the past

with the knowledge one now has. \_*In retrospect, I would*

*have gone to a better college.* \_*David realized, in hindsight,*

*that he should have finished school.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[39154, 39159]

**\*in round numbers** and **\*in round figures** *Fig.* as an

estimated number; a figure that has been rounded off.

(\*Typically: **be ~; express** something **~; write** something

**~**.) \_*Please tell me in round numbers what it’ll cost.*

\_*I don’t need the exact amount. Just give it to me in round*

*figures.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[39210, 39213]

**in some respects** and **in many respects** with regard

to some or many details. \_ *In some respects, Anne’s comments*

*are similar to yours.* \_ *The three proposals are quite*

*different in many respects.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[39219, 39224]

**in** someone else’s **shoes** and **in** someone else’s **place** *Fig.*

seeing or experiencing something from someone else’s

point of view. (See also in a bind and the examples.) \_

*You might feel different if you were in her shoes.* \_ *Pretend*

*you’re in Tom’s place, and then try to figure out why he acts*

*the way he does.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[39253, 39256]

**in** someone’s or something’s **way** and **in the way of** someone

or something *Fig.* in the pathway or movement of someone

or something. \_ *Don’t get in my way.* \_ *That car is in*

*the way of the bus and all the other traffic.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[39290, 39293]

**in step (with** something**)** and **in time (with** something**)**

*Fig.* keeping in cadence with music. \_ *John, your violin*

*isn’t in step with the beat. Sit up straight and try it again.*

\_ *I’m trying to play in time.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[39338, 39342]

**\*in the altogether** and **\*in the buff; \*in the nude;**

**\*in the raw** *Fig.* naked; nude. (\*Typically: **be ~; get**

**[into] ~; sleep ~**.) \_ *The museum has a painting of*

*some ladies in the buff.* \_ *Mary felt a little shy about getting*

*into the altogether.* \_ *Bill says he sleeps in the raw.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[39374, 39376]

**in the blood** and **in** one’s **blood** *Fig.* built into one’s personality

or character. \_ *John’s a great runner. It’s in his*

*blood.* \_*The whole family is very athletic. It’s in the blood.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[39377, 39380]

**\*in the boondocks** and **\*in the boonies** in a rural area;

far away from a city or population. (\*Typically: **be ~;**

**camp ~; live ~; stay ~**.) \_ *Perry lives out in the*

*boonies with his parents.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[39394, 39399]

**\*in the care of** someone and **\*in the charge of** someone;

**\*in** someone’s **care; \*under** someone’s **care** in the

keeping of someone. (\*Typically: **be ~; leave** someone

or something **~; place** someone or something **[into] ~**.)

\_ *I left the baby in the care of my mother.* \_ *I placed the*

*house into the care of my friend.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[39420, 39424]

**in the Common Era** and **in the C.E.** [of dates] a year

after the year 1 according to the Western calendar.

(Offered as a replacement for *Anno Domini* and A.D.) \_

*The comet was last seen in the year 1986 in the Common*

*Era.* \_ *The Huns invaded Gaul in 451 C.E.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[39470, 39476]

**in the final analysis** and **in the last analysis** in truth;

when all the facts are known; when the truth becomes

known. (Usually used when someone is speculating about

what the final outcome will be.) \_ *In the final analysis, it*

*is usually the children who suffer most in a situation like*

*this.* \_ *In the last analysis, you simply do not want to do as*

*you are told!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[39478, 39482]

**in the first place** and **in the first instance** initially;

to begin with. \_ *In the first place, you don’t have enough*

*money to buy one. In the second place, you don’t need one.*

\_ *In the first instance, I don’t have the time. In the second*

*place, I’m not interested.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[39590, 39593]

**in the mood (for** something**)** and **in the mood (to** do

something**)** having the proper state of mind for a particular

situation or for doing something. \_*I’m not in the mood*

*to see a movie tonight.* \_ *Are you in the mood for pizza?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[39610, 39615]

**\*in the pink (of condition)** and **\*in the pink (of**

**health)** *Fig.* in very good health; in very good condition,

physically and emotionally. (\*Typically: **be ~; get**

**[into] ~**.) \_*He recovered completely from his surgery and*

*has been in the pink ever since.* \_ *She was lively and active*

*and in the pink of condition.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[39701, 39704]

**in the twinkling of an eye** and **in the wink of an**

**eye** *Fig.* very quickly. \_*In the twinkling of an eye, the deer*

*had disappeared into the forest.* \_*I gave Bill ten dollars and,*

*in the twinkling of an eye, he spent it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[39705, 39710]

**in the unlikely event of** something and **in the unlikely**

**event that** something happens if something—which

probably will not happen—actually happens. \_ *In the*

*unlikely event of my getting the job, I’ll have to buy a car to*

*get there every day.* \_ *In the unlikely event of a fire, please*

*walk quickly to an exit.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[39890, 39893]

**inch** one’s **way across** something and **inch** oneself **across**

something to creep slowly across something. \_ *The little*

*green worm inched its way across the branch.* \_ *It inched*

*itself across the leaf.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[39894, 39897]

**inch** one’s **way along** something and **inch** oneself **along**

something to creep slowly on or along something. \_ *I*

*inched my way along the ledge and almost fell off.* \_*Sharon*

*inched herself along the side of the bridge.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[40146, 40151]

**inject** something **into** someone, something, or some creature

and **inject** someone, something, or some creature **with** something

to give a hypodermic injection of something to

someone or an animal. \_ *The nurse injected the medicine*

*into my arm.* \_ *He injected a very large dose into the*

*patient.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[40179, 40183]

**\*innocent as a lamb** and **\*innocent as a newborn**

**babe 1.** guiltless. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_*“Hey! You can’t throw*

*me in jail,” cried the robber. “I’m innocent as a lamb.”*

**2.** naive; inexperienced. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *She’s eighteen*

*years old, but innocent as a newborn babe.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[40323, 40330]

**insulate** someone or something **against** someone or something

and **insulate** someone or something **from** someone

or something to protect someone or something against the

effect of someone or something. \_ *Use an extra blanket*

*to insulate the baby against the cold.* \_ *John is a bad inf luence*

*on the children, and I’ve taken care to insulate them*

*against him.* \_ *We insulated the children from the effects*

*of John and his bad habits.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[40660, 40663]

**invite** someone **into** some place and **invite** someone **in†** to

bid or request someone to enter a place. \_*Don’t leave Dan*

*out there in the rain. Invite him into the house!* \_ *Oh, do*

*invite in the children!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[40747, 40757]

**Is that so?** and **Is that right? 1.** Is what you said correct?

(With rising question intonation.) \_ *Henry: These*

*are the ones we need. Andrew: Is that right? They don’t look*

*so good to me.* \_ *Fred: Tom is the one who came in late.*

*Rachel: Is that so? It looked like Bill to me.* **2.** That is what

you say, but I do not believe you. (No rising question intonation.

Slightly rude.) \_ *Mary: You are making a mess of*

*this. Alice: Is that so? And I suppose that you’re perfect?* \_

*Bob: I found your performance to be weak in a number of*

*places. Henry: Is that right? I suppose you could have done*

*better?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[40805, 40810]

**(It) beats me.** and **(It’s) got me beat.; You got me**

**beat.** *Inf.* I do not know the answer.; I cannot figure it

out. The question has me stumped. (The stress is on *me*.)

\_*Bill: When are we supposed to go over to Tom’s? Bill: Beats*

*me.* \_ *Sally: What’s the largest river in the world? Bob: You*

*got me beat.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[40819, 40829]

**(It) can’t be helped.** and **(It) couldn’t be helped.**

Nothing can be done to help the situation.; The situation

could not have been avoided. \_ *John: The accident has*

*blocked traffic in two directions. Jane: It can’t be helped.*

*They have to get the people out of the cars and send them*

*to the hospital.* \_ *Bill: My goodness, the lawn looks dead!*

*Sue: It can’t be helped. There’s no rain and water is rationed.*

\_ *John: I’m sorry I broke your figurine. Sue: It couldn’t be*

*helped. John: I’ll replace it. Sue: That would be nice.* \_*Bill:*

*I’m sorry I’m late. I hope it didn’t mess things up. Bob: It*

*can’t be helped.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[40830, 40833]

**(It) couldn’t be better.** and **(Things) couldn’t be**

**better.** Everything is fine. \_ *John: How are things going?*

*Jane: Couldn’t be better.* \_ *Bill: I hope everything is okay*

*with your new job. Mary: Things couldn’t be better.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[40838, 40845]

**(It) doesn’t bother me any.** and **(It) doesn’t bother**

**me at all.** It does not trouble me at all.; I have no objection.

(Compare this with (It) don’t bother me none. Not

very polite or cordial. See also (It) won’t bother me any.

for the future tense of this expression.) \_ *John: Do you*

*mind if I sit here? Jane: Doesn’t bother me any.* \_ *Sally*

*(smoking a cigarette): Do you mind if I smoke? Bill: It*

*doesn’t bother me any.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[40847, 40853]

**(It) doesn’t hurt to ask.** and **(It) never hurts to ask.**

a phrase said when one asks a question, even when the

answer is known to be no. \_*John: Can I take some of these*

*papers home with me? Jane: No, you can’t. You know that.*

*John: Well, it doesn’t hurt to ask.* \_ *Sue: Can I have two of*

*these? Sally: Certainly not! Sue: Well, it never hurts to ask.*

*Sally: Well, it just may!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[40861, 40865]

**(It) don’t cut no ice (with** someone**).** and **(It) don’t cut**

**no squares (with** someone**).** *Rur.* (It) doesn’t influence

me. \_ *That excuse don’t cut no ice with me.* \_ *I’m tired of*

*you coming home drunk. Your fancy apologies don’t cut no*

*squares.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[40877, 40882]

**(It) hasn’t been easy.** and **Things haven’t been**

**easy.** Things have been difficult, but I have gotten

through. \_*Bill: I’m so sorry about all your troubles. I hope*

*things are all right now. Bob: It hasn’t been easy, but things*

*are okay now.* \_ *John: How are you getting on after your*

*dog died? Bill: Things haven’t been easy.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[40891, 40897]

**It is a poor heart that never rejoices.** and **It is a sad**

**heart that never rejoices.** *Prov.* Even a habitually sad

person cannot be sad all the time. (Sometimes used to

indicate that a habitually sad person is happy about something.)

\_ *Jill: I’ve never seen Sam smile before, but today,*

*at his retirement party, he smiled. Jane: It is a poor heart*

*that never rejoices.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[40904, 40908]

**It is all over with** someone. and **It is all over for** someone.

*Euph.* Someone is about to die.; Someone has just

died. \_ *I am afraid it is all over with Aunt Sarah. Her last*

*surgery did not go well at all.* \_ *The doctor told us that it*

*was all over for Daddy. We sat for a moment in shock.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[40915, 40923]

**It is better to give than to receive.** and **It is more**

**blessed to give than to receive.** *Prov.* It is more virtuous

to give things than to get them. (Biblical.) \_ *Susan*

*told her children, “Instead of thinking so much about what*

*you want for your birthday, think about what to give your*

*brothers and sisters for their birthdays. Remember, it is better*

*to give than to receive.”* \_ *Our charity encourages you*

*to share the good things you have. It is more blessed to give*

*than to receive.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[40953, 40958]

**It is never too late to learn.** and **You are never too**

**old to learn.** *Prov.* You can always learn something new.

\_ *Alan: Help me make the salad dressing. Jane: But I don’t*

*know anything about making salad dressing. Alan: You are*

*never too old to learn.* \_*Grandma decided to take a course*

*in using computers. “It’s never too late to learn,” she said.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41002, 41008]

**(It) makes no difference to me.** and **(It) makes me**

**no difference.; (It) makes me no nevermind.; (It)**

**don’t make me no nevermind.** *Inf.* I really do not

care, one way or the other. (The first one is standard, the

others are colloquial.) \_ *Bill: Mind if I sit here? Tom:*

*Makes no difference to me.* \_ *Bill: What would you say if I*

*ate the last piece of cake? Bob: Don’t make me no nevermind.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41086, 41092]

**(It ’s been) good talking to you.** and **(It ’s) been**

**good to talk to you.; (It’s been) nice talking to**

**you.** a polite phrase said upon departure, at the end of a

conversation. \_ *Mary (as the elevator stops): Well, this is*

*my f loor. I’ve got to get off. John: Bye, Mary. It’s been good*

*talking to you.* \_ *John: It’s been good talking to you, Fred.*

*See you around. Fred: Yeah. See you.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41105, 41109]

**(It’s) good to be here.** and **(It’s) nice to be here.** I

feel welcome in this place.; It is good to be here. \_ *John:*

*I’m so glad you could come. Jane: Thank you. It’s good to be*

*here.* \_ *Alice: Welcome to our house! John: Thank you, it’s*

*nice to be here.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41110, 41114]

**(It’s) good to have you here.** and **(It’s) nice to have**

**you here.**Welcome to this place.; It is good that you are

here. \_ *John: It’s a pleasure to have you here. Jane: Thank*

*you for asking me.* \_ *Alice: Oh, I’m so glad I came! Fred:*

*Nice to have you here.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41161, 41166]

**It’s no use crying over spilled milk.** and **Don’t cry**

**over spilled milk.** *Prov.* Do not be upset about making

a mistake, since you cannot change that now. \_ *I know*

*you don’t like your new haircut, but you can’t change it now.*

*It’s no use crying over spilled milk.* \_ *OK, so you broke the*

*drill I lent you. Don’t cry over spilled milk.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41173, 41174]

**It’s not cricket.** and **It’s not kosher.** It’s not done.; It’s

not acceptable. \_ *You can’t do that! It’s not cricket!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41184, 41190]

**(It’s) not supposed to.** and **(**Someone’s**) not supposed**

**to.** a phrase indicating that someone or something is not

meant to do something. (Often with a person’s name or a

pronoun as a subject. See the examples.) \_ *Fred: This little*

*piece keeps falling off. Clerk: It’s not supposed to.* \_ *Bill:*

*Tom just called from Detroit and says he’s coming back*

*tomorrow. Mary: That’s funny. He’s not supposed to.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41205, 41209]

**It’s raining pitchforks (and hammer handles).** and

**It’s raining cats and dogs.** *Rur.* It is raining very hard.

\_ *Take an umbrella. It’s raining pitchforks and hammer*

*handles out there!* \_ *Charlie: Have you looked outside?*

*How’s the weather? Mary: It’s raining cats and dogs.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41226, 41234]

**(It’s) time to hit the road.** and **(I’d) better hit the**

**road.; (I’ve) got to hit the road.** *Inf. Fig.* a phrase

indicating that it is time that one departed. (See also (I)

have to shove off and (It’s) time to run for other possible

variations.) \_*Henry: Look at the clock. It’s past midnight.*

*It’s time to hit the road. Andy: Yeah. We’ve got to go.*

*Sue: Okay, good night.* \_*Bill: I’ve got to hit the road. I have*

*a long day tomorrow. Mary: Okay, good night. Bill: Bye,*

*Mary.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41235, 41242]

**(It ’s) time to run.** and **(It ’s) time to move along.;**

**(It’s) time to push along.; (It’s) time to push off.;**

**(It’s) time to split.** *Inf.* an announcement of one’s desire

or need to depart. (See also (I) have to shove off and

(It’s) time to hit the road for an illustration of other possible

variations.) \_ *Andy: Time to push off. I’ve got to get*

*home. Henry: See you, dude.* \_ *John: It’s time to split. I’ve*

*got to go. Sue: Okay. See you tomorrow.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41330, 41336]

**(It) won’t bother me any.** and **(It) won’t bother me**

**at all.** *Inf.* It will not trouble me at all.; I have no objection

if you wish to do that. (Not very polite or cordial. For

the present tense of this expression, see also (It) doesn’t

bother me any.) \_ *John: Will you mind if I sit here? Jane:*

*Won’t bother me any.* \_*Sally (lighting a cigarette): Do you*

*mind if I smoke? Bill: It won’t bother me at all.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41365, 41372]

**\***an **itchy palm** and **\***an **itching palm** *Fig.* [of a hand]

in need of a tip. (As if placing money in the palm would

stop the itching. \*Typically: **get ~; have ~; give** someone

**~**.) \_ *All the waiters at that restaurant have itchy*

*palms.* \_ *The cabdriver was troubled by an itching palm.*

*Since he refused to carry my bags, I gave him nothing.* \_

*Whenever he sees expensive luggage, the hotel doorman gets*

*an itching palm.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41402, 41404]

**itty-bitty** and **itsy-bitsy** very small. (Childish.) \_ *I*

*remember when you was just an itty-bitty baby.* \_*Gramma*

*sewed with itsy-bitsy stitches.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41411, 41415]

**(I’ve) been keeping cool.** and **(I’ve been) keeping**

**cool.** *Inf.* an answer to a question about what one has

been doing during very hot weather. \_ *Jane: How do you*

*like this hot weather? Bill: I’ve been keeping cool.* \_ *Mary:*

*Been keeping cool? Bob: Yeah. Been keeping cool.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41416, 41421]

**(I’ve) been keeping myself busy.** and **(I’ve been)**

**keeping myself busy.** a standard response to a greeting

inquiry asking what one has been doing. \_*Bill: What*

*have you been doing? Bob: I’ve been keeping myself busy.*

*What about you? Bill: About the same.* \_ *John: Yo! What*

*have you been up to? Bill: Been keeping myself busy.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41422, 41427]

**(I’ve) been keeping out of trouble.** and **(I’ve been)**

**keeping out of trouble.** *Fig.* a standard response to a

greeting inquiry that asks what one has been doing. \_

*John: What have you been doing, Fred? Fred: Been keeping*

*out of trouble. John: Yeah. Me too.* \_*Mary: How are things,*

*Tom? Tom: Oh, I’ve been keeping out of trouble.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41457, 41459]

**I’ve got to fly.** and **I(‘ve) gotta fly.; (I’ve) got to fly.**

*Fig. Inf.* I have to leave right now. \_ *Time’s up. I’ve got to*

*f ly.* \_ *I’ve gotta f ly. See you later.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41503, 41508]

**I’ve had a lovely time.** and **We’ve had a lovely time.**

a polite expression said to a host or hostess on departure.

\_ *Bob: I’ve had a lovely time. Thanks for asking me. Fred:*

*We’re just delighted you could come. Good night. Bob: Good*

*night.* \_*Sue: We’ve had a lovely time. Good night. Bill: Next*

*time don’t stay away so long. Good night.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41524, 41528]

**(I’ve) never been better.** and **(I’ve) never felt better.**

a response to a greeting inquiry into one’s health or

state of being. \_ *Mary: How are you, Sally? Sally: Never*

*been better, Mary. How about you?* \_*Doctor: How are you,*

*Jane? Jane: Never felt better. Doctor: Then why are you here?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41553, 41555]

**jab** something **into** something and **jab** something **in†** to stab

something into something. \_ *Billy jabbed his spoon into*

*the gelatin.* \_ *He jabbed in his spoon.* \_ *He jabbed it in.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41565, 41567]

**jack around** and **jerk around** *Sl.* to waste time. \_ *Stop*

*jacking around and get some work done!* \_ *The kids spend*

*most of the day jerking around.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41581, 41585]

**jack** someone **around†** and **jerk** someone **around†** *Sl.* to

give someone a difficult time; to harass someone. \_*Come*

*on! Stop jacking me around!* \_ *Max started jerking Lefty*

*around, and it looked as if there was going to be trouble.* \_

*You jack around everyone you know!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41604, 41610]

**jam** someone or something **in((to)** something**)** and **jam** someone

or something **in†** to force or compress someone or

something into something or some place. \_*Sam jammed*

*all his clothes into the canvas bag.* \_*The conductor jammed*

*all the passengers into one car.* \_ *Don’t jam in everything!*

\_ *They had to jam themselves into the tiny room, because*

*there was no other place to meet.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41686, 41689]

**jerk** someone **around†** and **jerk** someone **over†** to hassle

someone; to waste someone’s time. \_ *Stop jerking me*

*around and give me my money back.* \_ *They sure like to*

*jerk around people in that music shop.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41690, 41695]

**jerk** someone or something **out of** something and **jerk** someone

or something **out†** to pull someone or something out

of something sharply and quickly. \_ *She jerked the baby*

*out of the crib and ran from the burning room.* \_ *I jerked*

*the puppy out of the mud.* \_*She jerked out the puppy before*

*it got soaked.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41703, 41707]

**jerk** something **off (of )** someone or something and **jerk** something

**off†** to snatch or quickly pull something off someone

or something. (*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.)

\_ *Alice jerked the top off the box and poured out*

*the contents.* \_ *She jerked off the box top.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41708, 41711]

**jerk** something **out of** someone or something and **jerk** something

**out†** to pull something out of someone or something

quickly. \_ *The doctor jerked the arrow out of Bill’s leg.* \_

*He jerked out the arrow.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41770, 41773]

**jog to the right** and **jog to the left** [for a road, path,

etc.] to turn to the right or left. \_*The road jogs to the right*

*here. Don’t run off.* \_ *Keep going until the road jogs to the*

*left. Our driveway is on the right side.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41789, 41792]

**join** someone **with** someone else and **join** something **with**

something else to connect things or people. \_*I joined Fred*

*with the others.* \_*We joined the older puppies with the fullgrown*

*dogs.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41806, 41809]

**join the fray** and **jump into the fray; enter the fray**

*Fig.* to join the fight or argument. \_ *After listening to the*

*argument, Mary decided to jump into the fray.* \_ *Tom*

*joined the fray and immediately got knocked down.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41834, 41837]

**jolt to a start** and **jolt to a stop** to start or stop moving

suddenly, causing a jolt. \_ *The truck jolted to a stop at*

*the stop sign.* \_ *The little car jolted to a quick start and*

*threw the passenger back in his seat.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41857, 41863]

**Judge not, lest ye be judged.** and **Judge not, that**

**ye be not judged.** *Prov.* If you condemn other people,

then they will have the right to condemn you, so it is best

not to condemn them. (Biblical.) \_ *Jill: I’m sure Gloria is*

*the one who’s been stealing from petty cash. She’s so sloppy,*

*nasty, and ill-mannered. Don’t you think she’d be capable*

*of theft? Jane: Judge not, lest ye be judged.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41872, 41876]

**judging by** something and **judging from** something to

make a decision or judgment based on something. \_*Judging*

*by the amount of food eaten, everyone must have been*

*very hungry.* \_ *Judging from the mess that’s left, the party*

*must have been a good one.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41916, 41922]

**jump all over** someone and **jump down** someone’s

**throat; jump on** someone *Fig.* to scold someone severely.

\_*If I don’t get home on time, my parents will jump all over*

*me.* \_*Don’t jump on me! I didn’t do it!* \_*Please don’t jump*

*all over John. He wasn’t the one who broke the window.* \_

*Why are you jumping down my throat? I wasn’t even in the*

*house when it happened.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[41934, 41938]

**jump bail** and **skip bail** *Fig.* to fail to appear in court for

trial and forfeit one’s bail bond. \_ *Not only was Bob*

*arrested for theft, he skipped bail and left town. He’s in a*

*lot of trouble.* \_ *The judge issued a warrant for the arrest*

*of the man who jumped bail.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42020, 42025]

**jump through a hoop** and **jump through hoops** *Fig.*

to do everything possible to obey or please someone; to

bend over backwards (to do something). (Trained circus

animals jump through hoops.) \_ *She expects us to jump*

*through hoops for her.* \_ *What do you want me to do—*

*jump through a hoop?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42026, 42031]

**jump to conclusions** and **leap to conclusions** *Fig.*

to judge or decide something without having all the facts;

to reach unwarranted conclusions. (See also rush to conclusions.)

\_*Now don’t jump to conclusions. Wait until you*

*hear what I have to say.* \_*Please find out all the facts so you*

*won’t leap to conclusions.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42046, 42050]

**jumping-off point** and **jumping-off place** a point or

place from which to begin something. \_*The local library*

*is a good jumping-off point for your research.* \_ *The office*

*job in that company would be a good jumping-off place for*

*a career in advertising.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42164, 42168]

**keen on** someone or something and **keen about** someone

or something to be enthusiastic about someone or something.

\_ *I’m not too keen on going to Denver.* \_ *Sally is*

*fairly keen about getting a new job.* \_ *Mary isn’t keen on*

*her new boss.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42179, 42187]

**keep a firm grip on** someone or something and **keep a**

**tight grip on** someone or something **1.** *Lit.* to hold on to

someone or something tightly. \_ *As they approached the*

*edge, Sally kept a firm grip on little Timmy.* \_ *She kept a*

*tight grip on him.* \_ *Keep a firm grip on my hand as we*

*cross the street.* **2.** *Fig.* to keep someone or something

under firm control. \_ *The manager keeps a firm grip on*

*all the employees.* \_ *I try to keep a firm grip on all the*

*accounts.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42190, 42192]

**keep a promise** and **keep** one’s **promise** to make good

on a promise; to fulfill one’s promise. \_ *If you can’t keep*

*your promises, you shouldn’t make them in the first place.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42215, 42220]

**keep a tight rein on** someone or something and **keep a**

**close rein on** someone or something *Fig.* to watch and

control someone or something diligently. (Alludes to controlling

a horse by a tight grip on the reins.) \_ *The office*

*manager kept a tight rein on the staff.* \_*Mary keeps a close*

*rein on her children.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42223, 42230]

**keep after** someone **(about** something**)** and **keep at**

someone **(about** something**); keep on** someone **(about**

something**); stay after** someone **(about** something**)** to

remind or nag someone over and over to do something.

\_ *I’ll keep after you until you do it!* \_ *Mother stayed after*

*Bill until he did the dishes.* \_*She kept at him until he dried*

*them and put them away.* \_ *We will have to keep on him*

*about the report until he turns it in.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42237, 42241]

**keep an act up†** and **keep** one’s **act up†** to maintain

behavior that is a false show; to continue with one’s facade.

(The *an* can be replaced with *the, this, that,* etc.) \_ *How*

*long do I have to keep this act up? I am tired of fooling people.*

\_ *I am weary of keeping up my act.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42242, 42248]

**keep an ear to the ground** and **have an ear to the**

**ground; keep** one’s **ear to the ground; have** one’s

**ear to the ground** *Fig.* to devote attention to watching

or listening for clues as to what is going to happen. \_*John*

*had his ear to the ground, hoping to find out about new ideas*

*in computers.* \_ *His boss told him to keep his ear to the*

*ground so that he’d be the first to know of a new idea.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42249, 42256]

**keep an eye on** someone or something and **have an eye**

**on** someone or something; **keep** one’s **eye(s) on** someone

or something; **have** one’s **eye on** someone or something

*Fig.* to watch someone or something; to monitor someone

or something closely. \_ *I have my eye on the apple tree.*

*When the apples ripen, I’ll harvest them.* \_ *Please keep an*

*eye on the baby.* \_ *Will you please keep your eye on my*

*house while I’m on vacation?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42257, 42264]

**keep an eye out (for** someone or something**)** and **have**

**an eye out (for** someone or something**); keep** one’s **eye**

**out (for** someone or something**); have** one’s **eye out (for**

someone or something**)** *Fig.* to watch for the arrival or

appearance of someone or something. (See also keep one’s

eyes open (for someone or something).) \_*Please try to have*

*an eye out for the bus.* \_ *Keep an eye out for rain.* \_ *Have*

*your eye out for a raincoat on sale.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42266, 42271]

**keep at arm’s length from** someone or something and

**keep** someone or something **at arm’s length** *Fig.* to

retain a degree of physical or social remoteness from

someone or something. \_*I try to keep at arm’s length from*

*Larry, since our disagreement.* \_*I keep Tom at arm’s length*

*because we don’t get along.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42358, 42365]

**keep in touch (with** someone or something**)** and **remain**

**in touch (with** someone or something**); stay in touch**

**(with** someone or something**)** to maintain communications

with someone; to maintain up-to-date knowledge about

someone or something. (See also get in touch (with someone).)

\_ *After my neighbor moved, we still remained in*

*touch.* \_ *I want to stay in touch with my office over the*

*weekend.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42396, 42399]

**keep off (of )** someone’s **back** and **keep off (of )** someone’s

**case** *Inf. Fig.* to leave someone alone; to stop criticizing

or scolding someone. \_*Keep off of my back! Leave*

*me alone.* \_ *Keep off my case!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42435, 42441]

**keep on the right side of** someone and **keep on the**

**good side of** someone; **stay on the good side of**

someone; **stay on the right side of** someone *Fig.* to

remain in someone’s favor. (This has nothing to do with

the right-hand side.) \_ *You had better keep on the right*

*side of Mr. Franklin. He’s very particular.* \_ *I will keep on*

*the good side of him.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42458, 42462]

**Keep (on) trying.** and **Don’t quit trying.** *Fig.* a phrase

encouraging continued efforts. \_ *Jane: I think I’m doing*

*better in calculus. John: Keep trying! You can get an A.* \_

*Sue: I really want that promotion, but I keep getting turned*

*down. Bill: Don’t quit trying! You’ll get it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42476, 42479]

**keep** one’s **chair** and **keep** one’s **seat** *Fig.* to stay seated;

to remain in one’s chair or place. \_ *That’s all right. Keep*

*your chair. I’ll find my own way out.* \_ *Please keep your*

*seats until after the question-and-answer period.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42501, 42505]

**keep** one’s **eye on** someone or something and **have** one’s

**eye on** someone or something *Fig.* to have one’s attention

directed to someone or something. \_*Please keep your eye*

*on the children while I go to the store.* \_ *Bill kept an eye on*

*his expenses because he was spending too much money.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42516, 42523]

**keep** one’s **eyes open (for** someone or something**)** and

**keep** one’s **eyes peeled (for** someone or something**)** *Fig.*

to remain alert and watchful for someone or something.

(The entry with *peeled* is informal. *Peel* refers to moving

the eyelids back. See also keep an eye out (for someone

or something).) \_*I’m keeping my eyes open for a sale on winter*

*coats.* \_*Please keep your eyes peeled for Mary. She’s due*

*to arrive here any time.* \_ *Okay. I’ll keep my eyes open.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42528, 42532]

**keep** one’s **feet on the ground** and **have** one’s **feet on**

**the ground** *Fig.* to remain calm and stable. \_ *You will*

*do all right if you have your feet on the ground. Don’t get*

*carried away.* \_ *Just keep your feet on the ground and you*

*will do fine.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42538, 42544]

**keep** one’s **fingers crossed (for** someone or something**)**

and **cross** one’s **fingers** to wish for luck for someone or

something, sometimes by actually crossing one’s fingers;

to hope for a good outcome for someone or something. \_

*I hope you win the race Saturday. I’m keeping my fingers*

*crossed for you.* \_ *I’m trying out for a play. Keep your fingers*

*crossed!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42622, 42624]

**keep** one’s **shirt on** and **keep** one’s **pants on** *Fig.* to be

patient. \_*Wait a minute! Keep your shirt on!* \_*Keep your*

*pants on! I’ll be with you in a minute.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42629, 42633]

**keep** one’s **temper** and **hold** one’s **temper** to hold back

an expression of anger. (The opposite of lose one’s temper.)

\_ *She should have learned to keep her temper when*

*she was a child.* \_ *Sally got thrown off the team because*

*she couldn’t hold her temper.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42648, 42652]

**keep** one **step ahead of** someone or something and **stay**

one **step ahead of** someone or something *Fig.* to be or

stay slightly in advance of someone or something. \_ *Al*

*kept one step ahead of Detective Rogers.* \_ *Try to keep one*

*step ahead of the investigators.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42661, 42668]

**Keep out of my way.** and **Stay out of my way. 1.** *Lit.*

Don’t get in my pathway. \_*John: Keep out of my way! I’m*

*carrying a heavy load. Bill: Sorry.* \_*“Keep out of my way!”*

*shouted the piano mover.* **2.** *Fig.* Don’t cause me any trouble.

\_ *Henry: I’m going to get even no matter what. Keep*

*out of my way. Andy: Keep it up! You’ll really get in trouble.*

\_ *John: I intend to work my way to the top in this business.*

*Mary: So do I, so just keep out of my way.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42675, 42680]

**Keep out of this!** and **Stay out of this!** This is not your

business, so do not try to get involved. \_ *John: Now you*

*listen to me, Fred! Mary: That’s no way to talk to Fred! John:*

*Keep out of this, Mary! Mind your own business! Fred: Stay*

*out of this, Mary! Mary: It’s just as much my business as it*

*is yours.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42693, 42697]

**keep quiet (about** someone or something**)** and **keep still**

**(about** someone or something**)** to refrain from talking

about someone or something; to keep a secret about someone

or something. \_ *Please keep quiet about the missing*

*money.* \_*Please keep still about it.* \_*All right. I’ll keep still.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42709, 42717]

**keep** someone **back** and **hold** someone **back 1.** *Lit.* to

restrain people from moving forward or getting in the

way. \_ *The police were ordered to keep people back so they*

*wouldn’t interfere with the paramedics.* **2.** *Fig.* to keep a

child in the same grade for an extra year. \_*We asked them*

*to keep John back a year.* \_ *John was kept back a year in*

*school.* **3.** *Fig.* to keep someone from advancing in life. \_

*I think that your limited vocabulary is keeping you back.* \_

*Her lack of computer skills kept her back in her career.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42785, 42788]

**keep** someone or something **about** and **keep** someone or

something **around** to have someone or something nearby

habitually. \_ *Try to keep some spare parts about.* \_ *He*

*doesn’t work very hard, but we keep him around anyway.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42837, 42841]

**keep** someone or something **in check** and **hold** someone or

something **in check** to keep someone or something under

control; to restrain someone or something. \_ *Hang on to*

*this rope to keep the dog in check.* \_ *I was so angry I could*

*hardly hold myself in check.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42842, 42846]

**keep** someone or something **in mind** and **bear** someone or

something **in mind** to remember and think about someone

or something. \_ *When you’re driving a car, you must*

*bear this in mind at all times: Keep your eyes on the road.*

\_ *As you leave home, keep your family in mind.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[42978, 42981]

**keep** something **quiet** and **keep** something **still** *Fig.* to

keep something a secret. \_ *I’m quitting my job, but my*

*boss doesn’t know yet. Please keep it quiet.* \_*Okay. I’ll keep*

*it still.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[43020, 43027]

**keep tab(s) (on** someone or something**)** and **keep track**

**(of** someone or something**)** *Fig.* to monitor someone or

something; to follow the activities of someone or something.

\_ *I’m supposed to keep track of my books.* \_ *Try to*

*keep tabs on everyone who works for you.* \_*It’s hard to keep*

*tabs when you have a lot of other work to do.* \_*I can’t keep*

*track of the money I earn. Maybe someone else is spending*

*it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[43041, 43044]

**keep the stork flying** and **keep the stork busy** *Rur.*

to have lots of children. \_*Sally’s pregnant again, with their*

*sixth. They sure do keep the stork f lying!* \_ *Grandma and*

*grandpa kept the stork f lying. I’ve got ten aunts and uncles.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[43087, 43091]

**keep up an act** and **keep up** one’s **act** *Fig.* to maintain

a false front; to act in a special way that is different from

one’s natural behavior. \_ *Most of the time John kept up*

*an act. He was really not a friendly person.* \_*He works hard*

*to keep up his act.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[43155, 43157]

**Keep your shirt on!** and **Keep your pants on!** *Inf.* Just

wait a minute! \_ *I’ll be right with you. Keep your shirt on!*

\_ *Keep your pants on! You’re next.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[43171, 43174]

**\*keyed up (about** something**)** and **\*keyed up (over**

something**)** to be excited or anxious. (\*Typically: **be ~;**

**get ~**.) \_ *Why are you so keyed up about nothing?* \_ *She*

*is keyed up over her son’s health.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[43175, 43178]

**kick a habit** and **kick the habit; shake the habit;**

**shake a habit** to break a habit. \_*It’s hard to kick a habit,*

*but it can be done. I stopped biting my nails.* \_ *I used to*

*drink coffee every morning, but I kicked the habit.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[43188, 43190]

**kick ass** and **kick butt** *Sl.* to actively motivate people to

do something. \_ *It looks like I’m going to have to kick ass*

*to get people moving around here.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[43216, 43221]

a **kick in the (seat of the) pants** and a **kick in the**

**ass;** a **kick in the butt;** a **kick in the teeth** *Fig. Inf.*

a strong message of encouragement or demand. (Use *ass*

and *butt* with discretion.) \_ *All he needs is a kick in the*

*seat of the pants to get him going.* \_ *A kick in the butt will*

*get her moving.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[43223, 43226]

**kick like a mule** and **kick like a steer** to kick very hard.

\_*They say that ostriches will kick like a mule if you bother*

*them.* \_*Stay away from the back end of Tom’s horse. It will*

*kick like a steer when a stranger comes up.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[43309, 43313]

**kick** something **off (of )** someone or something and **kick**

something **off†** to knock something off someone or something

by kicking. (*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.)

\_ *The baby must have kicked her covers off of herself in*

*the night.* \_ *She kicked off her covers in the night.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[43314, 43317]

**kick** something **out of** something and **kick** something **out†**

to move something out of something or some place by

kicking. \_ *The soccer player kicked the ball out of the tangle*

*of legs.* \_*She got into the fracas and kicked out the ball.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[43320, 43328]

**kick the (natural) stuffing out of** someone and **beat**

**the (natural) stuffing out of** someone**; take the**

**stuffing out of** someone**; knock the starch out of**

someone**; knock the stuffing out of** someone *Rur.* to

kick or beat someone severely. \_*Last time I was in a fight*

*with Joe, he kicked the natural stuffing out of me.* \_*You do*

*that again and I’ll kick the stuffing out of you.* \_*Bill threatened*

*to beat the natural stuffing out of any no-’count rascal*

*who laid a hand on his sister.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[43333, 43339]

**kick up a fuss** and **kick up a row; kick up a storm**

*Fig.* to become a nuisance; to misbehave and disturb

(someone). (*Row* rhymes with *cow.* Note the variations in

the examples.) \_*The customer kicked up such a fuss about*

*the food that the manager came to apologize.* \_ *I kicked up*

*such a row that they told me to leave.* \_*Oh, what pain! My*

*arthritis is kicking up a storm.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[43399, 43405]

**Kings have long arms.** and **Governments have long**

**arms.** *Prov.* Those who are in power can always catch and

punish people who have opposed them, no matter how far

away those opponents may go. \_*After his attempt to assassinate*

*the king, the prince sailed to a distant country,*

*although his wife warned him it would be to no avail. “Kings*

*have long arms,” she reminded him.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[43490, 43495]

**\*knee-high to a jackrabbit** and **\*knee-high to a**

**grasshopper** *Rur.* very small or short. (Usually used to

describe children. \*Typically: **be ~; since** someone **was**

**~**.) \_ *I’ve known you since you were knee-high to a*

*jackrabbit.* \_ *My, how you’ve grown! The last time I saw*

*you, you were knee-high to a grasshopper!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[43508, 43511]

**knew it was coming** and **(had) known it was coming**

to have expected in advance that something was to

happen. \_ *I shouldn’t act surprised. I knew it was coming.*

\_ *It’s his own fault. He should have known it was coming.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[43522, 43527]

**knock about (**some place**) (with** someone**)** and **knock**

**around (**some place**) (with** someone**)** to hang around

some place with someone; to wander idly about some

place with someone. \_ *Sally was knocking about France*

*with her friends.* \_ *I knocked around town with Ken for a*

*while.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[43550, 43554]

**knock back a drink** and **knock one back; knock**

**one over** *Sl.* to swallow a drink of an alcoholic beverage.

\_ *Todd knocked back one drink, and then had another.* \_

*Kelly knocked one back.* \_*She knocked one over and left the*

*bar.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[43608, 43613]

**knock some sense into** someone and **knock some**

**sense in†** to strike one, making one smarter, or at least

obedient. \_ *I think his father finally knocked some sense*

*into him.* \_ *The accident finally knocked in some sense.* \_

*I thought that last week’s experience would knock some sense*

*in.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[43679, 43683]

**knock** someone’s **socks off** and **knock the socks off**

**(of )** someone *Sl.* to surprise someone thoroughly. (Fixed

order. *Of* is usually retained before pronouns.) \_ *The*

*exciting news just knocked my socks off!* \_ *The news*

*knocked the socks off of everyone in the office.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[43721, 43726]

**knock** something **off (of )** someone or something and **knock**

something **off†** to remove something from someone or

something by striking. (*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.)

\_ *I knocked the hard hat off of Wally when I hit*

*him accidentally with the ladder.* \_ *My elbow knocked off*

*the book.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[43884, 43887]

**know** one’s **stuff** and **know** one’s **onions** to know what

one is expected to know. \_ *I know my stuff. I can do my*

*job.* \_ *She can’t handle the assignment. She doesn’t know*

*her onions.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[43896, 43901]

**know shit from Shinola** and **tell shit from Shinola**

*Fig. Inf.* to know what’s what; to be intelligent and aware.

(Always in the negative. Shinola is a brand of shoe polish.

A person who doesn’t know shit from Shinola is very

stupid.) \_*Poor Tom doesn’t know shit from Shinola.* \_*Fred*

*can’t tell shit from Shinola, and he’s been made my boss.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[43926, 43931]

**know** someone or something **like the palm of** one’s **hand**

and **know** someone or something **like the back of** one’s

**hand; know** someone or something **like a book** to know

someone or something very well. \_*Of course I know John.*

*I know him like the back of my hand.* \_ *I know him like a*

*book.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[43932, 43937]

**know** something **backwards and forwards** and **know**

something **forwards and backwards** *Fig.* to know

something very well; to know a passage of language so well

that one could recite it backwards as well as forwards. \_

*Of course I’ve memorized my speech. I know it backwards*

*and forwards.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[43972, 43975]

**know the score** and **know what’s what** *Fig.* to know

the facts; to know the facts about life and its difficulties.

\_*Bob is so naive. He sure doesn’t know the score.* \_*I know*

*what you’re trying to do. Oh, yes, I know what’s what.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[44021, 44025]

**know which is which** and **tell which is which** to be

able to distinguish one person or thing from another person

or thing. \_*I have an old one and a new one, but I don’t*

*know which is which.* \_*I know that Bill and Bob are twins,*

*but I can’t tell which is which.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[44099, 44103]

**lace into** someone or something and **light into** someone or

something *Fig.* to attack, devour, or scold someone or

something. \_ *We laced into a big meal of pork and beans.*

\_ *The bully punched John once, and then John really laced*

*into him.* \_ *John lit into him with both fists.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[44129, 44133]

**ladle** something **out of** something and **ladle** something **out†**

to scoop something out of something with a spoon or

ladle. \_ *Marie ladled the last of the gravy out of the gravy*

*boat and went to the kitchen for more.* \_*She ladled out the*

*soup.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[44173, 44177]

**lament over** someone or something and **lament (for)** someone

or something to sorrow over someone or something.

\_ *There is no need to lament over Sam. There is nothing*

*that crying will do for him now.* \_*She is still lamenting for*

*her cat.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[44212, 44218]

**land so poor it wouldn’t even raise a fuss** and **land**

**too poor to raise a racket on** *Rur.* land where nothing

will grow. \_ *I inherited two hundred acres from my*

*uncle, but it’s land so poor it wouldn’t even raise a fuss.* \_

*The soil’s exhausted. That land is so poor it wouldn’t even*

*raise a fuss.* \_*Jill can grow a garden anywhere, even on land*

*too poor to raise a racket on.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[44236, 44245]

**land (up)on both feet** and **land (up)on** one’s **feet**

**1.** *Lit.* to end up on both feet after a jump, dive, etc. (*Upon*

is formal and less commonly used than *on*.) \_*She jumped*

*over the bicycle and landed upon both feet.* \_*Donna made*

*the enormous leap and landed on her feet.* **2.** *Fig.* to come

out of something well; to survive something satisfactorily.

(*Upon* is formal and less commonly used than *on*.) \_ *It*

*was a rough period in his life, but when it was over he landed*

*on both feet.* \_ *At least, after it was over I landed on my*

*feet.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[44255, 44258]

**Land(s) sakes (alive)!** and **Sakes alive!** *Rur.*My goodness!

(A mild oath.) \_ *Lands sakes! I sure am glad to get*

*home!* \_ *Sakes alive! Can’t you even set the table without*

*making a fuss?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[44344, 44350]

**lash out (at** someone or something**)** and **lash out**

**(against** someone or something**)** to strike out in defense

or attack—physically or verbally. \_ *Amy was angry with*

*Ed and lashed out at him just to show who was boss.* \_ *She*

*was so angry with him that she just lashed out against him.*

\_*Gretchen was fed up with the cat and lashed out savagely*

*in her anger.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[44372, 44375]

**last call (for** something**)** and **last chance (for** something**)**

*Fig.* the last opportunity for doing, getting, or having

something. \_ *This is the last call for ice cream and cake.*

*It’s almost all gone.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[44409, 44419]

the **last straw** and the **straw that broke the camel’s**

**back** the final difficulty in a series; the last little burden

or problem that causes everything to collapse. (From the

image of a camel being loaded down with much weight.

Finally, at some point, one more straw will be too much

and the camel’s back will break.) \_ *When our best player*

*came down sick, that was the straw that broke the camel’s*

*back. We hoped to make the playoffs, but lost all the rest of*

*our games.* \_ *When she showed up late a third time, that*

*was the straw that broke the camel’s back. We had to fire*

*her.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[44424, 44428]

**\***the **last word** and **\***the **final word; \***the **final say** *Fig.*

the final point (in an argument); the final decision (in

some matter). (\*Typically: **get ~; have ~; give** someone

**~**.) \_ *The boss gets the last word in hiring.* \_ *Why do*

*you always have to have the final word in an argument?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[44523, 44530]

**laugh out of the other side of** one’s **face** and **laugh**

**out of the other side of** one’s **mouth** *Fig.* to be forced

to take a different or opposite view of something humbly;

to sing a different tune. \_ *When you get the kind of punishment*

*you deserve, you’ll laugh out of the other side of*

*your face.* \_ *Phil played a dirty trick on me, but he’ll be*

*laughing out of the other side of his mouth when I get*

*through with him.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[44634, 44636]

**lay around** and **lay about** to lie around. (Common

errors for lie about, lie around.) \_ *Don’t just lay around*

*all day!* \_ *I need to lay around for a few days.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[44659, 44664]

**lay emphasis on** something and **lay stress on** something

to place emphasis on something; to emphasize something.

\_ *When you present this explanation, lay emphasis on the*

*matter of personal responsibility.* \_ *I’m afraid I laid too*

*much stress on the notion of good attendance. If you are*

*really sick, stay home!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[44679, 44684]

**lay it on the line** and **put it on the line** *Fig.* to make

something very clear; to be very definite about something.

\_ *I am going to lay it on the line and you had better listen*

*to me. If you eat any of these mushrooms, you will die.* \_

*I’ve said it before, but this time I’m going to put it on the*

*line. Don’t eat the mushrooms!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[44685, 44691]

**lay it on thick** and **lay it on with a trowel; pour it**

**on thick; spread it on thick** *Fig.* to exaggerate or overstate

praise, excuses, or blame. \_ *Sally was laying it on*

*thick when she said that Tom was the best singer she had*

*ever heard.* \_ *After Bob finished making his excuses, Sally*

*said that he was pouring it on thick.* \_ *Bob always spreads*

*it on thick.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[44720, 44725]

**lay** one’s **cards on the table** and **put** one’s **cards on**

**the table** *Fig.* to be very candid about one’s position on

some issue. (Alludes to laying playing cards on the table,

face up, showing the cards.) \_*All right. Let’s lay our cards*

*on the table and speak very candidly about this matter.* \_

*It’s time we put our cards on the table and spoke honestly.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[44740, 44744]

**lay some sweet lines on** someone and **put some**

**sweet lines on** someone *Sl.* to speak kindly to someone;

to soft-soap someone. \_ *I just laid some sweet lines on*

*her, and she let me use her car.* \_*If you put some sweet lines*

*on him, maybe he won’t ground you.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[44796, 44805]

**lay** something **at** someone’s **door** and **put** something **at**

someone’s **door 1.** *Fig.* to blame a problem on someone;

to hold someone responsible for something. (Alludes to

someone laying incriminating evidence at the door of a

guilty person, perhaps in the night.) \_ *I’m laying responsibility*

*for this mess at your door!* \_ *Don’t put this at my*

*door!* **2.** *Fig.* to give or assign a problem to someone for

solving. \_*I am going to lay this problem right at your door.*

*You are the one who can settle it.* \_ *I will put this business*

*at your door and hope you can do something about it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[44806, 44812]

**lay** something **at** someone’s **feet** and **put** something **at** someone’s

**feet 1.** *Lit.* to place something on the ground in

front of someone. \_ *The cat came up to me and laid a*

*mouse at my feet.* \_*The dog put a rabbit at my feet.* **2.** *Fig.*

to hold someone responsible for something. \_*I am going*

*to lay this matter at your feet. You are clearly to blame.* \_ *I*

*will put this matter at your feet. It is your fault.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[44860, 44864]

**lay** something **out† on** someone or something and **lay** something

**out† for** someone or something *Fig.* to spend an

amount of money on someone or something. \_ *We laid*

*out nearly ten thousand dollars on that car.* \_*We laid a fortune*

*out on the children.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[44873, 44876]

**lay** something **to waste** and **lay waste to** something *Fig.*

to destroy something; to ruin or mess up something. \_

*The invaders laid the village to waste.* \_ *The kids came in*

*and laid waste to my clean house.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[44916, 44920]

**leach** something **away† (from** something**)** and **leach** something

**out (of** something**); leach** something **out†; leach**

something **away†** to remove something from something

by leaching. \_*The heavy rains leached nutrients away from*

*the soil.* \_ *The rains leached away the nutrients.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[44921, 44923]

**lead a dog’s life** and **live a dog’s life** *Fig.* to lead a drab

or boring life. \_ *Poor Jane really leads a dog’s life.* \_ *I’ve*

*been working so hard. I’m tired of living a dog’s life.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[44972, 44975]

**lead** someone **down the garden path** and **lead** someone

**up the garden path** to deceive someone. \_ *Now,*

*be honest with me. Don’t lead me down the garden path.* \_

*That cheater really led her up the garden path.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[44980, 44983]

**lead** someone **into** something and **lead** someone **in†** to guide

someone into something or some place. \_ *The usher led*

*us into the darkened theater and showed us our seats.* \_*She*

*led in the children.* \_ *We led them in.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[44995, 44999]

**lead** someone or an animal **out of** something and **lead** someone

or an animal **out†** to guide someone or an animal out

of something or some place. \_ *Someone finally led the*

*hiker out of the valley or he would still be there now.* \_ *She*

*led out the striking workers.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[45042, 45046]

**lead the life of Riley** and **live the life of Riley** *Fig.* to

live in luxury. (No one knows who Riley alludes to.) \_ *If*

*I had a million dollars, I could live the life of Riley.* \_ *The*

*treasurer took our money to Mexico, where he lived the life*

*of Riley until the police caught him.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[45089, 45094]

**leak** something **(out)** and **let** something **(get) out** *Fig.* to

disclose special information to the press so that the resulting

publicity will accomplish something. (Usually said of

government disclosures. Also used for accidental disclosures.)

\_ *Don’t leak that information out.* \_ *I don’t want*

*to be the one to leak it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[45191, 45199]

**leap at the opportunity (to** do something**)** and **leap at**

**the chance (to** do something**); jump at the chance**

**(to** do something**); jump at the opportunity (to** do

something**)** *Fig.* to accept an opportunity eagerly. \_ *Frank*

*leapt at the opportunity to become a commercial artist.* \_

*It was a great idea and we leapt at the opportunity.* \_ *I*

*would leap at the chance to go to Moscow.* \_ *His company*

*proposed to send him to England, and John jumped at the*

*chance.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[45203, 45206]

**leap for joy** and **jump for joy** *Fig.* to jump up because

one is happy; to be very happy. \_ *Tommy leapt for joy*

*because he had won the race.* \_ *We all leapt for joy when*

*we heard the news.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[45262, 45268]

**learn (**something**) the hard way** and **find (**something**)**

**out the hard way** to learn something by experience,

especially by an unpleasant experience. (As opposed to

learning in school, from reading, etc.) \_ *She learned how*

*to make investments the hard way.* \_ *I wish I didn’t have*

*to learn things the hard way.* \_ *I found out the hard way*

*that it’s difficult to work and go to school at the same time.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[45312, 45316]

**leave an impression (on** someone**)** and **leave** someone

**with an impression** *Fig.* to provide a lasting memory

for someone after one has left. (Akin to make an impression

on someone.) \_ *Her performance was less than stunning.*

*She didn’t leave a very good impression on us.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[45357, 45361]

**leave** one **to** one’s **own devices** and **leave** one **to** one’s

**own resources** *Fig.* to make one rely on oneself. \_*I am*

*sure that she will manage if we leave her to her own devices.*

\_ *I will leave her to her own resources and everything will*

*turn out fine.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[45363, 45368]

**leave** oneself **wide open for** something and **leave** oneself

**wide open to** something *Fig.* to invite criticism or joking

about oneself; to fail to protect oneself from criticism

or ridicule. \_ *Yes, that was a harsh remark, Jane, but you*

*left yourself wide open to it.* \_ *I can’t complain about your*

*joke. I left myself wide open for it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[45397, 45402]

**leave** someone **holding the bag** and **leave** someone

**holding the baby** *Fig.* to allow someone to take all the

blame; to leave someone appearing to be guilty. \_ *They*

*all ran off and left me holding the bag. It wasn’t even my*

*fault.* \_*It was all the mayor’s fault, but he wasn’t left holding*

*the bag.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[45430, 45439]

**leave** someone or something **hanging (in midair)** and

**keep** someone or something **hanging (in midair) 1.** *Lit.*

to keep someone or something suspended in midair when

support for the person or thing is removed. \_ *The ladder*

*collapsed and left me hanging in midair. Fortunately, I*

*grabbed onto the windowsill.* **2.** *Fig.* to suspend dealing

with someone or something; to leave someone or something

waiting to be finished or continued. \_ *She left her*

*sentence hanging in midair.* \_ *Tell me the rest of the story.*

*Don’t leave me hanging in midair.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[45455, 45458]

**leave** someone or something **out of** something and **leave**

someone or something **out†** to neglect to include someone

or something in something. \_*Please leave me out of it.* \_

*Can I leave John out this time?* \_*Leave out the last two eggs.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[45471, 45477]

**leave** someone, something, or some creature **alone** and **let**

someone, something, or some creature **alone; leave** someone,

something, or some creature **be; let** someone, something,

or some creature **be** to stop bothering someone or something.

\_ *Don’t torment the cat. Leave it alone.* \_ *I don’t*

*want your help. Let me alone.* \_ *Don’t argue about it. Let*

*it be!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[45498, 45503]

**leave** something **for another occasion** and **keep** something

**for another occasion** to hold something back for

later. (*Occasion* can be replaced with *time, day, person,*

etc.) \_*Please leave some cake for another day.* \_*Don’t eat*

*all the cheese. Leave some for another occasion.* \_ *I have to*

*leave some of my earnings for next month.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[45512, 45516]

**leave** something **(lying) around** and **leave** something

**(lying) about** to permit something to lie around

unguarded; to leave something somewhere carelessly. \_

*Don’t leave your clothes lying around. Hang them up.* \_

*Don’t leave stuff lying about!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[45584, 45591]

**lecture ((to)** someone**) about** someone or something and

**lecture ((to)** someone**) on** someone or something **1.** to

give an instructional speech to someone about someone

or something. \_*He always lectured his children about their*

*duty to vote.* \_ *She lectured to all her classes on employment*

*opportunities.* **2.** to scold someone about someone

or something. \_ *Please don’t lecture me about my behavior.*

\_ *I like Ted! Don’t lecture about him.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[45632, 45635]

**lend an ear to** someone or something and **lend your ear**

**to** someone or something *Fig.* to listen to someone or what

someone has to say. \_ *Lend an ear to me and I will tell*

*you a story.* \_ *Lend your ear to what I am saying.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[45647, 45651]

**lend (**someone**) a hand** and **lend a hand (to** someone**)**

*Fig.* to give someone some help, not necessarily with the

hands. \_*Could you lend me a hand with this piano? I need*

*to move it across the room.* \_ *Could you lend a hand with*

*this math assignment?* \_ *I’d be happy to lend a hand.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[45736, 45742]

**let go (with** something**)** and **cut loose (with** something**);**

**let loose (with** something**) 1.** to shout something out or

expel something; to shout or express something wildly.

\_ *The whole team let go with a loud shout.* \_ *The audience*

*cut loose with a loud cheer.* **2.** to deliver a strong verbal

reprimand. \_*Molly let loose with a tremendous scolding*

*at Dave.* \_ *Dave cut loose with a vengeful retort.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[45747, 45748]

**Let her rip!** and **Let it roll!** *Inf.* Let it go!; Let it start! \_

*Time to start. Let her rip!* \_ *There’s the signal! Let it roll!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[45771, 45775]

**Let me have it!** and **Let’s have it!** *Inf.* Tell me the news.

\_ *Bill: I’m afraid there’s some bad news. Bob: Okay. Let*

*me have it! Bill: The plans we made did away with your job.*

*Bob: What?* \_ *John: I didn’t want to be the one to tell you*

*this. Bob: What is it? Let’s have it!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[45776, 45781]

**let me (just) say** and **just let me say** a phrase introducing

something that the speaker thinks is important. \_

*Rachel: Let me say how pleased we all are with your efforts.*

*Henry: Why, thank you very much.* \_ *Bob: Just let me say*

*that we’re extremely pleased with your activity. Bill: Thanks*

*loads. I did what I could.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[45782, 45791]

**let off (some) steam** and **blow off (some) steam**

**1.** *Lit.* [for something] to release steam. \_*The locomotive*

*let off some steam after it came to a halt.* \_ *With a great*

*hiss, it let off steam and frightened the children.* **2.** *Fig.* to

work or play off excess energy. \_ *Those boys need to get*

*out and let off some steam.* \_ *Go out and let off steam!*

**3.** *Fig.* to release one’s pent-up emotions, such as anger,

usually verbally. \_*I’m sorry I yelled at you. I guess I needed*

*to let off some steam.* \_ *She’s not that mad. She’s just letting*

*off steam.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[45852, 45858]

**Let’s do this again (sometime).** and **We must do**

**this again (sometime).** an expression indicating that

one member of a group or pair has enjoyed doing something

and would like to do it again. \_ *Bill: What a nice*

*evening. Mary: Yes, let’s do this again sometime. Bill: Bye.*

*Mary: Bye, Bill.* \_ *Sue (saying good night): So nice to see*

*both of you. Mary: Oh, yes. We must do this again sometime.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[45917, 45919]

**let** someone **(get) by** and **let** someone **pass by** to permit

someone to pass. \_ *Please let me get by. I am in a hurry.*

\_ *Let the paramedics by, please.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[45963, 45965]

**let** someone **off (easy)** and **let** someone **off†** to release or

dismiss someone without punishment. \_*The judge didn’t*

*let me off easy.* \_ *The judge let off Mary with a warning.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[45974, 45977]

**let** someone or an animal **out of** something and **let** someone

or an animal **out†** to permit someone or an animal to exit

from something or some place. \_*Would you please let Ed*

*out of his room?* \_ *Please let out Ed.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[45978, 45982]

**let** someone or something **alone** and **leave** someone or something

**alone; leave** someone or something **be** to avoid

touching, bothering, or communicating with someone or

something. \_ *Leave me alone. I don’t want your help.* \_

*Let it alone! Don’t touch it! It may be hot!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[45991, 45996]

**let** someone or something **into** something and **let** someone or

something **in†** to permit someone or something to enter

something or some place; to make it possible for someone

or something to enter something or some place. \_*Would*

*you let Ed into his room? He forgot his key.* \_ *Please let in*

*the dog.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[46032, 46040]

**let** something **slip by** and **let** something **slide by 1.** *Lit.* to

permit something to move quickly by oneself. \_*He let the*

*ball slip by and he knew he had better get the next one.* \_

*The careless cashier let the leaky milk carton slide by.* **2.** *Fig.*

to forget or miss an important time or date. \_ *I’m sorry*

*I just let your birthday slip by.* \_ *I let it slide by accidentally.*

**3.** *Fig.* to waste a period of time. \_ *You wasted the*

*whole day by letting it slip by.* \_ *We were having fun, and*

*we let the time slide by.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[46089, 46093]

**let things slide** and **let** something **slide** *Fig.* to ignore

the things that one is supposed to do; to fall behind in the

doing of one’s work. \_*I am afraid that I let the matter slide*

*while I was recovering from my operation.* \_ *If I let things*

*slide for even one day, I get hopelessly behind in my work.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[46105, 46109]

**let well enough alone** and **leave well enough alone**

to leave things as they are (and not try to improve them).

\_ *There isn’t much more you can accomplish here. Why*

*don’t you just let well enough alone?* \_ *This is as good as I*

*can do. I’ll stop and leave well enough alone.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[46218, 46222]

**lick** something **into shape** and **whip** something **into**

**shape** *Fig.* to put something into good condition, possibly

with considerable effort. \_ *I’ve got about two days*

*more to lick this place into shape so I can sell it.* \_ *I want*

*to whip this house into shape for Saturday night.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[46223, 46227]

**lick** something **off (of )** something and **lick** something **off†**

to remove something from something by licking with the

tongue. (*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.) \_ *The*

*dog licked the grease off of the f loor where the meat had*

*dropped.* \_ *The dog licked off the grease.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[46255, 46261]

**lie ahead of** someone or something and **lie before** someone

or something **1.** to exist in front of someone or something.

\_ *A small cottage lay ahead of us near the trail.* \_

*A huge mansion lay before the car at the end of the road.*

**2.** to be fixed in the future of someone or something. \_

*I just don’t know what lies ahead of me.* \_ *We don’t know*

*what lies before our country.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[46307, 46311]

**lie down on the job** and **lay down on the job** *Fig.* to

do one’s job poorly or not at all. (*Lay* is a common error

for *lie.*) \_ *Tom was fired because he was laying down on*

*the job.* \_ *You mean he was lying down on the job, don’t*

*you?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[46347, 46350]

**lie low** and **lay low** *Fig.* to keep quiet and not be noticed;

to avoid being conspicuous. (*Lay* is a common error for

*lie*.) \_ *I suggest you lie low for a few days.* \_ *The robber*

*said that he would lay low for a short time after the robbery.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[46418, 46423]

**lift a hand (against** someone or something**)** and **raise a**

**hand (against** someone or something**)** *Fig.* to threaten (to

strike) someone or something. (Often in the negative. The

*a hand* can be replaced with *one’s hand.*) \_ *She’s very*

*peaceful. She wouldn’t lift a hand against a f ly.* \_ *Would*

*you raise your hand against your own brother?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[46439, 46443]

**lift** something **off (of )** someone or something and **lift** something

**off†** to raise something and uncover or release someone

or something. (*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.)

\_ *Lift the beam off of him and see if he is still*

*breathing.* \_ *Please lift off the heavy lid.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[46449, 46453]

**\*light as a feather** and **\*light as air** *Cliché* light in

weight; [of cakes and pastries] delicate and airy. (\*Also:

**as ~**.) \_ *Carrying Esther from the car to the house was*

*no problem; she was as light as a feather.* \_ *What a delicious*

*cake, Tom! And light as air, too.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[46526, 46530]

**like a bolt out of the blue** and **like a bolt from the**

**blue** *Fig.* suddenly and without warning. (Alludes to a

bolt of lightning coming out of a clear blue sky.) \_ *The*

*news came to us like a bolt from the blue.* \_ *Like a bolt out*

*of the blue, the boss came and fired us all.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[46546, 46549]

**like a house on fire** and **like a house afire** *Rur.*

rapidly and with force. \_*The truck came roaring down the*

*road like a house on fire.* \_ *The crowd burst through the*

*gate like a house afire.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[46578, 46581]

**like crazy** and **like mad** *Fig.* furiously; very much, fast,

many, or actively. \_ *People are coming in here like crazy.*

*There isn’t enough room for them all.* \_ *We sold ice cream*

*like crazy. It was a very hot day.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[46632, 46637]

**like lambs to the slaughter** and **like a lamb to the**

**slaughter** *Fig.* quietly and without seeming to realize the

likely difficulties or dangers of a situation. \_ *Young men*

*fighting in World War I simply went like lambs to the*

*slaughter.* \_*Our team went on the football field like lambs*

*to the slaughter to meet the league-leaders.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[46670, 46674]

**like shooting fish in a barrel** and **as easy as shooting**

**fish in a barrel** *Rur.* ridiculously easy. \_ *Jane’s a*

*good mechanic. Changing a tire is like shooting fish in a barrel,*

*for her.* \_ *That comedian has an easy job. Making fun*

*of politicians is like shooting fish in a barrel.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[46685, 46687]

**like taking candy from a baby** and **as easy as taking**

**candy from a baby** *Cliché* very easy. \_ *Getting to*

*the airport was easy. It was like taking candy from a baby.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[46688, 46692]

**\*like the devil** and **\*like the dickens; \*like hell** *Fig.*

with a fury; in a great hurry; with a lot of activity. (\*Typically:

**fight ~; run ~; scream ~; thrash around**

**~**.) \_ *We were working like the dickens when the rain*

*started and made us quit for the day.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[46700, 46703]

**like there’s no tomorrow** and **like there ain’t no**

**tomorrow***Rur.* eagerly; rapidly; without stopping. \_*You*

*can’t go on eating candy bars like there’s no tomorrow.* \_

*Jim’s spending money like there’s no tomorrow.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[46870, 46875]

**linger on (after** someone or something**)** and **stay on**

**(after** someone or something**)** to outlast someone or something;

to live longer than someone else or long after an

event. \_ *Aunt Sarah lingered on only a few months after*

*Uncle Herman died.* \_ *She lingered on and was depressed*

*for a while.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[46887, 46898]

**link** someone or something **to** someone or something and **link**

someone or something **and** someone or something

**together; link** someone or something **together with**

someone or something; **link** someone or something **with**

someone or something **1.** to discover a connection between

people and things, in any combination. \_ *I would never*

*have thought of linking Fred to Tom. I didn’t even know they*

*knew each other.* \_ *I always sort of linked Tom with honesty.*

**2.** to connect people and things, in any combination.

\_ *We have to link each person to one other person, using*

*this colored yarn to tie them together.* \_*We linked each decoration*

*together with another one.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[46907, 46911]

**link up to** someone or something and **link (up) with** someone

or something to join up with someone or something. \_

*I have his new e-mail address so I can link up to Bruce.* \_

*Now my computer can link up with a computer bulletin*

*board.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[46971, 46974]

**litter** something **about** and **litter** something **around** to

cast around something, such as trash, clothing, personal

possessions, etc. \_*Don’t litter all that stuff about.* \_*I wish*

*you wouldn’t litter your trash around.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[46999, 47004]

A **little (hard) work never hurt anyone.** and A **little**

**(hard) work never killed anyone.** *Prov.* One should

expect to do hard or difficult work and not avoid doing

it. \_ *Go help your father with the yard work. A little hard*

*work never hurt anyone.* \_*Go ahead. Bring me some more*

*bricks. A little work never killed anyone.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[47005, 47012]

A **little knowledge is a dangerous thing.** and A **little**

**learning is a dangerous thing.** *Prov. Cliché* If you

only know a little about something, you may feel you are

qualified to make judgments when, in fact, you are not. \_

*After Bill read one book on the history of Venezuela, he felt*

*he was an authority on the subject, but he wound up looking*

*like a fool in discussions with people who knew a lot more*

*about it than he did. A little learning is a dangerous thing.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[47042, 47044]

a **little steep** and a **little pricey** *Fig.* relatively expensive;

costing more than one wants to pay. \_ *The food here is a*

*little pricey, but you get a lot of it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[47055, 47061]

**Little things please little minds.** and **Small things**

**please small minds.** *Prov.* People who are not intelligent

are pleased by trivial things. (Implies that the person

you are talking about is not intelligent.) \_ *Jill:*

*Nathaniel’s been awfully cheerful today. Jane: Yes, his*

*favorite TV show is on tonight. Jill: Little things please little*

*minds, they say.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[47069, 47073]

**live above** someone or something and **live over** someone

or something to live in a place that is at a higher level than

someone or something; to dwell directly over someone or

something. \_ *We used to live above a small grocery store.*

\_ *Now we live over a student, who often has noisy parties.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[47140, 47144]

**live high off the hog** and **live high on the hog; eat**

**high on the hog** *Rur.* to live well and eat good food.

(Note the variation with *pretty.*) \_ *After they discovered*

*oil on their land, they lived pretty high on the hog.* \_*Looks*

*like we’re living high off the hog tonight. What’s the occasion?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[47240, 47243]

**live out** one’s **days** and **live out** one’s **life** to live for the

remainder of one’s life. (Usually with some reference to a

place.) \_*Where do you plan to live out your days?* \_*I will*

*live out my life in sunny Florida.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[47293, 47299]

**live up to** one’s **end of the bargain** and **keep** one’s

**side of the bargain; live up to** one’s **side of the**

**bargain; keep** one’s **end of the bargain** to carry

though on a bargain; to do as was promised in a bargain.

\_*You can’t quit now. You have to live up to your end of the*

*bargain.* \_*Bob isn’t keeping his end of the bargain, so I am*

*going to sue him.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[47345, 47349]

**\***a **load off** one’s **mind** and **\***a **weight off** one’s **mind**

*Fig.* the relief from a mental burden gained by saying what

one is thinking or by speaking one’s mind. (\*Typically:

**get ~; take ~**.) \_ *I think you’ll feel better after you get*

*a load off your mind.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[47354, 47358]

**load** someone or something **into** something and **load** someone

or something **in†** to put someone or something into

something. \_ *Would you load the dishes into the dishwasher?*

\_ *Let’s load the kids into the car and go to the zoo.*

\_ *Load them in, and let’s go.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[47365, 47369]

**load** something **onto** someone or something and **load** something

**on†** to lift something onto someone or something.

\_ *We loaded the trunk onto Sam, and he carried it up the*

*stairs into the house.* \_ *Please help me load the boxes onto*

*the cart.* \_ *Load on the boxes, and let’s go.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[47386, 47388]

**loaded to the gills** and **loaded to the barrel** *Sl.* intoxicated.

\_*He’s loaded to the gills.* \_*Man, he’s loaded to the*

*barrel and fighting mad.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[47418, 47423]

**lock in on** someone or something and **lock on(to)** someone

or something *Fig.* to fix some kind of electronic sensing

device on someone or something. \_ *The enemy pilot*

*was f lying just ahead of us. Aiming the laser, we locked in*

*on him and shot him down.* \_ *We locked onto the satellite*

*and got an excellent TV picture.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[47429, 47433]

**lock** someone or an animal **(up) in (**something**)** and **lock**

someone or an animal **up†** to fasten the opening to something

so someone, a group, or an animal cannot get out.

\_ *Take Chuck and lock him up in the cell.* \_ *Lock up the*

*killer and throw away the key!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[47439, 47443]

**lock** someone or something **out of** something and **lock** someone

or something **out†** to lock something to prevent someone

or something from getting into it. \_ *Someone locked*

*me out of my office.* \_ *Who locked out the office staff this*

*morning?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[47453, 47458]

**lock** something **onto** someone or something and **lock** something

**on†** to attach or fix something onto someone or

something. \_ *The cop locked the handcuffs onto the mugger*

*and led him away.* \_ *Andy locked his bicycle onto the*

*signpost.* \_ *See that bike rack? Lock your bike on and keep*

*an eye on it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[47483, 47486]

**log off** and **log out** to record one’s exit from a computer

system. (This action may be recorded, or logged, automatically

in the computer’s memory.) \_ *I closed my files*

*and logged off.* \_ *What time did you log out?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[47499, 47503]

**log** someone **off** and **log** someone **out** [for someone] to

cause someone to exit from a computer system. (This exit

may be recorded, or logged, automatically in the computer’s

memory.) \_ *Mary had to rush off to an appointment,*

*so I logged her off.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[47540, 47548]

the **long and the short of it** and the **short and the**

**long of it** *Fig.* the most important point; the summary

of the matter. \_ *Jill: Is there some reason that you’ve spent*

*the last half hour complaining about Fred? Jane: The long*

*and the short of it is, I hate working with him so much that*

*I’m going to resign.* \_ *Dad keeps saying that he can’t spend*

*the rest of his life in mourning for Mother. I finally asked*

*him if he was thinking of getting married again. “That’s the*

*long and the short of it,” he admitted.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[47575, 47583]

The **longest way round is the shortest way home.**

and The **longest way round is the nearest way**

**home.** *Prov.* It may seem as if it will take too long to do

something carefully and according to directions, but in

fact it will take less time than doing something carelessly,

because you will not have to fix it afterwards. \_ *I would*

*advise you to read the instructions before trying to use your*

*new stereo. It takes some time, but the longest way round is*

*the nearest way home.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[47593, 47596]

**look after number one** and **look out for number**

**one** to take care of oneself first. \_ *You gotta look after*

*number one, right?* \_ *It’s a good idea to look out for number*

*one. Who else will?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[47663, 47671]

**look back (at** someone or something**)** and **look back (on**

someone or something**) 1.** *Lit.* to gaze back and try to get a

view of someone or something. \_ *She looked back at the*

*city and whispered a good-bye to everything she had ever*

*cared for.* \_ *I went away and never looked back.* **2.** *Fig.* to

think about someone or something in the past. \_ *When*

*I look back on Frank, I do remember his strange manner,*

*come to think of it.* \_*When I look back, I am amazed at all*

*I have accomplished.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[47708, 47712]

**look for** someone or something **high and low** and **look**

**high and low (for** someone or something) to search everywhere

for someone or something. \_ *Where were you? I*

*looked for you high and low.* \_*I looked high and low for my*

*passport.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[47729, 47733]

**look in (on** someone or something**)** and **check in (on** someone

or something**)** to see to the welfare of someone or something;

to check briefly on someone or something. \_ *I’ll*

*stop by your house and look in on things while you’re on*

*vacation.* \_*Yes, just look in and make sure nothing is wrong.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[47805, 47809]

**look** someone **in the face** and **look** someone **in the eye;**

**stare** someone **in the face** *Fig.* to face someone directly.

(Facing someone this way is a sign of sincerity.) \_ *I don’t*

*believe you. Look me in the eye and say that.* \_ *She looked*

*him in the face and said she never wanted to see him again.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[47813, 47823]

**look** someone or something **up†** and **hunt** someone or something

**up† 1.** to seek someone, a group, or something out.

\_*I lost track of Sally. I’ll try to look her up and get in touch*

*with her.* \_ *I am going to look up an old friend when I am*

*in Chicago.* \_ *I am going to hunt that old gang up.* \_ *Ted*

*came into town and looked up his favorite pizza place.* **2.** to

seek information about someone or something in a book

or listing. \_*I don’t recognize his name. I’ll look him up and*

*see what I can find.* \_ *I’ll look up this person in a reference*

*book.* \_*She looked herself up in the telephone book to make*

*sure her name was spelled correctly.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[47948, 47952]

**lop** something **off (of )** something and **lop** something **off†**

to chop or cut something off something. (*Of* is usually

retained before pronouns.) \_ *Lop that long branch off the*

*tree before you put the saw away, will you?* \_ *Please lop off*

*that branch.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[47979, 47984]

**lose (all)** one’s **marbles** and **lose** one’s **mind** *Fig.* to go

crazy; to go out of one’s mind. \_*What a silly thing to say!*

*Have you lost your marbles?* \_ *Look at Sally jumping up*

*and down and screaming. Is she losing all her marbles?* \_ *I*

*can’t seem to remember anything. I think I’m losing my*

*mind.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[47990, 47995]

**lose contact with** someone or something and **lose touch**

**with** someone or something [for communication with

someone or a group] to fail or fade away; to let one’s

friendship or relationship with someone or a group lapse.

\_*I hope I don’t lose contact with you.* \_*I don’t want to lose*

*touch with my old friends.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48024, 48026]

**lose** one’s **cool** and **blow** one’s **cool** to lose one’s temper;

to lose one’s nerve. \_ *Wow, he really lost his cool! What a*

*tantrum!* \_ *Whatever you do, don’t blow your cool.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48088, 48094]

**lose sleep over** someone or something and **lose sleep**

**about** someone or something *Fig.* to worry about someone

or something a lot, sometimes when one should be

sleeping. (Often used with *any* and the negative.) \_ *Yes,*

*Kelly is in a little bit of trouble, but I’m not going to lose*

*any sleep over her.* \_ *Don’t lose any sleep over the matter.*

\_ *I refuse to lose sleep about it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48171, 48174]

a **lot of** someone or something and **lots of** people or things a

large number of people or things; much of something. \_

*I got a lot of presents for my birthday.* \_ *I ate lots of cookies*

*after dinner.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48237, 48242]

**Lovely weather for ducks.** and **Fine weather for**

**ducks.** *Cliché* a greeting meaning that this unpleasant

rainy weather must be good for something. \_*Bill: Hi, Bob.*

*How do you like this weather? Bob: Lovely weather for ducks.*

\_ *Sally: What a lot of rain! Tom: Yeah. Lovely weather for*

*ducks. Don’t care for it much myself.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48305, 48308]

a **lucky break** and a **nice break;** a **big break** significant

good fortune or opportunity. \_ *I need a lucky break*

*about now.* \_*She’s never had a lucky break.* \_*Mary is going*

*to get a big break soon.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48318, 48321]

**\***a **lucky streak** and **\***a **streak of luck** *Fig.* a series of

lucky wins in gambling or games. (\*Typically: **be on ~;**

**have ~**.) \_ *Thanks to a lucky streak, I won enough in*

*Las Vegas to pay for the trip.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48322, 48328]

the **lull before the storm** and the **calm before the**

**storm** a quiet period just before a period of great activity

or excitement. (Literal in reference to weather.) \_ *It*

*was very quiet in the cafeteria just before the students came*

*in for lunch. It was the lull before the storm.* \_ *In the brief*

*calm before the storm, the clerks prepared themselves for the*

*doors to open and bring in thousands of shoppers.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48354, 48359]

**lump** someone **and** someone else **together** and **lump**

something **and** something else **together** to classify people

or things as members of the same category. \_*You just*

*can’t lump Bill and Ted together. They are totally different*

*kinds of people.* \_ *I tend to lump apples and oranges*

*together.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48380, 48384]

**lurch at** someone or something and **lurch toward** someone

or something to sway or turn quickly toward someone or

something. \_*Todd lurched at the door and got it open just*

*as the guard saw him.* \_ *Bill lurched toward the ship’s rail*

*and hung on.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48393, 48397]

**lure** someone or something **in to** something and **lure** someone

or something **in†** to entice someone or something into

something or a place. \_ *The thief tried to lure the tourist*

*into an alley to rob him.* \_*Using an old trick, the thief lured*

*in the tourist.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48401, 48403]

**lust after** someone and **lust for** someone to desire someone

sexually. \_ *You could see that Sam was lusting after*

*Sally.* \_ *Roger claims that he does not lust for anyone.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48413, 48420]

**\*mad as a hatter** and **\*mad as a march hare 1.** crazy.

(Alludes to the crazy characters in Lewis Carroll’s *Alice’s*

*Adventures in Wonderland.* \*Also: **as ~**.) \_*Poor old John*

*is as mad as a hatter.* \_ *All these screaming children are*

*driving me mad as a hatter.* **2.** angry. (This is a misunderstanding

of *mad* in the first sense. \*Also: **as ~**.) \_

*You make me so angry! I’m as mad as a hatter.* \_*John can’t*

*control his temper. He’s always mad as a hatter.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48421, 48425]

**\*mad as a hornet** and **\*mad as a wet hen; \*mad as**

**hell** very angry. (\*Also: **as ~**. Use *hell* with caution.) \_

*You make me so angry. I’m as mad as a hornet.* \_*What you*

*said made Mary mad as a wet hen.* \_*Those terrorists make*

*me mad as hell.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48433, 48439]

**mad enough to chew nails (and spit rivets)** and

**angry enough to chew nails; mad enough to spit**

**nails** *Inf. Fig.* very angry, as if to be able to bite through

metal nails. \_ *I am mad enough to chew nails! Who took*

*my checkbook?* \_ *Her sudden tirade made him angry*

*enough to chew nails.* \_ *He stomped in, mad enough to*

*chew nails and spit rivets.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48506, 48510]

**make a (big) stink (about** someone or something**)** and

**raise a (big) stink (about** someone or something**)** *Fig.*

to make trouble about someone or something. \_*Why did*

*you raise a big stink about it?* \_*Jim is making a stink about*

*Alice.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48520, 48522]

**make a bundle** and **make a pile** to make a lot of money.

\_*John really made a bundle on that deal.* \_*I’d like to make*

*a pile and retire.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48554, 48557]

**make a day of** doing something and **make a day of it** to

spend the whole day doing something. \_ *We went to the*

*museum to see the new exhibit and then decided to make a*

*day of it.* \_ *They made a day of cleaning the attic.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48578, 48586]

**make a face (at** someone**)** and **make faces (at** someone**)**

**1.** to show a funny or distorted expression to someone

in ridicule. \_ *Mother, Billy made a face at me!* \_ *The*

*teacher sent Jane to the principal for making a face in class.*

**2.** to attempt to communicate to someone through facial

gestures, usually an attempt to say “no” or “stop.” \_ *I*

*started to tell John where I was last night, but Bill made a*

*face so I didn’t.* \_ *John made a face at me as I was testifying,*

*so I avoided telling everything.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48587, 48590]

**make a fast buck** and **make a quick buck** to make

money with little effort or in a short time. \_*Tom is always*

*ready to make a fast buck.* \_ *I made a quick buck selling*

*used cars.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48591, 48595]

**make a federal case out of** something and **make a big**

**deal about** something to exaggerate the seriousness of

something. \_ *Come on. It was nothing! Don’t make a federal*

*case out of it.* \_*I only stepped on your toe. Don’t make*

*a big deal about it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48596, 48600]

**make a fool (out) of** someone and **make a monkey**

**(out) of** someone to make someone look foolish. \_ *John*

*made a monkey out of himself while trying to make a fool*

*out of Jim.* \_ *John made a fool out of himself at the party.*

\_ *Are you trying to make a monkey out of me?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48602, 48605]

**make a friend** and **make friends** to establish a link of

friendship with someone. \_*I have never found it difficult*

*to make friends.* \_*Mary had to make new friends when she*

*changed schools.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48645, 48651]

**make a laughingstock of** oneself **or** something and

**make** oneself **or** something **a laughingstock** to make

oneself a source of ridicule or laughter; to do something

that invites ridicule. \_*Laura made herself a laughingstock*

*by arriving at the fast-food restaurant in full evening dress.*

\_ *The board of directors made the company a laughingstock*

*by hiring an ex-convict as president.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48653, 48656]

**make a living from** something and **make a living by**

doing something to earn a living from something or by

doing something. \_ *John makes a living from painting*

*houses.* \_ *Can you really make a living by selling jewelry?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48657, 48663]

**make a long story short** and **cut a long story short**

to leave out parts of a story to make it shorter; to bring a

story to an end. (A formula that introduces a summary

of a story or a joke. See also long story short.) \_ *And—*

*to make a long story short—I never got back the money that*

*I lent him.* \_*If I can make a long story short, let me say that*

*everything worked out fine.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48741, 48747]

**make a point** and **make points 1.** *Lit.* to score a point

in a game. \_ *Bob made a point in the last match.* \_ *Karen*

*made twenty points in the second half.* **2.** *Fig.* to state an

item of importance. (See also make a point of someone

or something; make points (with someone.) \_ *You made a*

*point that we all should remember.* \_ *He spoke for an hour*

*without making a point.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48748, 48751]

**make a point of** doing something and **make a point of**

something *Fig.* to make an effort to do something. \_*Please*

*make a point of mailing this letter. It’s very important.* \_

*The hostess made a point of thanking me for bringing flowers.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48752, 48757]

**make a point of** someone or something and **make an**

**issue of** someone or something *Fig.* to turn someone or

something into an important matter. \_*Please don’t make*

*a point of John’s comment. It wasn’t that important.* \_ *I*

*hope you make an issue of Tom’s success and the reasons for*

*it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48758, 48761]

**make a practice of** something and **make** something **a**

**practice** to turn something into a habitual activity. \_

*Jane makes a practice of planting daisies every summer.* \_

*Her mother also made it a practice.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48763, 48768]

**make a reservation** and **make reservations** to

reserve a seat, as in an airplane, restaurant, or theater in

advance; to reserve a room, as in a hotel in advance. \_

*Did you make a reservation or are we just going to chance*

*getting a table?* \_ *I made reservations for a f light at twelve*

*noon.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48773, 48776]

**make a scene** and **create a scene** *Fig.* to make a public

display or disturbance. \_ *When John found a f ly in his*

*drink, he started to create a scene.* \_ *Oh, John, please don’t*

*make a scene. Just forget about it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48791, 48794]

**make advances to** someone and **make advances at**

someone to flirt with someone; to begin to seduce someone.

\_ *She began making advances to me, and I left the*

*room.* \_ *Mary made advances at every male she encountered.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48875, 48879]

**make away with** someone or something and **make off**

**with** someone or something to take someone or something

away; to make someone or something disappear. \_ *The*

*robber made away with the jewelry.* \_ *The maid quickly*

*made off with the children. We only saw them for a moment.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48914, 48918]

**make demands of** someone or something and **make**

**demands on** someone or something to expect someone or

something to do something or act in a particular way. \_

*Please don’t make demands of everyone in the shop.* \_ *The*

*boss is making a lot of demands on the new machinery.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[48978, 48986]

**Make haste slowly.** and **More haste, less speed.**

*Prov.* Act quickly, but not so quickly that you make careless

mistakes. \_ *Jane: Why are you throwing your clothes*

*around the room? Alan: You told me to get my things packed*

*in a hurry. Jane: Yes, but make haste slowly; otherwise we’ll*

*have to spend an hour cleaning up the mess you make.* \_ *I*

*know you want to finish that sweater by Joe’s birthday, but*

*you’re knitting so fast that you make mistakes. More haste,*

*less speed.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[49016, 49023]

**make it** one’s **business to** do something and **take it**

**upon** oneself **to** do something *Fig.* to do something on

one’s own even if it means interfering in something that

does not directly concern one. (As opposed to minding

one’s own business.) \_ *I know it doesn’t concern me, but I*

*made it my business to call city hall because someone had*

*to.* \_ *Jane took it upon herself to find out exactly what had*

*happened to the old lady.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[49040, 49044]

**make it (until** something**)** and **make it to** something**;**

**make it as far as** something to endure until something;

to last until some time or until reaching some place. \_ *I*

*hope my car can make it to the next town.* \_ *Do you think*

*you can make it until we come to a hotel?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[49085, 49090]

**make mincemeat (out) of** someone and **make hamburger**

**(out) of** someone *Fig.* to beat or pound someone

or something; to treat someone or something roughly.

(As if chopping someone up.) \_ *If you don’t behave, I’ll*

*make mincemeat out of you.* \_ *Do you want Fred to make*

*hamburger out of you?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[49244, 49248]

**make short work of** someone or something and **make**

**fast work of** someone or something to finish with someone

or something quickly. \_ *I made short work of Tom so*

*I could leave the office to play golf.* \_ *Billy made fast work*

*of his dinner so he could go out and play.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[49300, 49304]

**make** someone’s **flesh crawl** and **make** someone’s **skin**

**crawl** to cause someone’s skin to feel funny or get goose

pimples through fright. \_ *Just to hear the story of the*

*killings made my f lesh crawl.* \_*The horror movie made our*

*skin crawl.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[49314, 49319]

**make** someone’s **head swim** and **make** someone’s **head**

**spin 1.** *Fig.* to make someone dizzy or disoriented. \_*Riding*

*the merry-go-round makes my head spin.* \_ *Breathing*

*the gas made my head swim.* **2.** *Fig.* to confuse or overwhelm

someone. \_*All these numbers make my head swim.*

\_ *The physics lecture made my head spin.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[49465, 49468]

**make the bed (up†)** and **make** someone’s **bed (up†)** to

restore a bed to an unslept-in condition. \_*I make my bed*

*every morning.* \_ *The maid goes to all the rooms to make*

*the beds.* \_ *Please make up all the beds early today.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[49478, 49482]

**make the fur fly** and **make the feathers fly** *Fig.* to

cause a fight or an argument; to create an uproar. \_

*When your mother gets home and sees what you’ve done,*

*she’ll really make the fur f ly.* \_*When those two get together,*

*they’ll make the feathers f ly. They hate each other.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[49660, 49665]

**Many a true word is spoken in jest.** and **There’s**

**many a true word spoken in jest.** *Prov.* Just because

something is said as a joke, it can still be true. \_*Fred: Why*

*did you make a joke about my being stingy? Do you really*

*think I’m cheap? Ellen: Of course not, don’t be silly. It was*

*just a joke. Fred: But many a true word is spoken in jest.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[49692, 49701]

**March comes in like a lion, and goes out like a**

**lamb.** and **In like a lion, out like a lamb.** *Prov.* The

month of March usually starts with cold, unpleasant

weather, but ends mild and pleasant. (Either part of the

proverb can be used alone.) \_ *March certainly is coming*

*in like a lion this year; there’s been a snowstorm every day*

*this week.* \_*Jill: Today is March twenty-fifth, and it’s beautiful*

*and warm outside, when just two weeks ago, everything*

*was covered with ice. Jane: In like a lion and out like a lamb,*

*all right.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[49734, 49737]

**mark** someone or something **off†** and **mark** someone or something

**out†** to cross off the name of someone or something.

\_*They were late, so I marked them off.* \_*I marked off the*

*late people.* \_*Could you mark that title out? It has been discontinued.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[49780, 49784]

a **marriage made in heaven** and a **match made in**

**heaven** a happy or harmonious marriage or partnership.

(See also Marriages are made in heaven.) \_ *The partnership*

*of George and Ira Gershwin was a match made in*

*heaven; they wrote such beautiful songs.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[49797, 49801]

**marry below** oneself and **marry beneath** oneself *Fig.* to

marry someone in a lower social class than oneself. \_ *He*

*married beneath himself, but he is happy, and what more is*

*required of a marriage?* \_ *He did not want to marry*

*beneath himself.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[49878, 49881]

**match** someone **(up†) (with** someone**)** and **match** something

**(up†) (with** something**)** to pair people or things. \_

*I will match Carl up with Kelly and George with Jane.* \_ *I*

*will match up Carl with Kelly.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[49893, 49896]

**mate** someone **with** someone and **mate** an animal **with**

some other animal to pair or breed people or animals. \_

*The king sought to mate his daughter with the son of a magician.*

\_ *Harry wanted to mate his guppies with June’s guppies.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[49943, 49950]

**Maybe some other time.** and **We’ll try again some**

**other time.** a polite phrase said by a person whose invitation

has just been turned down by another person. \_

*Bill: Do you think you can come to the party? Bob: I’ll have*

*to beg off. I have another engagement. Bill: Maybe some*

*other time.* \_ *John: Can you and Alice come over this Friday?*

*Bill: Gee, sorry. We have something else on. John: We’ll*

*try again some other time.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[50056, 50059]

**meet** one’s **death** and **meet** one’s **end** *Fig.* to die. \_*After*

*20 years, my dog finally met his death when he got hit by a*

*bus.* \_ *The skydiver met his end when his parachute didn’t*

*open.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[50195, 50199]

**merge** someone or something **into** something and **merge**

someone or something **in†** to route someone or something

into something else. \_ *They merged the marchers into the*

*parade and no one ever knew they were late.* \_*We merged*

*in the latecomers to the parade at an intersection.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[50209, 50212]

**\*merry as a cricket** and **\*merry as the day is long**

very happy and carefree. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *Mary is as*

*merry as a cricket whenever she has company come to call.*

\_ *The little children are as merry as the day is long.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[50223, 50228]

**mess around** and **mess about 1.** to waste time; to do

something ineffectually. \_ *Stop messing around and get*

*busy.* \_*I wish you wouldn’t mess about so much. You waste*

*a lot of time that way.* **2.** to play [with someone] sexually.

\_ *Those two have been messing around.* \_ *Pete was messing*

*around with Maria during the summer.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[50229, 50237]

**mess around (with** something**)** and **mess about (with**

something**); monkey around (with** something**) 1.** to

play with or fiddle with something idly and with no good

purpose. \_ *Don’t mess around with the ashtray.* \_ *You’ll*

*break it if you don’t stop messing about with it.* **2.** to experiment

with something; to use and learn about something.

\_ *We had been messing about with some new video techniques*

*when we made our discovery.* \_ *The people in this*

*lab are messing around with all kinds of polymers.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[50256, 50259]

**mess with** someone or something and **monkey with** someone

or something to bother or interfere with someone or

something. \_ *Come on, don’t monkey with my new camera.*

\_ *Don’t mess with me unless you want trouble.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[50290, 50295]

**might as well** and **may as well** a phrase indicating that

it is probably better to do something than not to do it. \_

*Bill: Should we try to get there for the first showing of the*

*film? Jane: Might as well. Nothing else to do.* \_ *Andy: May*

*as well leave now. It doesn’t matter if we arrive a little bit*

*early. Jane: Why do we always have to be the first to arrive?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[50327, 50332]

a **milestone in** someone’s **life** and an **important milestone**

**in** someone’s **life** a very important event or point

in one’s life. (From the [former] stone markers at the side

of a road showing the distance to or from a place.) \_

*Joan’s wedding was a milestone in her mother’s life.* \_ *The*

*birth of a child is a milestone in every parent’s life.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[50347, 50350]

**mill around** and **mill about** to wander or move around

aimlessly within a small area. \_ *Everyone was milling*

*around, looking for something to do.* \_*The students milled*

*about between classes.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[50388, 50391]

**mind the store** and **watch the store** *Fig.* to take care

of local matters. \_ *Please stay here in the office and mind*

*the store while I go to the conference.* \_ *I had to stay home*

*and watch the store when Ann went to Boston.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[50399, 50410]

**Mind your own business.** and **Get your nose out of**

**my business.; Keep your nose out of my business.**

*Fig.* Stop prying into my affairs. (Not at all polite.

The expressions with *get* and *keep* can have the literal

meanings of removing and keeping removed.) \_ *Andy:*

*This is none of your affair. Mind your own business. Sue: I*

*was only trying to help.* \_ *Bob: How much did you pay in*

*federal taxes last year? Jane: Good grief, Bob! Keep your nose*

*out of my business!* \_*Tom: How much did it cost? Sue: Tom!*

*Get your nose out of my business!* \_ *“Hey!” shrieked Sally,*

*jerking the checkbook out of Sue’s grasp. “Get your nose out*

*of my business!”*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[50422, 50425]

**mingle** someone **with** someone else and **mingle** something

**with** something else to mix people together; to mix things

together. \_ *Try to mingle your friends with mine.* \_ *You*

*had better not mingle your money with that of the corporation.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[50470, 50474]

**miss out (on** something**)** and **lose out (on** something**)** to

fail to participate in something; to fail to take part in

something. \_ *I’m sorry I missed out on the ice cream.* \_ *I*

*lost out on getting in the class photo because I was sick that*

*day.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[50493, 50496]

**mist over** and **mist up** [for glass] to fog up; [for glass] to

develop a coating of water vapor so that one cannot see.

\_ *The windshield misted over and we could hardly see out.*

\_ *The glass misted up and we had to wipe it off.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[50498, 50503]

**mistake** someone **for** someone else and **mix** someone **up**

**with** someone else to confuse someone with someone else;

to think that one person is another person. \_ *I’m sorry. I*

*mistook you for John.* \_ *Tom is always mistaking Bill for*

*me. We don’t look a thing alike, though.* \_ *Try not to mix*

*Bill up with Bob, his twin.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[50504, 50507]

**mistake** something **for** something else and **mix** something

**up with** something else to confuse two things with each

other. \_ *Please don’t mix this idea up with that one.* \_ *I*

*mistook my book for yours.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[50529, 50532]

**mix** someone or something **into** something and **mix** someone

or something **in†** to combine someone or something into

something. \_ *We will try to mix the new people into the*

*group.* \_ *We will mix in the new people a few at a time.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[50593, 50597]

**model** someone **on** someone and **model** something **on**

something to use something as a pattern for something; to

use someone as a pattern for someone. \_ *I will model my*

*house on the house we saw in the Mediterranean.* \_ *She*

*tried to model herself on her mother.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[50617, 50621]

**mold** something **out of** something and **mold** something

**from** something to form something, using a pliable substance,

such as clay, plastic, wet concrete, etc. \_ *She*

*molded a small turtle out of the moist clay.* \_*Elaine molded*

*a turtle from the clay.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[50656, 50660]

**Money is no object.** and **Expense is no object.** *Fig.*

It does not matter how much something costs. \_ *Please*

*show me your finest automobile. Money is no object.* \_ *I*

*want the finest earrings you have. Don’t worry about how*

*much they cost because expense is no object.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[50664, 50673]

**Money is the root of all evil.** and The **love of money**

**is the root of all evil.** *Prov.* People do many evil things

in order to get rich. (Biblical. Compare this with Idleness

is the root of all evil.) \_ *Fred: I know I could make more*

*money if I just knew the right things to invest in. Ellen: Don’t*

*worry so much about money. It’s the root of all evil, after*

*all.* \_ *As the newspapers continued to report the dastardly*

*things the wealthy young banker had done to become even*

*wealthier, people shook their heads and remarked, “The love*

*of money is the root of all evil.”*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[50679, 50681]

**monkey business** and **funny business** silliness; dishonest

tricks. \_*That’s enough monkey business. Now, settle*

*down.* \_ *Stop the funny business. This is serious!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[50698, 50701]

**moon about** someone or something and **moon over** someone

or something *Fig.* to pine or grieve about someone or

something. \_ *Stop mooning about your cat. Cats always*

*come back eventually.* \_ *Jill is still mooning over Robert.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[50751, 50756]

**more fun than a barrel of monkeys** and **as much**

**fun as a barrel of monkeys** *Cliché* a great deal of fun.

(Compare this with as funny as a barrel of monkeys.)

\_ *Roger always makes me laugh! He is as much fun as a*

*barrel of monkeys.* \_ *The circus was more fun than a barrel*

*of monkeys.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[50790, 50794]

**more than** one **can bear** and **more than** one **can take;**

**more than** one **can stand** more of something, such as

trouble or something bad, than a person can endure. \_

*This tragic news is more than I can bear!* \_ *I’ve heard*

*enough of this horrid music. It’s more than I can stand.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[50808, 50812]

The **more you get, the more you want.** and The **more**

**you have, the more you want.** *Prov.* People are never

satisfied with what they have. \_ *You may think that you’ll*

*be content being department supervisor, but power is like*

*anything else—the more you have, the more you want.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[50848, 50853]

**motion** someone **to one side** and **motion** someone **to**

**the side** to give someone a hand signal to move to the

side of something, such as the road. (Very similar to

motion someone aside.) \_ *The cop motioned her to the*

*side of the road.* \_ *Claire motioned Fred to one side, where*

*she spoke to him.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[50873, 50877]

**mourn for** someone or something and **mourn over** someone

or something to grieve for someone or something. \_

*Everyone will mourn for you when you go.* \_ *We all*

*mourned over the end of the holiday.* \_ *There is no point*

*in mourning over your cat. It won’t come back.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[50909, 50912]

**move around** and **move about** to move here and there

a bit; to stir; to walk around a bit. \_ *Stay where you are.*

*Don’t move around at all!* \_ *I wish you would stop moving*

*about.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[51038, 51042]

**move** someone or something **into** something and **move** someone

or something **in†** to cause someone or something to

enter something or some place. \_ *We moved Carla into*

*the spare room.* \_ *We found a vacant room and moved in*

*the piano.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[51043, 51049]

**move** someone or something **off ((from)** someone or something**)**

and **move** someone or something **off ((of )** someone

or something**)** to remove someone or something from on

top of someone or something. (*Of* is usually retained

before pronouns.) \_ *The referee moved the wrestler off*

*from his fallen opponent.* \_*I moved the beam off of the leg*

*of the man.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[51088, 51091]

**move up in the world** and **come up in the world** *Fig.*

to advance (oneself ) and become successful. \_*The harder*

*I work, the more I move up in the world.* \_ *Keep your eye*

*on John. He’s really coming up in the world.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[51230, 51234]

**muscle** someone **out of** something and **muscle** someone

**out†** to force someone out of something; to push someone

out of something. (Can be physical or by coercion.)

\_*Are you trying to muscle me out of my job?* \_*The younger*

*people are muscling out the older ones.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[51302, 51309]

**My house is your house.** and **Our house is your**

**house.** *Fig.* a polite expression said to make a guest feel

at home. (From the Spanish phrase *Mi casa, su casa.*) \_

*Bill: Hello, Tom. Tom (entering): So nice you can put me*

*up for the night. Bill: My house is your house, make yourself*

*at home.* \_*Mary: Come in, you two. Bill: Thanks. Sue:*

*Yes, thank you. Mary: Well, what can I get you? My house*

*is your house.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[51349, 51354]

**nail** someone **to a cross** and **nail** someone**(**‘s **hide) to**

**the wall** *Fig.* to punish or scold someone severely. (Literally,

to crucify someone or to nail someone’s skin to the

wall like that of a captured animal.) \_*That guy was really*

*mad. He really nailed you to a cross.* \_ *She must hate your*

*guts. She sure nailed your hide to the wall.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[51365, 51369]

**nail** something **onto** something and **nail** something **to** something;

**nail** something **on†** to attach something onto something

by nailing. \_ *Suzy nailed the hose bracket onto the*

*side of the house.* \_ *She nailed on the bracket.* \_ *Laura*

*nailed the bracket to the wall.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[51394, 51397]

**name** someone **after** someone else and **name** someone **for**

someone else to give someone (usually a baby) the name of

another person. \_ *We named our baby after my aunt.* \_

*My parents named me for my grandfather.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[51461, 51464]

**need** doing and **need (to be)** done [is] required to be

done. (The second form, although widespread, is considered

by some to be less standard than the first.) \_ *This*

*chair needs fixing.* \_ *This chair needs fixed.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[51465, 51470]

**need I remind you that...** and **need I remind you**

**of...** a phrase that introduces a reminder. (A little haughty

or parental.) \_ *Bill: Need I remind you that today is Friday?*

*Bob (sarcastically): Gee, how else would I have known?*

\_ *John: Need I remind you of our policy against smoking*

*in the office? Jane: Sorry, I forgot.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[51504, 51510]

**negotiate (with** someone or something**) (over** someone or

something**)** and **negotiate (with** someone or something**)**

**(about** someone or something**)** to bargain with someone

or a group about someone or something. \_*We decided to*

*negotiate with them over the terms of the contract.* \_ *We*

*want to negotiate with them about the cost of the goods.* \_

*They refused to negotiate with our purchasing agent.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[51564, 51568]

**nestle (up) against** someone or something and **nestle up**

**(to** someone or something**)** to lie close to someone or something;

to cuddle up to someone or something. \_ *The kitten*

*nestled up against its mother.* \_ *The shivering puppy*

*nestled up to Kathy.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[51641, 51647]

**New brooms sweep clean.** and A **new broom**

**sweeps clean.** *Prov.* Someone who is new in a particular

job will do a very good job at first, to prove how competent

he or she is. \_ *Jill: That new supervisor is awfully*

*strict. Jane: New brooms sweep clean.* \_ *The new teacher*

*immediately f lunked three of the laziest students. “A new*

*broom sweeps clean,” one of the students shrugged.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[51689, 51696]

**Nice going!** and **Good job!; Good going!; Nice job!**

**1.** *Inf.* That was done well. \_ *John: Well, I’m glad that’s*

*over. Sally: Nice going, John! You did a good job.* \_ *Tom:*

*Nice job, Bill! Bill: Thanks, Tom!* **2.** *Fig.* That was done

poorly. (Sarcastic.) \_ *Fred: I guess I really messed it up.*

*Bill: Nice job, Fred! You’ve now messed us all up! Fred: Well,*

*I’m sorry.* \_ *“Nice going,” frowned Jane, as Tom upset the*

*bowl of potato chips.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[51779, 51783]

**nip** something **off (of )** something and **nip** something **off†**

to clip or cut something off something. (*Of* is usually

retained before pronouns.) \_ *Let me nip a few blossoms*

*off the rosebush.* \_ *I nipped off a few blossoms and made a*

*bouquet.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[51784, 51786]

**no big deal** and **no biggie** *Inf.* [of something] not difficult

or troublesome. \_*Don’t worry. It’s no big deal to wash*

*the car.* \_ *No problem. It’s no biggie.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[51832, 51834]

**no hard feelings** and **not any hard feelings** *Fig.* no

anger or resentment. \_*I hope you don’t have any hard feelings.*

\_ *No, I have no hard feelings.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[51843, 51847]

**no ifs, ands, or buts (about it)** and **no buts about**

**it** *Fig.* absolutely no discussion, dissension, or doubt about

something. \_*I want you there exactly at eight, no ifs, ands,*

*or buts about it.* \_ *This is the best television set available*

*for the money, no buts about it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[51945, 51949]

**no skin off** someone’s **teeth** and **no skin off** someone’s

**nose** *Fig.* no difficulty for someone; no cause for concern

to someone. \_ *It’s no skin off my nose if she wants to act*

*that way.* \_*She said it was no skin off her teeth if we wanted*

*to sell the house.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[51965, 51967]

**no sweat** and **no problem** *Inf.* no difficulty; do not

worry. \_ *Of course I can have your car repaired by noon.*

*No sweat.* \_ *You’d like a red one? No problem.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[51968, 51971]

**No, thank you.** and **No, thanks.** a phrase used to decline

something. \_ *Bob: Would you care for some more coffee?*

*Mary: No, thank you.* \_*John: Do you want to go downtown*

*tonight? Jane: No, thanks.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52024, 52028]

**noise** something **about** and **noise** something **abroad;**

**noise** something **around** to spread around a secret; to

gossip something around. \_ *Now don’t noise it about, but*

*I am going to Houston next week to see my girl.* \_ *Please*

*don’t noise this abroad.* \_ *Stop noising that gossip around.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52081, 52086]

**nose about (for** someone or something**)** and **nose**

**around (for** someone or something**)** to search here and

there to find someone or something. \_*We spent an hour*

*nosing about for a newspaper.* \_ *I will nose around for*

*someone to help you.* \_ *We nosed about for a while, but*

*found no one.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52103, 52111]

**nose** something **out of** something and **nose** something **out†**

**1.** *Lit.* [for an animal] to force something out of something

gently and cautiously. (As if pushing with the nose.)

\_ *The cat nosed her kitten out of the corner.* \_ *The cat*

*nosed out her kittens where we could see them.* \_*She nosed*

*them out.* **2.** *Fig.* to move something cautiously out of

something or some place, nose first. \_*Todd nosed the car*

*out of the parking place carefully.* \_ *He nosed out the car*

*with skill.* \_ *Ted nosed it out.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52127, 52129]

**not a glimmer (of an idea)** and **not a clue** *Fig.* no idea.

\_ *A: Where’s the subway? B: Sorry. Not a glimmer of an*

*idea.* \_ *How long till we’re there? Not a clue.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52139, 52142]

**not a moment to spare** and **without a moment to**

**spare** just in time; with no extra time. \_ *Hurry, hurry!*

*There’s not a moment to spare!* \_ *I arrived without a*

*moment to spare.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52180, 52185]

**not able to stomach** someone or something and **cannot**

**stomach** someone or something *Fig.* not to be able to put

up with someone or something; not to be able to tolerate

or endure someone or something. \_ *Jane cannot stomach*

*violent movies.* \_ *The sensitive student could not stomach*

*a lot of ridicule.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52198, 52202]

**not all** something **is cracked up to be** and **not what**

something **is cracked up to be** *Fig.* not as good as something

is said to be. (Not always in the negative.) \_ *This*

*isn’t a very good pen. It’s not all it’s cracked up to be.* \_ *Is*

*this one all it’s cracked up to be?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52222, 52224]

**not at all** and **not in the least** certainly not; absolutely

not. \_*No, it doesn’t bother me—not at all.* \_*I’m not complaining.*

*Not me. Not in the least.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52234, 52239]

**not bat an eyelid** and **not bat an eye** *Fig.* to show no

signs of distress even when something bad happens or

something shocking is said. \_ *Sam didn’t bat an eyelid*

*when the mechanic told him how much the car repairs*

*would cost.* \_ *The pain of the broken arm must have hurt*

*Sally terribly, but she did not bat an eyelid.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52253, 52258]

**not breathe a word (about** someone or something**)** and

**not breathe a word of it** *Fig.* to keep a secret about

someone or something. \_ *Don’t worry. I won’t breathe a*

*word about this matter.* \_*Please don’t breathe a word about*

*Bob and his problems.* \_*Don’t worry. I won’t breathe a word*

*of it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52266, 52273]

**not care two hoots about** someone or something and **not**

**give two hoots about** someone or something; **not give**

**a hang about** someone or something; **not give a hoot**

**about** someone or something *Inf.* not to care at all about

someone or something. \_ *I don’t care two hoots about*

*whether you go to the picnic or not.* \_*She doesn’t give a hoot*

*about me. Why should I care?* \_ *I don’t give a hang about*

*it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52283, 52285]

**not feeling** oneself and **not feel like** oneself *Fig.* to feel

upset, troubled, or disturbed in some way. \_ *I’m sorry I*

*said what I said. I’m not feeling myself today.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52293, 52298]

**not for (anything in) the world** and **not for love nor**

**money; not on your life** *Fig.* not for anything (no matter

what its value). (Note the variation in the examples.

The order of *love nor money* is fixed.) \_ *I won’t do it for*

*love nor money.* \_ *He said he wouldn’t do it—not for the*

*world.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52354, 52358]

**not have a snowball’s chance in hell** and **not a**

**hope in hell** *Inf.* a very poor chance. (Usually in the negative.)

\_*She doesn’t have a snowball’s chance in hell of getting*

*it done on time.* \_ *I know I don’t have a hope in hell,*

*but I’ll try anyway.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52374, 52378]

**not hold a stick to** someone or something and **not hold**

**a candle to** someone or something *Fig.* not to be nearly

as good as someone or something. \_ *Sally is much faster*

*than Bob. Bob doesn’t hold a stick to Sally.* \_ *This TV*

*doesn’t hold a candle to that one. That one is much better.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52394, 52399]

**Not if I see you sooner.** and **Not if I see you first.**

*Inf.* a response to I’ll see you later. (This means you will

not see me if I see you first, because I will avoid you.) \_

*Tom: See you later. Mary: Not if I see you sooner.* \_ *John:*

*Okay. If you want to argue, I’ll just leave. See you later.*

*Mary: Not if I see you first.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52400, 52404]

**Not in a thousand years!** and **Never in a thousand**

**years!** *Fig.* No, never! \_*John: Will you ever approve of her*

*marriage to Tom? Sue: No, not in a thousand years!* \_*Mary:*

*Will all this trouble ever subside? John: Never in a thousand*

*years!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52452, 52455]

**not know where to turn** and **not know which way**

**to turn** to have no idea about what to do (about something).

\_ *I was so confused I didn’t know where to turn.* \_

*We needed help, but we didn’t know which way to turn.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52456, 52460]

**not know whether** one **is coming or going** and **not**

**know if** one **is coming or going** *Fig.* to be very confused.

\_ *I’m so busy that I don’t know if I’m coming or*

*going.* \_*You look as if you don’t know whether you’re coming*

*or going.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52467, 52475]

**not let** someone **catch** someone doing something and **not**

**want to catch** someone doing something an expression

that scolds someone who has done something wrong. (The

idea is that the person ought not to do the wrong thing

again, not that the person simply avoid getting caught.) \_

*How many times have I told you not to play ball in the*

*house? Don’t let me catch you doing that again.* \_ *If I’ve*

*told you once, I’ve told you a thousand times: Don’t do that!*

*I don’t want to catch you doing it again!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52484, 52489]

**not lift a finger (to help** someone**)** and **not lift a hand**

**(to help** someone**)** *Fig.* to do nothing to help someone.

(The *someone* is *anyone* with the negative.) \_ *They*

*wouldn’t lift a finger to help us.* \_ *Can you imagine that*

*they wouldn’t lift a finger?* \_ *Sally refused to lift a hand to*

*help her own sister.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52515, 52518]

**not miss** something **for the world** and **not miss** something

**for love nor money** *Fig.* would not miss something

for any reason at all. \_*Of course I’ll be at your wedding.*

*I wouldn’t miss it for the world.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52534, 52537]

**not open** one’s **mouth** and **not utter a word** *Fig.* not

to say anything at all; not to tell something (to anyone).

\_ *Don’t worry, I’ll keep your secret. I won’t even open my*

*mouth.* \_ *Have no fear. I won’t utter a word.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52614, 52616]

**not up to scratch** and **not up to snuff** *Fig.* not adequate.

\_ *Sorry, your paper isn’t up to scratch. Please do it*

*over again.* \_ *The performance was not up to snuff.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52630, 52632]

**not worth a dime** and **not worth a red cent** worthless.

\_ *This land is all swampy. It’s not worth a dime.* \_

*This pen I bought isn’t worth a dime. It has no ink.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52633, 52636]

**not worth a hill of beans** and **not amount to a hill**

**of beans; not worth a plugged nickel; not worth**

**beans** *Fig.* worthless. \_ *Your advice isn’t worth a hill of*

*beans.* \_ *This old cow isn’t worth a plugged nickel.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52650, 52655]

**not worth the paper it’s written on** and **not worth**

**the paper it’s printed on** *Fig.* [of a document] meaningless

or without authority; of no value. \_*That contract*

*isn’t worth the paper it’s written on. All the signatures are*

*forged.* \_ *Don’t take a check from that guy. It’s not worth*

*the paper it’s written on.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52660, 52665]

a **notch above (**someone or something**)** and a **notch better**

**than (**someone or something**)** *Fig.* a little higher in

quality than someone or something. \_ *This latest candidate*

*we interviewed seems a notch above the rest, so let’s hire*

*her.* \_ *That telescope is a notch better than the others in*

*terms of magnification.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52683, 52687]

**nothing but skin and bones** and **(all) skin and**

**bones** *Fig.* very thin or emaciated. \_*Bill has lost so much*

*weight. He’s nothing but skin and bones.* \_*Look at Bill. He’s*

*just skin and bones.* \_ *That old horse is all skin and bones.*

*I won’t ride it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52767, 52771]

**nothing to sneeze at** and **nothing to be sneezed**

**at** *Fig.* nothing small or unimportant. \_ *It’s not a lot of*

*money, but it’s nothing to sneeze at.* \_ *Our house isn’t a*

*mansion, but it’s nothing to sneeze at.* \_ *A few thousand*

*dollars is nothing to be sneezed at!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52825, 52830]

**Now what?** and **What now?** *Inf.* What is going to happen

now?; What kind of new problem has arisen? \_ *The*

*phone rang again, and Tom said, rising from the chair, “Now*

*what?”* \_*Bob: There’s a serious problem—sort of an emergency—*

*in the mail room. Sue: What now? Bob: They’re out*

*of stamps or something silly like that.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52929, 52932]

**\*nutty as a fruitcake** and **nuttier than a fruitcake**

crazy. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *Don’t pay any attention to John;*

*he’s nutty as a fruitcake.* \_ *Mary’s schemes for making*

*money are nuttier than a fruitcake.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52933, 52940]

**nuzzle up against** someone or something and **nuzzle up**

**(to** someone or something**)** [for an animal] to rub its nose

against someone or something; to rub against someone or

something, softly, in the manner of rubbing the nose

against someone or something; to snuggle up to someone

or something. (*Nuzzle* is related to *nose*.) \_ *The dog nuzzled*

*up against my leg, wanting to be friends.* \_ *The dog*

*nuzzled up to me and licked my hand.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[52986, 52989]

**oceans of** someone or something and an **ocean of** someone

or something a very large amount of something. \_*The*

*naughty student was in oceans of trouble.* \_ *After a week*

*of vacation, there was an ocean of work to do.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[53042, 53046]

**of one mind (about** someone or something**)** and **of a single**

**mind (about** someone or something**)** in agreement

about someone or something. \_ *You will have to attend*

*one of the state universities. Your father and I are of a single*

*mind about this.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[53047, 53050]

**of** one’s **own accord** and **of** one’s **own free will** by one’s

own choice, without coercion. \_ *I wish that Sally would*

*choose to do it of her own accord.* \_*I’ll have to order her to*

*do it because she won’t do it of her own free will.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[53122, 53127]

**\*off on the right foot (with** someone or something**)** and

**\*off to a good start (with** someone or something**)** *Fig.*

starting out correctly; beginning something carefully and

cautiously. (\*Typically: **be ~; get ~**.) \_ *This time, I*

*want to get off on the right foot with him.* \_ *I tried to get*

*off to a good start with my new job.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[53128, 53133]

**\*off on the wrong foot** and **\*off to a bad start** *Fig.*

starting something (such as a friendship) with negative

factors. (\*Typically: **be ~; get ~**.) \_ *Bill and Tom got*

*off on the wrong foot. They had a minor car accident just*

*before they were introduced.* \_*Let’s work hard to be friends.*

*I hate to get off on the wrong foot.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[53138, 53141]

**\*off** one’s **rocker** and **\*off** one’s **nut; \*off** one’s **trolley**

*Fig.* crazy; silly. (\*Typically: **be ~; go ~**.) \_*Sometimes,*

*Bob, I think you’re off your rocker.* \_ *Good grief, John.*

*You’re off your nut.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[53155, 53158]

**\*off the beaten track** and **\*off the beaten path** *Fig.*

away from the frequently traveled routes. (\*Typically: **be**

**~; go ~; travel ~**.) \_ *We found a nice little Italian*

*restaurant off the beaten track.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[53226, 53233]

**\*off (work)** and **off from work; off of work 1.** having

left one’s work at the end of the day. (\*Typically: **be**

**~; get ~**.) \_ *What time do you get off from work?* \_ *I*

*get off work about five o’clock.* \_*She gets off from work later*

*than I do.* **2.** absent from one’s work with permission.

(\*Typically: **be ~; get ~**.) \_*I think I can get off of work*

*so I can go to the doctor.* \_ *Sorry, I can’t join you. Things*

*are busy at the office, and I can’t get off.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[53319, 53323]

**old enough to be** someone’s **mother** and **old enough**

**to be** someone’s **father** as old as someone’s parents.

(Usually a way of saying that a person is too old.) \_ *You*

*can’t go out with Bill. He’s old enough to be your father!* \_

*He married a woman who is old enough to be his mother.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[53427, 53431]

**on again, off again** and **off again, on again** uncertain;

indecisive. \_ *I don’t know about the picnic. It’s on*

*again, off again. It depends on the weather.* \_ *Jane doesn’t*

*know if she’s going to look for a new job. She’s off again, on*

*again about it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[53435, 53437]

**on and off** and **off and on** occasionally; erratically; now

and again. \_ *I feel better off and on, but I’m not well yet.*

\_ *He only came to class on and off.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[53502, 53506]

**on earth** and **in creation; in the world** *Fig.* really;

indeed; in fact. (Used as an intensifier after *who, what,*

*when, where, how.*) \_*What on earth do you mean?* \_*How*

*in creation do you expect me to do that?* \_*Who in the world*

*do you think you are?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[53571, 53573]

**on no account** and **not on any account** for no reason;

absolutely not. \_*On no account will I lend you the money.*

\_ *Will I say I’m sorry? Not on any account.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[53645, 53647]

**on record** and **on the books** recorded for future reference.

\_ *We had the coldest winter on record last year.* \_

*This is the fastest race on record.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[53658, 53664]

**on shaky ground** and **on dangerous ground** *Fig.* [of

an idea or proposal] on an unstable or questionable foundation;

[of an idea or proposal] founded on a risky

premise. \_ *When you suggest that we are to blame, you*

*are on shaky ground. There is no evidence that we are at*

*fault.* \_ *The case for relying solely on nuclear energy seems*

*to be on dangerous ground.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[53678, 53682]

**\*on** someone’s **case** and **\*on** someone’s **back** *Inf.* harassing

someone about a personal problem; annoying someone.

(\*Typically: **be ~; get ~; keep ~**.) \_ *I’ll get on*

*Tom’s case about being late so much.* \_ *I’m sorry, I won’t*

*get on your case anymore.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[53760, 53762]

**on the average** and **on average** generally; usually. \_

*On the average, you can expect about a 10 percent failure*

*rate.* \_ *This report looks OK, on average.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[53796, 53801]

**on the bleeding edge** and **on the leading edge** having

the most advanced technology; knowing about the

most advanced technology. (Alludes to the *cutting edge*

of a sword.) \_ *This gadget is brand new. It’s really on the*

*bleeding edge.* \_ *Tom is on the leading edge when it comes*

*to optical storage technology.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[53882, 53884]

**on the fritz** and **on the blink** not operating; not operating

correctly. \_ *This vacuum cleaner is on the fritz. Let’s*

*get it fixed.* \_ *How long has it been on the blink?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[53892, 53896]

**\*on the good side of** someone and **\*on** someone’s **good**

**side** *Fig.* in someone’s favor. (\*Typically: **be ~; get ~**.)

\_ *I tried to get on the good side of the teacher, but that*

*teacher has no good side.* \_ *First of all, don’t try to get on*

*the boss’s good side.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[53911, 53914]

**on the hot seat** and **in the hot seat** *Fig.* in a difficult

position; subject to much attention or criticism. \_ *I was*

*really in the hot seat for a while.* \_ *Now that John is on the*

*hot seat, no one is paying any attention to what I do.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[53954, 53957]

**on the money** and **on the nose** exactly right; in exactly

the right place; in exactly the right amount (of money).

\_ *That’s a good answer, Bob. You’re right on the money.* \_

*This project is going to be finished right on the nose.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[53987, 53990]

**on the point of** doing something and **at the point of**

doing something *Fig.* ready to start doing something. \_ *I*

*was just on the point of going out the door.* \_ *We were*

*almost at the point of buying a new car.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[54102, 54105]

**\*on the telephone** and **\*on the phone** *Fig.* speaking

on the telephone. (\*Typically: **be ~; get ~**.) \_*She’s on*

*the phone but won’t be long.* \_ *Please take a seat while I’m*

*on the phone.* \_*Get on the phone and call him back immediately!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[54116, 54121]

**\*on the trail of** someone or something and **\*on the track**

**of** someone or something seeking someone or something;

about to find someone or something. (\*Typically: **be ~;**

**get ~**.) \_*I’m on the trail of a new can opener that is supposed*

*to be easier to use.* \_ *I spent all morning on the track*

*of a vendor who can meet our requirements.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[54125, 54129]

**on the verge of** doing something and **on the verge of**

something at the very beginning of doing something; just

about to do something. \_ *Bill was on the verge of leaving*

*town when he found a job.* \_ *Susan was on the verge of*

*laughter, so she left the lecture hall.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[54134, 54138]

**on the waiting list** and **on the wait list** [for someone’s

name to be] on a list of people waiting for an opportunity

to do something. \_ *I couldn’t get a seat on the plane,*

*but I got on the waiting list.* \_ *There is no room for you,*

*but we can put your name on the waiting list.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[54148, 54153]

**\*on the way (to** something or some place**)** and **\*on** one’s

**way (to** something or some place**)** moving toward a place;

advancing toward a new status or condition. (\*Typically:

**be ~; get ~**.) \_ *Is he here yet or is he on the way?* \_

*Mary is better now and on the way to recovery.* \_*She’s now*

*on the way to San Francisco.* \_ *Yes, she’s on her way.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[54165, 54168]

**\*on the wrong side of** someone and **\*on** someone’s

**wrong side** *Fig.* out of favor with someone. (\*Typically:

**be ~; get ~**.) \_ *Don’t get on the wrong side of her.* \_ *I*

*do what I can not to get on the wrong side of people.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[54223, 54226]

**On your bike!** and **Go to your room!** *Sl. imperative.* Get

out of here!; Get on your bike and get out! \_ *What a bad*

*joke! No puns allowed here! On your bike!* \_ *That was a*

*ridiculous remark. Go to your room!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[54227, 54230]

**on your mark, get set, go** and **ready, set, go** [in

preparing to start a race involving speed] move to the

starting point, get set to move, go. \_ *Runners on your*

*mark, get set, go.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[54231, 54238]

**Once a priest, always a priest.** and **Once a whore,**

**always a whore.** *Prov.* A person who has done a certain

kind of job will always have the characteristics of people

who do that job, even after he or she no longer does

that kind of work. (This can be applied to many different

occupations.) \_ *Alan: My cousin left the clergy, but boy!*

*He still preaches at me all the time. Jane: Once a priest,*

*always a priest, huh?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[54256, 54261]

**once more** and **one more time** Please do it one more

time. \_ *Mary: You sang that line beautifully, Fred. Now,*

*once more. Fred: I’m really tired of all this rehearsing.* \_

*John (finishing practicing his speech): How was that? Sue:*

*Good! One more time, though. John: I’m getting bored with*

*it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[54265, 54269]

**once-in-a-lifetime chance** and **once-in-a-lifetime**

**opportunity** a chance that will never occur again in

one’s lifetime. \_*This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance. Don’t*

*miss it.* \_ *She offered me a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,*

*but I turned it down.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[54297, 54301]

**one by one** and **one at a time** the first one, then the

next one, then the next one, etc.; each in turn. \_*I have to*

*deal with problems one by one. I can’t handle them all at*

*once.* \_ *Okay, just take things one at a time.* \_ *The children*

*came into the room one by one.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[54323, 54327]

**one final word** and **one final thing** *Fig.* a phrase introducing

a parting comment or the last item in a list. \_*John:*

*One final word—keep your chin up. Mary: Good advice!*

\_*And one final thing, don’t haul around a lot of expensive*

*camera stuff. It just tells the thieves who to rob.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[54360, 54363]

**one in a thousand** and **one in a hundred; one in a**

**million** *Fig.* nearly unique; one of a very few. \_ *He’s a*

*great guy. He’s one in million.* \_*Mary’s one in a hundred—*

*such a hard worker.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[54364, 54369]

**one jump ahead (of** someone or something**)** and **one**

**move ahead (of** someone or something**)** *Fig.* one step in

advance of someone or something. \_*Try to stay one jump*

*ahead of the competition.* \_ *If you’re one move ahead,*

*you’re well prepared to deal with problems. Then, nothing*

*is a surprise.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[54518, 54522]

one’s **heart misses a beat** and one’s **heart skips a**

**beat** *Fig.* one’s heart flutters or palpitates; one has a strong

emotional reaction. \_ *Whenever I’m near you, my heart*

*skips a beat.* \_ *When the racehorse fell, my heart missed a*

*beat.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[54532, 54534]

one’s **John Henry** and one’s **John Hancock** one’s signature.

\_*Just put your John Henry on this line, and we’ll bring*

*your new car around.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[54633, 54638]

**One swallow does not make a summer.** and **One**

**swallow does not a summer make.** *Prov.* You

should not assume that something is true just because you

have seen one piece of evidence for it. \_ *Amanda: I got a*

*good grade on this quiz! My troubles in school are over.*

*Nancy: One swallow does not a summer make.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[54725, 54728]

**ooze (out) (from** someone or something**)** and **ooze out**

**(of** someone or something**)** to seep out of someone or something.

\_ *The heavy oil oozed out from the hole in the barrel.*

\_ *Some blood was oozing out of his nose.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[54804, 54807]

**open some doors (for** someone**)** and **open a few**

**doors (for** someone**)** *Fig.* to gain access to opportunity

or influence (for someone). \_ *Morris was able to open a*

*few doors for Mary and get her an interview with the president.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[54873, 54879]

**open up (about** someone or something**) (with** someone**)**

and **open up (on** someone or something**) (with** someone**)**

to speak freely about someone or something; to speak a

great deal about someone or something. \_ *After a while,*

*he began to open up about his disagreements.* \_ *He opened*

*up with us about the accident.* \_ *She opened up on Fred*

*with Alice.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[54890, 54893]

**open up (to** someone**)** and **open up (with** someone**)** to

tell [everything] to someone; to confess to someone. \_ *If*

*she would only open up to me, perhaps I could help her.* \_

*She just won’t open up. Everything is “private.”*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[54998, 55000]

**order** someone **about** and **order** someone **around** to give

commands to someone. \_*I don’t like for someone to order*

*me about.* \_ *Don’t order me around!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[55011, 55014]

**order** someone **out of** some place and **order** someone **out†**

to command that someone leave a place. \_ *The cook*

*ordered Judy out of the kitchen.* \_ *The teacher ordered out*

*all the kids.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[55055, 55059]

the **other side of the tracks** and the **wrong side of**

**the tracks** the poor part of a town or city. \_ *He was a*

*rich boy, and she was a girl from the other side of the tracks.*

\_ *You don’t want to buy a house in that neighborhood. It’s*

*on the wrong side of the tracks.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[55060, 55064]

**other things being equal** and **all things being equal**

*Cliché* if things stay the way they are now; if there are no

complications from other factors. \_ *Other things being*

*equal, we should have no trouble getting your order to you*

*on time.* \_*I anticipate no problems, all things being equal.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[55115, 55120]

**out cold** and **out like a light 1.** *Fig.* unconscious. \_ *I*

*fell and hit my head. I was out cold for about a minute.* \_

*Tom fainted! He’s out like a light!* **2.** *Fig.* intoxicated. \_

*Four beers and he was out cold.* \_ *He sat in his chair at the*

*table, out cold.* **3.** *Fig.* sound asleep. \_*After a few minutes*

*of tossing and turning, she was out like a light.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[55144, 55147]

**\*out (in blossom)** and **\*out (in bloom)** [of a plant or

tree] blooming; [of flowers] open in blooms. (\*Typically:

**be ~; come ~**.) \_ *All the trees were out in blossom.* \_

*The daffodils won’t be out until next week.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[55153, 55156]

**\*out in large numbers** and **\*out in droves** *Fig.* in evidence

in some large amount. (\*Typically: **be ~; come**

**~**.) \_ *The sidewalk salesmen are out in droves today.* \_

*The ants were out in large numbers at the picnic.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[55192, 55195]

**\*out of breath** and **\*out of wind** breathing fast and

hard; gasping for breath. (\*Typically: **be ~; get ~**.) \_

*I ran so much that I got out of breath.* \_ *Mary gets out of*

*wind when she climbs stairs.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[55285, 55292]

**\*out of kilter** and **\*off-kilter 1.** *Lit.* out of balance;

crooked or tilted. (\*Typically: **be ~; get ~; knock**

something **~**.) \_ *John, your tie is sort of off-kilter. Let me*

*fix it.* \_ *Please straighten the picture on the wall. It’s out of*

*kilter.* **2.** *Fig.* malfunctioning; on the fritz. (\*Typically:

**be ~; go ~**.) \_*My furnace is out of kilter. I have to call*

*someone to fix it.* \_*This computer is out of kilter. It doesn’t*

*let me log on.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[55329, 55333]

**\*out of** one’s **mind** and **\*out of** one’s **head; \*out of**

one’s **senses** *Fig.* to be silly and senseless; to be crazy and

irrational. (\*Typically: **be ~; go ~**.) \_ *Why did you do*

*that? You must be out of your mind!* \_ *Don’t drive so fast,*

*Tom! You have to be out of your head!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[55386, 55389]

**out of shape** and **out of condition** not in good physical

condition. \_*I get out of breath when I run because I’m*

*out of shape.* \_ *Keep exercising regularly, or you’ll get out*

*of condition.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[55450, 55453]

**out of style** and **out of fashion** not fashionable; oldfashioned;

obsolete. (See also go out of fashion.) \_*John’s*

*clothes are really out of style.* \_*He doesn’t care if his clothes*

*are out of fashion.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[55719, 55722]

**over the long haul** and **in the long haul; in the long**

**run** *Fig.* long term; over a long period of time. \_ *Over*

*the long haul, this model will prove best.* \_ *This will last in*

*the long haul.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[55723, 55727]

**over the short haul** and **in the short haul; in the**

**short run** *Fig.* for the immediate future. \_*Over the short*

*haul, you’d be better off to put your money in the bank.* \_

*Over the short haul, you may wish you had done something*

*different. But things will work out all right.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[55741, 55745]

**overdose (**someone**) on** something and **overdose** someone

**with** something to give someone too much of some

substance, usually a drug. \_ *The police say he overdosed*

*on heroine.* \_ *Sam overdosed his sister on the cough medicine.*

\_ *She overdosed herself with aspirin.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[55774, 55776]

**pace around** and **pace about** to walk around nervously

or anxiously. \_*Stop pacing around and sit down.* \_*There*

*is no need to pace about.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[55777, 55780]

**pace back and forth** and **pace up and down** to walk

over and over the same short route nervously or anxiously.

\_ *The leopard paced back and forth in its cage.* \_ *I paced*

*up and down, worrying about a variety of things.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[55795, 55798]

**pack a wallop** and **pack a punch** *Fig.* to provide a burst

of energy, power, or excitement. \_ *Wow, this spicy food*

*really packs a wallop.* \_ *I put a special kind of gasoline in*

*my car because I thought it would pack a punch. It didn’t.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[55824, 55828]

**pack** someone or something **into** something and **pack** someone

or something **in†** to press or push someone or something

into something; to manage to get a lot of things or

people into a place. \_ *The boys packed a lot of kids into a*

*telephone booth as a gag.* \_ *They packed in a lot of kids.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[55889, 55894]

a **pain in the ass** and a **pain in the butt;** a **pain in**

**the rear** *Fig.* a very annoying thing or person. (Crude.

Potentially offensive. Use only with discretion. An elaboration

of *pain*. Use caution with *ass*. *Butt* is less offensive.

*Rear* is euphemistic.) \_ *That guy is a real pain in the ass.*

\_ *Things like that give me a pain in the butt.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[55910, 55913]

**paint** something **onto** something and **paint** something **on†**

to apply a design or picture to something, using paint. \_

*Joel painted the portrait onto a large sheet of plywood.* \_

*He painted on some leaves and f lowers too.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[55936, 55940]

**pale around the gills** and **blue around the gills;**

**green around the gills** *Fig.* looking sick. (The *around*

can be replaced with *about.*) \_ *John is looking a little pale*

*around the gills. What’s wrong?* \_ *Oh, I feel a little green*

*about the gills.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[55941, 55944]

**\*pale as a ghost** and **\*pale as death** very pale. (\*Also:

**as ~**.) \_ *Laura came into the room, as pale as a ghost.*

*“What happened?” her friends gasped.* \_ *What’s the matter?*

*You’re pale as death!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[55955, 55958]

**pale by comparison** and **pale in comparison** *Fig.* to

appear to be deficient in comparison to something else.

\_ *My work pales by comparison with yours. You are a real*

*pro.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[55963, 55974]

**palm** someone or something **off† (on** someone**) (as** someone

or something**)** and **pass** someone or something **off† (on**

someone**) (as** someone or something**); pawn** someone or

something **off† (on** someone**) (as** someone or something**)**

*Fig.* to give someone or something to someone as a gift

that appears to be someone or something desirable. (As if

the gift had been concealed in one’s palm until it was gotten

rid of.) \_ *Are you trying to palm that annoying client*

*off on me as a hot prospect?* \_ *Don’t palm off that pest on*

*me.* \_ *Please don’t pass that problem off on me as a challenge.*

\_*Don’t pass it off on me!* \_*Don’t pawn it off on me*

*as something of value.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[56077, 56081]

**Pardon my French.** and **Excuse my French.** *Inf.*

Excuse my use of swear words or taboo words. (Does not

refer to real French.) \_*Pardon my French, but this is a hell*

*of a day.* \_*What she needs is a kick in the ass, if you’ll excuse*

*my French.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[56092, 56096]

**pare** something **off (of )** something and **pare** something **off†**

to cut something off something. (*Of* is usually retained

before pronouns.) \_ *See if you can pare a bit of this extra*

*wood off the edge of the base of this pillar.* \_ *Pare off some*

*of the wood.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[56193, 56195]

**pass away** and **pass on** *Euph.* to die. \_ *My aunt passed*

*away last month.* \_ *When I pass on, I won’t care about the*

*funeral.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[56285, 56291]

**pass** something **down† (to** someone**)** and **pass** something

**on (to** someone**) 1.** to send something down a line of people

to someone. (Each person hands it to the next.) \_

*Please pass this down to Mary at the end of the row.* \_*Pass*

*down this box to Mary.* **2.** to will something to someone.

\_ *My grandfather passed this watch down to me.* \_ *He*

*passed on the watch to me.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[56296, 56300]

**pass** something **in† (to** someone**)** and **hand** something **in†**

**(to** someone**)** to turn in or hand in something, such as a

school assignment, paper, etc., to someone. \_ *They were*

*told to pass their papers in to the teacher.* \_ *Hand in your*

*papers to me.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[56305, 56310]

**pass** something **off (on** someone**) (as** something**)** and **pass**

**something off†** to get rid of something deceptively by

giving or selling it to someone as something else. \_ *I*

*passed the rhinestone off on John as a diamond.* \_*Don’t try*

*to pass that fake off on me!* \_*He couldn’t pass off the stone*

*on the clever jeweler.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[56352, 56356]

**pass through** someone’s **mind** and **cross** someone’s

**mind** *Fig.* [for a thought] to come to mind briefly; [for

an idea] to occur to someone. \_ *Let me tell you what just*

*crossed my mind.* \_*As you were speaking, something passed*

*through my mind that I’d like to discuss.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[56406, 56412]

**pat** someone **on the back** and **give** someone **a pat on**

**the back 1.** *Lit.* to pat someone’s back to show praise.

\_*The coach patted each player on the back after the game.*

**2.** *Fig.* to praise someone for something. \_ *The teacher*

*patted all the students on the back for their good work.* \_

*They were patting themselves on the back for winning when*

*the final whistle blew.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[56484, 56489]

**pay an arm and a leg (for** something**)** and **pay through**

**the nose (for** something**)** *Fig.* to pay too much [money]

for something. \_ *I hate to have to pay an arm and a leg*

*for a tank of gas.* \_ *If you shop around, you won’t have to*

*pay an arm and a leg.* \_ *Why should you pay through the*

*nose?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[56555, 56561]

**pay** someone **a backhanded compliment** and **pay**

someone **a left-handed compliment** *Fig.* to give someone

a false compliment that is really an insult or criticism.

\_*John said that he had never seen me looking better. I think*

*he was paying me a left-handed compliment.* \_ *I’d prefer*

*that someone insulted me directly. I hate it when someone*

*pays me a backhanded compliment—unless it’s a joke.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[56588, 56591]

**pay (**someone or something**) a visit** and **pay a visit to**

someone or something to visit someone or something. \_*Bill*

*paid a visit to his aunt in Seattle.* \_ *Please pay a visit to*

*our house whenever you are in town.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[56608, 56612]

**pay** something **into** something and **pay** something **in†** to pay

an amount of money into an account. \_ *Mary paid forty*

*dollars into my account by mistake.* \_ *She paid in a lot of*

*money.* \_ *I have an account here and I want to pay something*

*in.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[56752, 56756]

**peel** something **off† ((of )** something**)** and **peel** something

**off† from** something to remove the outside surface layer

from something. (*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.)

\_ *She carefully peeled the skin off the apple.* \_ *She peeled*

*off the apple’s skin.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[56823, 56826]

**peg** someone **as** something and **have** someone **pegged as**

something to think of someone in a certain way. \_ *Susan*

*pegged the new employee as a lazy worker.* \_ *I had you*

*pegged as an angry rebel before I got to know you.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[56938, 56942]

a **perfect stranger** and a **total stranger** *Fig.* a person

who is completely unknown [to oneself]. \_*I was stopped*

*on the street by a perfect stranger who wanted to know my*

*name.* \_ *If a total stranger asked me such a personal question,*

*I am sure I would not answer!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[56988, 56992]

**permit** someone **into** something and **permit** someone **in†**

to allow someone to enter something or some place. \_

*They would not permit me in the dining room since I had*

*no tie.* \_ *They would not permit in that bunch of rowdy*

*brats or any other of her friends.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[57090, 57094]

**phase** someone or something **into** something and **phase**

someone or something **in†** to work someone or something

into use or service gradually. \_*They decided to phase Ruth*

*into the job little by little.* \_*They phased in Ruth over a long*

*period of time.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[57095, 57099]

**phase** someone or something **out of** something and **phase**

someone or something **out†** to work someone or something

out of use or service or out of a group gradually. \_ *We*

*are going to have to phase you out of the job of treasurer.* \_

*They phased out the unneeded workers.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[57112, 57115]

**\*phony as a three-dollar bill** and **\*queer as a threedollar**

**bill** phony; bogus. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_*This guy’s as*

*phony as a three-dollar bill.* \_*The whole deal stinks. It’s as*

*queer as a three-dollar bill.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[57134, 57137]

**pick a fight (with** someone**)** and **pick a quarrel (with**

someone**)** to start a fight or argument with someone on

purpose. \_ *Are you trying to pick a fight with me?* \_ *Max*

*intended to pick a quarrel with Lefty.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[57172, 57176]

**pick on someone your own size** and **pick on somebody**

**your own size** to abuse someone who is big

enough to fight back. \_ *Go pick on somebody your own*

*size!* \_*Wilbur should leave his little brother alone and pick*

*on someone his own size.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[57177, 57187]

**pick** one’s **way through** something and **make** one’s **way**

**through** something **1.** to move along a route full of obstacles;

to travel, usually on foot, through an area of heavy

vegetation or through a crowd of people or things. \_

*When the grandchildren visit, I have to pick my way through*

*the toys on the f loor.* \_ *We slowly picked our way through*

*the thorny bushes to get to the ripe raspberries.* **2.** to work

slowly and meticulously through something. \_*My teacher*

*said he couldn’t even pick his way through my report. It was*

*just too confusing.* \_ *I spent an hour picking my way*

*through the state tax forms.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[57204, 57210]

**pick** someone or something **off (of )** someone or something

and **pick** someone or something **off†** to pull or gather someone

or something off something. (*Of* is usually retained

before pronouns.) \_ *The teacher picked the little boys off*

*the jungle gym and hurried them back into the school building*

*before the storm hit.* \_ *Pick off the ripe tomatoes and*

*leave the rest.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[57218, 57224]

**pick** someone or something **out of** something and **pick** someone

or something **out† 1.** to lift or pull someone or something

out of something. \_*The mother picked her child out*

*of the fray and took him home.* \_ *I picked out the mushrooms*

*before eating the soup.* **2.** to select someone or something

out of an offering of selections. \_ *I picked Jerry out*

*of all the boys in the class.* \_ *I picked out Jerry.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[57306, 57308]

**pick up the tab** and **pick up the check** to pay the bill.

\_*Whenever we go out, my father picks up the tab.* \_*Order*

*whatever you want. The company is picking up the check.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[57356, 57360]

a **piece (of the action)** and a **bit of the action;** a **slice**

**of the action** *Sl.* a share in the activity or the profits.

(Especially of a business scheme or gambling activity.) \_

*If you get in on that real estate deal, I want a piece, too.* \_

*Deal Tom in. He wants a piece of the action.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[57400, 57404]

**pile** someone **into** something and **pile** someone **in†** to bunch

people into something in a disorderly fashion. \_*She piled*

*the kids into the van and headed off for school.* \_ *She piled*

*in the kids and closed the doors.* \_*Pile them in and let’s go.*

\_ *They piled themselves into the car and sped off.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[57405, 57410]

**pile** someone or something **on(to)** someone or something and

**pile** someone or something **on†** to heap people or things

onto someone or something. \_ *The wrestler piled the referee*

*onto his unconscious opponent.* \_*We piled the kids on*

*the heap of leaves we had raked up.* \_ *Pile on the chili!*

*What’s a hot dog without chili?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[57432, 57436]

**pillar of strength** and **pillar of support** someone or

something that consistently provides moral, emotional,

or financial support as does a pillar. \_*My parents are my*

*pillars of support.* \_ *John looked to God as his pillar of*

*strength.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[57443, 57446]

**pilot** something **into** something and **pilot** something **in†** to

steer or guide something into something. (Usually refers

to steering a ship.) \_ *We need to signal for a pilot to pilot*

*our ship into the harbor.* \_ *Fred piloted in the freighter.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[57447, 57452]

**pilot** something **out of** something and **pilot** something **out†**

to steer or guide something out of something. (Usually

refers to steering a ship.) \_ *The chubby little man with a*

*pipe piloted the huge ship out of the harbor.* \_ *The storm*

*made it very difficult to pilot the ship out.* \_ *Help me pilot*

*out this old tub.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[57453, 57457]

**pin** one’s **faith on** someone or something and **pin** one’s

**hopes on** someone or something *Fig.* to fasten one’s faith

or hope to someone or something. \_ *Don’t pin your faith*

*on Tom. He can’t always do exactly what you want.* \_ *He*

*pinned his hopes on being rescued soon.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[57459, 57466]

**pin** someone **down† (on** something**)** and **nail** someone

**down† (on** something**)** *Fig.* to demand and receive a firm

answer from someone to some question. (Alludes to shifting

from answer to answer; commit to one answer or

another.) \_ *I tried to pin him down on a time and place,*

something

*but he was very evasive.* \_*Don’t try to pin down the mayor*

*on anything!* \_ *I want to nail her down on a meeting time.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[57491, 57498]

**pin** something **down†** and **nail** something **down† 1.** *Lit.* to

attach or affix something with nails or pins. \_*Pin the pattern*

*down temporarily.* \_ *Nail down this piece of f looring*

*every 12 inches.* **2.** *Fig.* to determine or fix something, such

as a date, an agreement, an amount of money, a decision,

etc. \_*It will be ready sometime next month. I can’t pin the*

*date down just yet, however.* \_ *I can’t pin down the exact*

*date just now.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[57517, 57520]

**pin** something **up on(to)** something and **pin** something **up†**

to attach something to something, for display, with pins.

\_ *I pinned the picture up onto the bulletin board where*

*everyone could see it.* \_ *I pinned up the picture.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[57534, 57538]

**pinch** something **off (of )** something and **pinch** something

**off†** to sever something from something by pinching. (*Of*

is usually retained before pronouns.) \_*Pinch the buds off*

*the lower branches so the one at the top will bloom.* \_*Pinch*

*off the lower buds.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[57545, 57549]

**pine after** someone or something and **pine for** someone or

something; **pine over** someone or something to long for or

grieve for someone or something. \_*Bob pined after Doris*

*for weeks after she left.* \_*Dan is still pining for his lost dog.*

\_ *There is no point in pining over Claire.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[57581, 57588]

**pipe** something **into** some place and **pipe** something **in†**

**1.** *Lit.* to conduct a liquid or a gas into some place through

a pipe. \_ *An excellent delivery system piped oxygen into*

*every hospital room.* \_*They piped in oxygen to every room.*

\_ *They piped it in.* **2.** *Fig.* to bring music or other sound

into a place over wires. \_ *They piped music into the stairways*

*and elevators.* \_ *The elevators were nice except that*

*the management had piped in music.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[57597, 57601]

**pique** someone’s **curiosity** and **pique** someone’s **interest**

to arouse interest; to arouse curiosity. \_ *The advertisement*

*piqued my curiosity about the product.* \_*The professor*

*tried to pique the students’ interest in French*

*literature.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[57648, 57653]

**pitch** someone or something **out (of )** something and **pitch**

someone or something **out†** to throw someone or something

out of something or some place. (*Of* is usually

retained before pronouns.) \_*The usher pitched the drunk*

*out of the theater.* \_ *The usher pitched out the annoying*

*person.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[57667, 57670]

**pitch** something **into** something and **pitch** something **in†** to

toss or throw something into something. \_ *Please pitch*

*your aluminum cans into this container.* \_ *She pitched in*

*the can.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[57739, 57748]

**place** someone or something **before** someone or something

and **put** someone or something **before** someone or something

**1.** to put someone or something in front of someone

or something, especially in a line. \_ *The teacher placed*

*George before Bob, because Bob was a little taller.* \_ *Tom*

*placed himself before the group and began to speak.* **2.** to

consider someone or something more important than

someone or something. \_ *I am sorry, but I place my wife*

*and her welfare before yours!* \_ *He places his job before his*

*family!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[57902, 57905]

**plaster** something **onto** something and **plaster** something

**on†** to spread a substance onto something. \_ *She plastered*

*great globs of the jam onto the toast.* \_ *She plastered*

*on lots of butter.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[57914, 57918]

**play a big part (in** something**)** and **play a large part**

**(in** something**)** *Fig.* to serve as a major part of some situation

or event. \_ *The incredible amount of duplicative*

*paperwork played a large part in my decision to find*

*employment elsewhere.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[57927, 57933]

**play a part in** something and **play a role in** something

**1.** to participate in something in a specific way. \_ *I hope*

*to play a part in the development of the new product.* \_ *I*

*want to play a role in this procedure.* **2.** to portray a character

in a performance. \_*He played a part in* The Mikado,

*but it was not a major role.* \_ *Larry wanted to play a role*

*in the next play.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[57936, 57940]

**play a trick on** someone and **play a prank on** someone

to do a trick that affects someone. \_ *Somebody played a*

*trick on me by hiding my shoes.* \_ *The little boys planned*

*to play a trick on their teacher by turning up the heat in the*

*classroom.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[58069, 58072]

**play ignorant** and **play dumb** to pretend to be ignorant

[of something]. \_ *I played ignorant even though I knew*

*about the surprise party.* \_*John played dumb when I asked*

*him if he knew who had been on the telephone.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[58127, 58134]

**play** one’s **cards close to** one’s **chest** and **play** one’s

**cards close to** one’s **vest; keep** one’s **cards close**

**to** one’s **chest; keep** one’s **cards close to** one’s **vest**

*Fig.* to keep to oneself or be very cautious in one’s dealing

with people. (As if one were playing cards and not permitting

anyone to see any of the cards.) \_ *He is very cautious.*

*He plays his cards close to his chest.* \_ *You seem to be*

*playing your cards close to your vest.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[58135, 58139]

**play** one’s **cards right** and **play** one’s **cards well** *Fig.* to

work or negotiate correctly and skillfully. \_ *If you play*

*your cards right, you can get whatever you want.* \_ *She*

*didn’t play her cards well, and she ended up with something*

*less than what she wanted.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[58271, 58273]

**play the ponies** and **play the horses** to wager on horse

races. \_*I used to play the ponies every afteroon during the*

*summer. Then I ran out of money.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[58293, 58298]

**play to the gallery** and **play to the crowd** to perform

in a manner that will get the strong approval of the audience;

to perform in a manner that will get the approval of

the lower elements in the audience. \_*John is a competent*

*actor, but he has a tendency to play to the crowd.* \_ *When*

*he made the rude remark, he was just playing to the gallery.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[58446, 58450]

**plow** something **back into** something and **plow** something

**back†** to put something, such as a profit, back into an

investment. \_ *We plowed all the profits back into the*

*expansion of the business.* \_ *Bill and Ted plowed back*

*everything they earned into the company.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[58477, 58481]

**pluck** something **off (of )** someone or something and **pluck**

something **off†** to pick something off someone or something.

(*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.) \_ *She*

*plucked the mosquito off his back before it could bite him.*

\_ *She plucked off the bud.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[58482, 58485]

**pluck** something **out of** something and **pluck** something

**out†** to snatch something out of something. \_*She plucked*

*the coin out of his hand and put it in her pocket.* \_ *Reaching*

*into the fountain, Jane plucked out the coin.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[58490, 58494]

**plug away (at** something**)** and **peg away (at** something**)**

to keep trying something; to keep working at something.

\_ *John kept pegging away at the trumpet until he became*

*pretty good at it.* \_ *I’m not very good at it, but I keep plugging*

*away.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[58501, 58505]

**plug** something **into** something and **plug** something **in†** to

connect something to something else, usually by connecting

wires together with a plug and socket. \_*Plug this*

*end of the wire into the wall.* \_ *Plug in the lamp and turn*

*it on.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[58545, 58548]

**plunge** something **into** someone or something and **plunge**

something **in†** to drive or stab something into someone or

something. \_*The murderer plunged the knife into his victim.*

\_ *She plunged in the dagger.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[58671, 58675]

**poke a hole in** something and **poke a hole through**

something to make a hole by pushing something through

something; to push something through a hole. \_*The carpenter*

*poked a hole in the wall with a nail.* \_ *The fisherman*

*poked a hole through the ice with a pick.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[58677, 58682]

**poke about (in** something**)** and **poke around (in** something**)**

to rummage around in something or some place;

to look through things in something or some place. \_*I’ll*

*have to go up and poke about in the attic to see if I can find*

*it.* \_ *Janet went to the attic and spent the rest of the afternoon*

*poking around.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[58701, 58705]

**poke** one’s **nose in(to** something**)** and **stick** one’s **nose**

**in(to** something**)** *Fig.* to interfere with something; to be

nosy about something. \_*I wish you’d stop poking your nose*

*into my business.* \_ *She was too upset for me to stick my*

*nose in and ask what was wrong.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[58718, 58721]

**poke** something **into** something and **poke** something **in†** to

stick or cram something into something. \_ *He poked his*

*finger into the jam, pulled it out again, and licked it.* \_ *Jeff*

*poked in his finger.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[58722, 58725]

**poke** something **out of** something and **poke** something **out†**

to thrust something out of something. \_*The lobster poked*

*its antennae out of the little cave and wiggled them around.*

\_ *It poked out its antennae.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[58790, 58792]

**\*poor as a church mouse** and **\*poor as church mice**

very poor. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_*My aunt is as poor as a church*

*mouse.* \_ *The Browns are poor as church mice.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[58800, 58804]

**pop around (for a visit)** and **pop by (for a visit);**

**pop in (for a visit); pop over (for a visit)** to come

by [someone’s residence] for a visit. \_ *You simply must*

*pop around for a visit sometime.* \_*I will pop by about noon.*

\_ *I can pop in for only a minute.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[58853, 58856]

**pop** something **into** something and **pop** something **in†** to fit,

snap, or press something into place in something. \_ *Lee*

*popped the lever into place, and the machine began to function.*

\_*Lee popped in the plastic part, and the toy ran beautifully.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[58857, 58859]

**pop** something **on(to)** something and **pop** something **on†**

to snap something onto something. \_ *Denise took one*

*more sip of the medicine and popped the lid onto the bottle.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[58860, 58865]

**pop** something **out of** something and **pop** something **out†**

to release something from something so that it jumps or

bursts out, possibly with a popping sound. \_ *Sue popped*

*the cork out of the champagne bottle.* \_*It took a little effort*

*to pop the cork out.* \_ *She popped out the cork with a quick*

*tug.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[58966, 58974]

The **pot is calling the kettle black.** and **That’s the**

**pot calling the kettle black.** *Prov.* You should not

criticize someone for a fault that you have too. (Not polite

to say about the person you are addressing.) \_ *Bill told*

*Barbara she was sloppy, but Bill never cleans up after himself,*

*either. That’s the pot calling the kettle black.* \_*My sister*

*says I dress funny, but if you’ve seen some of the clothes*

*she wears, you know it’s a case of the pot calling the kettle*

*black.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[59103, 59107]

**pour** one’s **heart out to** someone and **pour** one’s **heart**

**out†** *Fig.* to tell one’s personal feelings to someone else. \_

*I didn’t mean to pour my heart out to you, but I guess I just*

*had to talk to someone.* \_ *She poured out her heart to her*

*friend.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[59130, 59133]

**pour** something **into** something and **pour** something **in†** to

guide a flow of liquid into something. \_ *She poured the*

*lemonade into the pitcher and carried it to the porch.* \_*She*

*held the glass and poured in the lemonade.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[59134, 59137]

**pour** something **off (of )** something and **pour** something **off†**

to drain liquid off the top of something. (*Of* is usually

retained before pronouns.) \_*Valerie poured the cream off*

*the milk.* \_ *Valerie poured off the cream.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[59142, 59146]

**pour** something **out on(to)** someone or something and **pour**

something **out†** to empty something onto someone or

something. \_ *She poured the pitcher of ice water out onto*

*Dave, making him scream.* \_ *Sarah poured out the pitcher*

*on the f loor by accident.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[59171, 59174]

**Poverty is not a crime.** and **Poverty is no sin.** *Prov.*

You should not condemn someone for being poor. \_*Ellen:*

*I wish there were a law to make all those poor people move*

*out of our neighborhood. Jim: Poverty is not a crime, Ellen.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[59176, 59179]

**powder** one’s **nose** and **powder** one’s **face** to depart to

the bathroom. (Usually said by women, or jocularly by

men.) \_ *Excuse me, I have to powder my nose.* \_ *She just*

*went out to powder her face.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[59282, 59291]

**preach to the choir** and **preach to the converted**

*Fig.* to make one’s case primarily to one’s supporters; to

make one’s case only to those people who are present or

who are already friendly to the issues. \_ *There is no need*

*to convince us of the value of hard work. We already know*

*that. You are just preaching to the choir.* \_*Don’t waste your*

*time telling us about the problem. That’s preaching to the*

*choir.* \_*Bob found himself preaching to the converted when*

*he was telling Jane the advantages of living in the suburbs.*

*She already hates city life.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[59299, 59303]

**precious few** and **precious little** very few; very little.

(*Few* for people or things that can be counted, and *little*

for amounts.) \_ *We get precious few tourists here in the*

*winter.* \_*There’s precious little food in the house and there*

*is no money.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[59390, 59393]

**present** something **to** someone and **present** someone **with**

something to give something to someone, especially if done

ceremoniously. \_ *They presented a watch to me when I*

*retired.* \_ *They presented me with a watch when I retired.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[59421, 59424]

**press charges (against** someone**)** and **file charges**

**(against** someone**)** *Fig.* to make a formal charge of

wrongdoing against someone. \_ *They agreed not to press*

*charges against me if I agreed to pay for the damages.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[59456, 59463]

**press** something **into** something and **press** something **in† 1.**

to force something into something, such as a mold. \_

*Now, you need to press the clay into the mold carefully.* \_

*Now, hold the mold with one hand and press in the clay.*

**2.** to force or drive something into the surface of something.

\_ *You are standing on my chewing gum, and you*

*have pressed it into the carpet!* \_ *Don’t press in the gum by*

*standing on it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[59465, 59468]

**press** something **onto** something and **press** something **on†**

to put pressure on something and cause it to stick to the

surface of something. \_ *I pressed the label onto the envelope*

*and took it to the post office.* \_ *I pressed on the label.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[59469, 59474]

**press** something **out of** something and **press** something

**out†** to squeeze something out of something by applying

pressure. \_ *The Indians press the acid out of the manioc*

*before they use it as food.* \_ *Gene used an iron to press the*

*wrinkles out of his suit coat.* \_ *Go back and press out all*

*the wrinkles!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[59493, 59498]

**\*pressed for money** and **\*pressed for cash;**

**\*pushed for cash; \*pushed for money** *Fig.* needful

of money; short of money. (\*Typically: **be ~;**

**become ~; get ~**.) \_*We are usually pushed for money*

*at this time of year.* \_ *I’m a little pressed for money just*

*now.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[59499, 59503]

**\*pressed for time** and **\*pushed for time** *Fig.* needing

time; in a hurry. (\*Typically: **be ~; become ~; get**

**~; seem ~**.) \_ *If I weren’t so pressed for time, I could*

*help you.* \_ *I can’t talk to you. I’m too pushed for time.* \_

*Can’t talk to you now. I’m pressed for time.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[59535, 59538]

a **pretty state of affairs** and a **fine state of affairs**

an unpleasant state of affairs. \_ *This is a pretty state of*

*affairs, and it’s all your fault.* \_ *What a fine state of affairs*

*you’ve got us into.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[59593, 59598]

**prick up its ears†** and **prick up** one’s **ears†** *Fig.* [for an

animal or a person] to become attentive. (The animal will

adjust its ears toward the sound.) \_ *The sound made the*

*dog prick its ears up.* \_ *When Fred heard his name, he*

*pricked up his ears.* \_ *She pricked her ears up when she*

*heard her name.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[59604, 59609]

**Pride goes before a fall.** and **Pride goeth before a**

**fall.** *Prov.* If you are too proud and overconfident, you

will make mistakes leading to your defeat. (Biblical.) \_

*Sue: I’m the best student in my history class. I’m sure I can*

*pass the exam without studying very hard. Sam: Be careful.*

*Pride goes before a fall, you know.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[59610, 59613]

**pride** oneself **in** something and **pride** oneself **on** something

to take pride in one of one’s qualities or accomplishments.

\_ *She prides herself in her ability to spot a shoplifter.* \_ *I*

*pride myself on my ability to find compromises.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[59711, 59716]

**profit by** something and **profit from** something **1.** *Lit.* to

gain money from something. \_ *You will surely profit by*

*investing in this stock.* \_ *I know I will profit from this*

*investment.* **2.** *Fig.* to learn from something. \_ *I am sure*

*you will profit by your unpleasant experience.* \_ *Yes, I will*

*profit from my failure.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[59755, 59761]

**project** something **on(to)** someone or something and **project**

something **upon** someone or something to show a pic-

ture, such as from a film, transparency, etc., onto something,

such as a screen, wall, etc., or even onto a person.

\_ *Henry projected the pictures onto the screen as he discussed*

*each one.* \_*The teacher had to project the slides upon*

*the wall.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[59767, 59771]

**promise the moon (to** someone**)** and **promise** someone

**the moon** to make extravagant promises to someone.

\_ *Bill will promise you the moon, but he won’t live up*

*to his promises.* \_ *My boss promised the moon, but never*

*gave me a raise.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[59832, 59837]

**protect** someone or something **against** someone or something

and **protect** someone or something **from** someone or

something to shield or preserve someone or something

against someone or something. \_ *Please come along and*

*protect us against muggers as we walk home.* \_ *What will*

*protect my car against thieves?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[59838, 59844]

**protest about** someone or something and **protest against**

someone or something **1.** to complain about someone or

something. \_*Valerie is always protesting about some problem*

*at work.* \_ *She filed a complaint that protested against*

*her supervisor.* **2.** to rally or demonstrate against someone

or something. \_ *A number of people protested about the*

*war.* \_ *They were mainly protesting against the draft.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[59849, 59853]

**\*proud as a peacock** and **\*vain as a peacock** overly

proud; vain. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *Mike’s been strutting*

*around proud as a peacock since he won that award.* \_ *I*

*sometimes think Elizabeth must spend all day admiring herself*

*in a mirror. She’s as vain as a peacock.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[59894, 59897]

**prowl about** and **prowl around** to sneak around, looking

for someone or something. \_ *Something is prowling*

*about out there in the yard.* \_ *There is someone outside*

*prowling around.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[59906, 59909]

**prune** something **off (of )** something and **prune** something

**off†** to cut something off something. (*Of* is usually

retained before pronouns.) \_ *Claire pruned the dead*

*branch off the apple tree.* \_*She pruned off the dead branch.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[59918, 59922]

**pry** something **from** someone and **pry** something **out of**

someone to work information out of someone; to force

someone to reveal information. \_ *I couldn’t even pry her*

*name from her.* \_ *The police tried to pry the name of the*

*killer out of Max.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[59923, 59926]

**pry** something **from** something and **pry** something **out (of**

something**)** to remove something from something with or

as if with a lever. \_ *See if you can pry this wedge from its*

*slot.* \_ *I pried the rotted board out of the side of the house.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[59927, 59930]

**pry** something **off (of )** something and **pry** something **off†**

to use a lever to get something off something. (*Of* is usually

retained before pronouns.) \_*Tom pried the top off the*

*jelly jar.* \_ *He pried off the jar top.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[60026, 60030]

**pull a gun (on** someone**)** and **pull a knife (on** someone**)**

to bring out a gun or knife suddenly so that it is ready for

use against someone. \_*I screamed when the mugger pulled*

*a knife on me.* \_ *The police shot the thief when he pulled a*

*gun.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[60040, 60043]

**pull a stunt (on** someone**)** and **pull a trick (on** someone**)**

to deceive someone; to play a trick on someone. \_

*Let’s pull a trick on the teacher.* \_ *Don’t you dare pull a*

*stunt like that!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[60148, 60151]

**pull (some) strings** and **pull a few strings** to use

influence (with someone to get something done). \_*I can*

*get it done easily by pulling a few strings.* \_ *Is it possible to*

*get anything done around here without pulling some strings?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[60177, 60180]

**pull** someone **into** a place and **pull** someone **in†** *Lit.* to bring

someone into a place; to draw someone into a place. \_

*Advertising will pull hundreds of customers in.* \_ *The sale*

*pulled in a lot of customers.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[60181, 60183]

**pull** someone **into** something and **pull** someone **in†** *Fig.* to

get someone involved in something. \_ *Please don’t pull*

*me into this argument.* \_ *Don’t pull in anyone else.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[60203, 60208]

**pull** someone or something **away from** someone or something

and **pull** someone or something **away†** to grasp and

haul someone or something away from someone or something.

\_ *The lady pulled the child away from the edge of*

*the well.* \_ *Please pull your dog away from my hedge.* \_

*Pull away that dog, or I will call the police!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[60219, 60223]

**pull** someone or something **into** something and **pull** someone

or something **in†** to haul or drag someone or something

into something or some place. \_ *She pulled him into the*

*room and closed the door.* \_ *Lisa pulled in her friend and*

*closed the door.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[60288, 60296]

**pull** something **out of a hat** and **pull** something **out of**

**thin air 1.** *Lit.* [for a magician] to make something, such

as a live rabbit, seem to appear by pulling it out of a top

hat or out of the air. \_ *He pulled a rabbit out of a hat and*

*then pulled a chicken out of thin air.* **2.** *Fig.* to produce

something seemingly out of nowhere. \_*Where am I going*

*to get the money? I can’t just pull it out of a hat!* \_ *I don’t*

*know where she found the book. She pulled it out of thin*

*air, I guess.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[60301, 60304]

**pull** something **out of** someone or something and **pull** something

**out†** to withdraw something from someone or

something. \_ *I pulled the arrow out of the injured soldier*

*and tried to stop the bleeding.* \_ *I pulled out the arrow.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[60343, 60346]

**pull** something **up to** something and **pull** something **up†** to

draw something close to something else. \_ *She pulled the*

*chair up to the table and began to examine the papers.* \_

*She pulled up a chair.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[60422, 60427]

**pump** something **into** someone or something and **pump**

something **in†** to try to force something, such as a gas, liquid,

information, or money into someone or something.

\_ *First you have to pump some air into the ball to make it*

*hard.* \_ *I pumped in the air.* \_ *The hospital oxygen system*

*pumped life-giving oxygen into Karen’s lungs.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[60428, 60431]

**pump** something **out of** someone or something and **pump**

something **out†** to remove something from someone or

something by force or suction. \_ *The doctors pumped the*

*poison out of her stomach.* \_ *They pumped out the poison.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[60479, 60483]

**punch** something **out of** something and **punch** something

**out†** to press on something and make it pop out of something.

\_*She punched the perforated stickers out of the page*

*and stuck them onto her schoolbooks.* \_ *Jane punched out*

*the stickers.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[60523, 60528]

**pure and simple** and **plain and simple** absolutely;

without further complication or elaboration. \_*I told you*

*what you must do, and you must do it, pure and simple.* \_

*Will you kindly explain to me what it is, pure and simple,*

*that I am expected to do?* \_ *Just tell me plain and simple,*

*do you intend to go or don’t you?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[60535, 60536]

**pure luck** and **blind luck** complete luck; nothing but

plain luck. \_ *I have no skill. I won by pure luck.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[60549, 60555]

**purr like a cat** and **purr like a kitten 1.** *Fig.* [for an

engine] to run well and smoothly. \_ *My car really purred*

*after I got it tuned up.* \_*New spark plugs and this old heap*

*will really purr like a cat.* **2.** *Fig.* [for a person] to be very

pleased, and perhaps moan or purr with pleasure. \_ *She*

*was so pleased that she purred like a cat.* \_ *Sarah really*

*purrs like a kitten when she is happy.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[60588, 60590]

**push off** and **shove off** to leave. (As if one were pushing

a boat away from a dock.) \_ *Well, it looks like it’s time to*

*push off.* \_ *It’s time to go. Let’s shove off.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[60605, 60609]

**push** one’s **luck** and **press** one’s **luck** to expect continued

good fortune; to expect to continue to escape bad

luck. (Often implies unreasonable expectation.) \_ *You’re*

*okay so far, but don’t push your luck.* \_*Bob pressed his luck*

*too much and got into a lot of trouble.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[60635, 60639]

**push** someone **into** something and **push** someone **in†** to

force someone into a situation; to force someone to do

something. \_ *They are trying to push me into signing the*

*contract.* \_ *Please don’t push me into it!* \_ *You pushed me*

*in!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[60640, 60644]

**push** someone or something **about** and **push** someone or

something **around** to jostle someone around. \_*The crowd*

*pushed the visitors around and made them feel unwelcome.*

\_ *People on the sidewalk pushed the delegation about during*

*the noon rush hour.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[60645, 60650]

**push** someone or something **about in** something and **push**

someone or something **around in** something; **push** someone

or something **around†** to propel someone or something

about on wheels. \_*Freddie pushed his brother about*

*in the wagon.* \_ *The nurse pushed around Aunt Mary in*

*her wheelchair.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[60696, 60702]

**push** someone or something **off (of )** someone or something

and **push** someone or something **off†** to apply pressure to

and force someone or something off someone or something.

(*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.) \_*He con-*

push someone or something on (ahead) (of someone or 528

*tinued to come at me, but I managed to push him off me*

*and escape.* \_ *I pushed off the attacker.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[60709, 60712]

**push** someone or something **out of** something and **push**

someone or something **out†** to force someone or something

out of something. \_ *Nick pushed the intruder out of the*

*house.* \_ *Tony pushed out the intruder.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[60742, 60746]

**push** someone **to the wall** and **press** someone **to the**

**wall** to force someone into a position where there is only

one choice to make; to put someone in a defensive position.

\_ *There was little else I could do. They pushed me to*

*the wall.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[60859, 60861]

**put a stop to** something and **put an end to** something to

bring something to an end. \_ *I want you to put a stop to*

*all this bad behavior.* \_ *Please put an end to this conversation.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[60904, 60907]

**put in a hard day at work** and **put in a hard day’s**

**work** *Fig.* to work very hard at one’s job. \_*I put in a hard*

*day at work at the office, and now I want to be left alone to*

*rest.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[60933, 60936]

**put on airs** and **give** oneself **airs** *Fig.* to act better than

one really is; to pretend to be good or to be superior. \_

*Pay no attention to her. She is just putting on airs.* \_ *Stop*

*giving yourself airs and act like the rest of us.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[60941, 60944]

**put on the dog** and **put on the ritz** to make things extra

special or dress formally for a special event. \_ *Frank’s*

*really putting on the dog for the big party Friday night.* \_

*They really put on the ritz for us.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61027, 61033]

**put** one’s **foot in** one’s **mouth** and **put** one’s **foot in it;**

**stick** one’s **foot in** one’s **mouth** *Fig.* to say something

that you regret; to say something stupid, insulting, or

hurtful. \_ *When I told Ann that her hair was more beautiful*

*than I had ever seen it, I really put my foot in my*

*mouth. It was a wig.* \_ *I put my foot in it by telling John’s*

*secret; he found out.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61047, 61059]

**put** one’s **hands on** someone, something, or an animal and

**lay** one’s **hands on** someone, something, or an animal

**1.** *Lit.* to place one’s hands on someone or an animal. \_

*He put his hands on the sick woman and proclaimed her*

*cured. This act of faith healing failed, alas.* \_ *He laid his*

*hands on the dog and gently felt for broken bones.* **2.** *Fig.* to

locate and get hold of someone or something. \_ *As soon*

*as I can lay my hands on him, I’ll get him right over here.*

\_ *I am trying to put my hands on the book you suggested.*

**3.** *Fig.* to get hold of someone or an animal with punishment

or harm as a goal. \_ *Just wait till I put my hands on*

*you!* \_*When I lay my hands on Ken, he will be sorry he ever*

*lied to me.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61081, 61085]

**put** one’s **mind to** something and **set** one’s **mind to** something

*Fig.* to concentrate on doing something; to give the

doing of something one’s full attention. \_*I know I can do*

*it if I put my mind to it.* \_ *I will set my mind to it and finish*

*by noon.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61097, 61101]

**put** one’s **nose in (where it’s not wanted)** and **stick**

one’s **nose in (where it’s not wanted)** *Fig.* to interfere

in someone else’s business. \_*Why do you always have*

*to stick your nose in?* \_ *Please don’t put your nose in where*

*it’s not wanted!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61110, 61117]

**put** one’s **oar in†** and **stick** one’s **oar in†; put** one’s **two**

**cents(‘ worth) in†** *Fig.* to add one’s comments or opinion,

even if unwanted or unasked for. \_ *You don’t need to*

*put your oar in. I don’t need your advice.* \_ *I’m sorry. I*

*shouldn’t have stuck my oar in when you were arguing with*

*your wife.* \_ *Do you mind if I put in my oar? I have a suggestion.*

\_*There is no need for you to put in your two cents’*

*worth.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61137, 61142]

**put** oneself **in** someone else’s **place** and **put** oneself **in** someone

else’s **shoes** to allow oneself to see or experience

something from someone else’s point of view. \_*Put yourself*

*in someone else’s place, and see how it feels.* \_ *I put*

*myself in Tom’s shoes and realized that I would have made*

*exactly the same choice.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61149, 61153]

**put out a warrant (on** someone**)** and **send out a warrant**

**(on** someone**)** to issue a warrant for the arrest of

someone. \_ *The police put out a warrant on Max.* \_ *We*

*sent out a warrant on Lefty “Fingers” Moran at the same*

*time.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61206, 61210]

**put** someone **across (in a good way)** and **get** someone

**across (in a good way)** to present someone in a good

way or a good light. \_*I don’t want Tom to make the speech.*

*He doesn’t put himself across well.* \_ *I get myself across in*

*situations like this. I’ll do it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61260, 61263]

**put** someone **into power** and **put** someone **in†** to elect or

appoint someone to office or a position of power. \_ *The*

*board decided to put an unknown from another company*

*into the presidency.* \_ *They put in a complete unknown.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61277, 61283]

**put** someone **off (of )** something and **put** someone **off†** to

remove someone from a form of transportation, such as

a train, ship, or airplane, owing to illness or misbehavior.

(See also put someone off. *Of* is usually retained before

pronouns.) \_ *The captain ordered that the unruly passengers*

*be put off the ship at the next port.* \_ *We put the thief*

*off at the dock.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61291, 61296]

**put** someone **off the track** and **put** someone **off the trail**

to cause someone to lose a trail that is being followed. (See

also put someone off the scent; throw someone off the

track.) \_ *A distraction put me off the track and I almost*

*got lost in the jungle.* \_ *I was following an escaped convict*

*and something put me off the trail.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61317, 61322]

**put** someone or an animal **out of** something and **put** someone

or an animal **out†** to get rid of someone or an animal;

to eliminate someone or an animal from something or

some place. \_ *The usher put the noisy boys out of the theater.*

\_ *He put out the boys.* \_ *Please put out the cat after*

*dinner.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61389, 61393]

**put** someone or something **into** something and **put** someone

or something **in†** to insert or install someone or something

into something. \_ *The magician put the woman into the*

*cabinet and locked the door.* \_ *She put in the woman and*

*locked the cabinet.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61479, 61481]

**put** someone **to bed** and **send** someone **to bed** to make

someone go to bed. \_*Mother put Jimmy to bed and kissed*

*him.* \_ *Sally was naughty and was sent to bed.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61519, 61523]

**put** something **across (to** someone**)** and **get** something

**across (to** someone**)** *Fig.* to make something clear to

someone; to convince someone of something; to get a plan

accepted. \_ *I don’t know how to put this point across to*

*my class. Can you help?* \_ *Can you help me get this across?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61567, 61570]

**put** something **by** and **lay** something **by** to reserve a portion

of something; to preserve and store something, such

as food. \_ *I put some money by for a rainy day.* \_ *I laid*

*some eggs by for our use tomorrow.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61575, 61582]

**put** something **down† in black and white** and **set** something

**down† in black and white** *Fig.* to write down

the terms of an agreement; to draw up a written contract;

to put the details of something down on paper. (Alludes

to black ink and white paper.) \_*We agree on all the major*

*points. Now, let’s set it down in black and white.* \_ *I think*

*I understand what you are talking about, but we need to put*

*down the details in black and white.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61583, 61586]

**put** something **down to** something and **set** something **down**

**to** something to explain something as being caused by

something else. \_ *I put his bad humor down to his illness.*

\_ *We set your failure down to your emotional upset.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61603, 61608]

**put** something **in layaway** and **put** something **in will-call**

to purchase something by paying part of the price initially,

and not receiving the goods until all the money has been

paid. \_*I couldn’t afford a winter coat right now, so I picked*

*one out and put it in layaway.* \_*Please put this in will-call.*

*I’ll pay for it next month.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61639, 61642]

**put** something **into effect** and **put** something **into force**

to make something take effect; to begin using or enforcing

a policy or procedure. \_*When will the city council put*

*this law into effect?* \_ *We will put it into force tomorrow.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61657, 61662]

**put** something **in(to) service** and **put** something **into use**

to start to use a thing; to make a device operate and function.

\_ *I hope that they are able to put the elevator into*

*service again soon. I am tired of climbing stairs.* \_ *We will*

*put it in service within an hour.* \_*When can we put the new*

*copier into use?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61730, 61734]

**put** something **over on** someone and **put one over on**

someone to play a trick on someone; to deceive someone

with something. \_ *We really put one over on the teacher*

*and boy, was he mad.* \_ *I’m too observant. You can’t put*

*anything over on me.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61752, 61756]

**put** something **to rest** and **lay** something **to rest** *Fig.* to

put an end to a rumor; to finish dealing with something

and forget about it. \_ *I’ve heard enough about Ann and*

*her illness. I’d like to put the whole matter to rest.* \_ *I’ll be*

*happy to lay it to rest, but will Jane?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61781, 61784]

**put the bite on** someone and **put the touch on** someone

*Sl.* to try to get money from someone. \_ *Tom put the*

*bite on me for ten dollars.* \_ *Bill put the touch on me, but I*

*told him to forget about it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61785, 61790]

**put the blame on** someone or something and **lay the**

**blame on** someone or something; **place the blame on**

someone or something to blame someone or something; to

assign a bad outcome to someone or something. \_ *Don’t*

*put the blame on me. I didn’t do it.* \_ *We’ll have to place*

*the blame for the damage on the storm.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61806, 61809]

**put the chill on** someone and **put the freeze on** someone

*Sl.* to ignore someone; to end social contact with

someone. \_ *Max put the chill on the guys who threatened*

*him.* \_ *Max put the freeze on Lefty.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61810, 61814]

**put the clamps on** someone or something and **put the**

**clamps on†** *Sl.* to impede or block someone or something;

to restrain or restrict someone. \_ *Fred had to put*

*the clamps on Tony, who was rushing his work too much.* \_

*Tony is getting a little anxious. Time to put on the clamps.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61819, 61823]

**put the feed bag on†** and **put the nose-bag on†** *Fig.*

to eat a meal. (Both refer to a method of feeding a horse

by attaching a bag of food at its nose and mouth.) \_ *It’s*

*time to put the feed bag on! I’m starved!* \_ *When do we*

*put on the nose-bag?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61824, 61828]

**put the finger on** someone and **lay the finger on** someone

*Sl.* to accuse someone; to identify someone as the one

who did something. \_ *Tom put the finger on John, and*

*John is really mad.* \_ *He’d better not lay the finger on me.*

*I didn’t do it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61836, 61843]

**put the heat on (**someone**)** and **put the screws on**

**(**someone**); put the squeeze on (**someone**); put the**

**heat on; put the screws on; put the squeeze on**

*Sl.* to put pressure on someone (to do something); to

coerce someone. \_ *John wouldn’t talk, so the police were*

*putting the heat on him to confess.* \_ *When my boss puts*

*the screws on, he can be very unpleasant.* \_*The police know*

*how to put the squeeze on.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61849, 61854]

**put the make on** someone and **put the moves on** someone**;**

**put the hard word on** someone *Sl.* to attempt to

seduce or proposition someone. \_ *I think he was beginning*

*to put the make on me. I’m glad I left.* \_ *James tried*

*to put the hard word on Martha.* \_ *Are you putting the*

*moves on me?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61904, 61907]

**put up a (brave) front** and **put on a (brave) front**

*Fig.* to appear to be brave (even if one is not). \_ *Mary is*

*frightened, but she’s putting up a brave front.* \_ *If she*

*weren’t putting on a front, I’d be more frightened than I am.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61908, 61910]

**put up a fight** and **put up a struggle** to make a struggle,

a fight, etc. (Fixed order.) \_ *Did he put up a fight?* \_

*No, he only put up a bit of a struggle.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61958, 61964]

**Put your trust in God, and keep your powder dry.**

and **Keep your powder dry.** *Prov.* Have faith that God

will make sure that you win a conflict, but be prepared to

fight well and vigorously. (Supposed to have been said by

Oliver Cromwell; *powder* means gunpowder.) \_ *Bill: Am*

*I going to win my lawsuit? Alan: All you can do is put your*

*trust in God, and keep your powder dry.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[61971, 61975]

**putter around** and **putter about** to do little things of

little consequence; to do small tasks as found around the

house. \_ *I spent all of Saturday just puttering around, not*

*really getting anything done.* \_*I stayed home and puttered*

*about during my vacation.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[62065, 62070]

**quibble (about** someone or something**) (with** someone**)**

and **quibble (over** someone or something**) (with** someone**)**

to be argumentative or contentious with someone

about someone or something. \_*Let’s not quibble about it.*

\_*Please don’t quibble with your sister.* \_*No need to quibble*

*over it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[62077, 62081]

**\*quick as a wink** and **\*quick as a flash; \*quick as**

**(greased) lightning; \*swift as lightning** very

quickly. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_*As quick as a wink, the thief took*

*the lady’s purse.* \_ *I’ll finish this work quick as a f lash.* \_

*Quick as greased lightning, the thief stole my wallet.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[62090, 62096]

**quick on the trigger** and **quick on the draw 1.** *Lit.*

quick to draw a gun and shoot. \_*Some of the old cowboys*

*were known to be quick on the trigger.* \_ *Wyatt Earp was*

*particularly quick on the draw.* **2.** *Fig.* quick to respond to

anything. \_ *John gets the right answer before anyone else.*

*He’s really quick on the trigger.* \_ *Sally will probably win*

*the quiz game. She’s really quick on the draw.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[62105, 62107]

a **quick temper** and a **short temper;** a **short fuse** a

bad temper that can be easily aroused. \_*Tyler has a quick*

*temper and doesn’t mind letting everyone see it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[62113, 62117]

**\*quiet as a (church) mouse** and **\*quiet as the grave**

very quiet. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *You’d better be as quiet as a*

*mouse while Grandma takes her nap so you won’t wake her*

*up.* \_ *This town is quiet as the grave now that the factories*

*have closed.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[62146, 62149]

**quite a few** and **quite a lot; quite a bit; quite a**

**number** much or many. \_ *Do you need one? I have quite*

*a few.* \_ *I have quite a bit—enough to spare some.* \_ *How*

*many? Oh, quite a number.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[62273, 62276]

**rag on** someone and **rake on** someone *Sl.* to bother someone;

to irritate someone; to criticize and humiliate someone.

\_ *I wish you would stop ragging on me. I don’t know*

*why you are so annoyed at me.* \_ *Stop raking on me!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[62361, 62364]

**rain on** someone’s **parade** and **rain on** someone or something

*Fig.* to spoil something for someone. \_*I hate to rain*

*on your parade, but your plans are all wrong.* \_ *She really*

*rained on our plans.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[62402, 62406]

**raise havoc with** someone or something and **play havoc**

**with** someone or something to create confusion or disruption

for or among someone or something. \_ *Your*

*announcement raised havoc with the students.* \_ *I didn’t*

*mean to play havoc with them.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[62409, 62414]

**raise hob with** someone or something and **play hob with**

someone or something to do something devilish to someone

or something; to cause trouble for someone or something.

(A *hob* is a hobgoblin, a wicked little elf.) \_ *Your sudden*

*arrival is going to play hob with my dinner plans.* \_ *Sorry,*

*I didn’t mean to raise hob with you.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[62415, 62419]

**raise money for** someone or something and **raise money**

**to** do something to work to earn money or encourage

donations for the benefit of someone, something, or doing

something. \_*I worked hard to raise money for college, and*

*then decided not to go.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[62437, 62442]

**raise** some **eyebrows** and **raise a few eyebrows** *Fig.*

to shock or surprise people mildly (by doing or saying

something). (*Some* can be replaced with *a few, someone’s,*

*a lot of,* etc.) \_*What you just said may raise some eyebrows,*

*but it shouldn’t make anyone really angry.* \_ *John’s sudden*

*marriage to Ann raised a few eyebrows.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[62484, 62487]

**raise the devil (with** something**)** and **raise hell (with**

something**)** to cause trouble with something. \_ *That idea*

*raises hell with my plan.* \_*The onions raised the devil with*

*my stomach.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[62502, 62505]

**rake** someone **over the coals** and **haul** someone **over**

**the coals** *Fig.* to give someone a severe scolding. \_ *My*

*mother hauled me over the coals for coming in late last night.*

\_*The manager raked me over the coals for being late again.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[62520, 62523]

**rake** something **off (of )** something and **rake** something **off†**

to remove something from something by raking. (*Of* is

usually retained before pronouns.) \_*Please rake the leaves*

*off the lawn.* \_ *Rake off the leaves.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[62524, 62527]

**rake** something **out of** something and **rake** something **out†**

to clean something out of something by raking. \_ *You*

*ought to rake the leaves out of the gutter so the water will*

*f low.* \_ *Please rake out the leaves.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[62561, 62564]

**ram** something **into** someone or something and **ram** something

**in†** to pound something into someone or something.

\_*He rammed his fist into Bill’s side and shouted something*

*angry at him.* \_ *He rammed in his fist.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[62651, 62655]

**rap at** something and **rap on** something to tap on something

to attract someone’s attention. \_ *Who is that rapping at*

*my door?* \_*Someone is rapping at the window, trying to get*

*my attention.* \_ *I will rap on her window and try to wake*

*her.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[62657, 62661]

**rap** someone **across the knuckles** and **rap** someone **on**

**the knuckles; rap** someone’s **knuckles** to strike someone

on the knuckles. \_ *As punishment, she rapped him*

*across the knuckles.* \_ *The teacher rapped the student on*

*the knuckles.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[62726, 62733]

**Rats abandon a sinking ship.** and **like rats abandoning**

**a sinking ship** *Prov.* You can tell when something

is about to fail because large numbers of people

begin to leave it. (Can imply that the people who leave

are “rats,” that is, selfish and disloyal.) \_ *Jill: The company*

*next door must be going bankrupt. Jane: How do you*

*know? Jill: All its employees are resigning. Rats abandon a*

*sinking ship.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[62753, 62755]

**rattle** one’s **saber** and **rattle its saber** *Fig.* to make

threatening statements or actions. \_ *The president is just*

*rattling his saber. He would never attack such a small country!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[62756, 62758]

**rattle** something **off†** and **reel** something **off†** to recite

something quickly and accurately. \_ *She can really reel*

*song lyrics off.* \_ *Listen to Mary rattle off those numbers.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[62802, 62807]

**reach an accord (with** someone**)** and **reach an agreement**

**(with** someone**)** to come to an agreement with

someone. \_ *I hope that we can reach an accord with the*

*union so work can start again.* \_*We will try one more time*

*to reach an agreement with you.* \_ *We reached an agreement*

*and signed a contract.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[62814, 62818]

**reach an understanding with** someone and **come to**

**an understanding (with** someone**)** to achieve a settlement

or an agreement with someone. \_*I hope we are able*

*to reach an understanding with the commissioners.* \_ *We*

*were able to reach an understanding with Tony.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[62843, 62846]

**reach** one’s **stride** and **hit** one’s **stride** to do something

at one’s best level of ability. \_ *When I reach my stride,*

*things will go faster, and I’ll be more efficient.* \_ *Now that*

*I’ve hit my stride, I can work more efficiently.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[62854, 62858]

**reach out (after** someone or something**)** and **reach out**

**(for** something**)** to extend one’s grasp to someone or something.

\_*Don reached out after Doris, but she slipped away*

*before he could get a good hold on her.* \_ *Doris reached out*

*for the door, but it slammed closed.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[62922, 62925]

**read from the same page** and **sing from the same**

**hymnbook** *Cliché* share the same understanding of

something. \_ *Okay, I think we are reading from the same*

*page now. We can discuss the future of this project more productively.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[63164, 63170]

**receive** someone **with open arms** and **welcome** someone

**with open arms 1.** *Lit.* to greet someone with arms

spread wide to hug someone. \_ *His mother greeted him*

*with open arms at the door.* **2.** *Fig.* to greet someone

eagerly. \_ *I’m sure they wanted us to stay for dinner. They*

*received us with open arms.* \_*When I came home from college,*

*the whole family welcomed me with open arms.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[63190, 63194]

**reckon** someone or something **into** something and **reckon**

someone or something **in†** to figure someone or something

in; to include someone or something in one’s calculations.

\_ *I will reckon Jane into the total number of guests.* \_ *I*

*reckoned in a few too many people.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[63228, 63233]

**recognize** something **for what it is** and **recognize** one

**for what** one **is** to see and understand exactly what

someone or something is or represents. \_*The disease represented*

*a serious threat to all peoples, and Dr. Smith recognized*

*it for what it was.* \_ *I recognize you for what you*

*are, you scoundrel!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[63234, 63238]

**recoil at the sight (of** someone or something**)** and **recoil**

**at the thought (of** someone or something**)** *Fig.* to flinch

or cringe at the sight or thought of someone or something.

\_ *Sally recoiled at the sight of Gerry, who had said something*

*unspeakable.* \_ *Mary recoiled at the very thought.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[63326, 63334]

**\*red as a cherry** and **\*red as a poppy; \*red as a**

**rose; \*red as a ruby; \*red as blood** bright red.

(\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *When she came in from ice-skating,*

*Clara’s nose was as red as a cherry.* \_*When her boss praised*

*her in front of the whole office, Emily turned red as a poppy.*

\_ *I would like to make a dress out of that beautiful velvet*

*that is red as a rose.* \_*Jane painted her fingernails with polish*

*as red as a ruby.* \_ *I want to have my car painted red as*

*blood.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[63441, 63445]

**refer** something **back to** someone or something and **refer**

something **back†** to send something back to someone or a

group for action. \_ *Dr. Smith knows more about this kind*

*of case, so I referred it back to him.* \_ *They referred back*

*all the bills.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[63803, 63808]

**remand** someone **(in)to the custody of** someone and

**remand** someone **over to** someone to order someone

placed into the custody of someone. \_ *The court*

*remanded the prisoner into the custody of the sheriff.* \_*The*

*judge remanded Mary to the custody of the sheriff.* \_ *The*

*judge remanded Gerald over to his father.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[63832, 63840]

**Remember to write.** and **Don’t forget to write.**

**1.** *Lit.* a final parting comment made to remind someone

going on a journey to write to those remaining at home.

\_ *Alice: Bye. Mary: Good-bye, Alice. Remember to write.*

*Alice: I will. Bye.* \_ *Sally: Remember to write! Fred: I will!*

**2.** *Fig.* a parting comment made to someone in place of a

regular good-bye. (Jocular.) \_ *John: See you tomorrow.*

*Bye. Jane: See you. Remember to write.* \_ *John: Okay. See*

*you after lunch. Jane: Yeah. Bye. Remember to write.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[63907, 63911]

**render** something **to** someone or something and **render**

something **up (to** someone or something**)** to give something

to someone or a group. \_ *You must render your taxes to*

*the government.* \_ *I will render my money to the tax collector.*

\_ *I had to render up all my earnings.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[63948, 63953]

**replace** someone or something **by** someone or something and

**replace** someone or something **with** someone or something

to remove someone or something and add someone or

something in place of the first. \_ *The manager replaced*

*two workers by a machine.* \_ *Walter replaced his old lawn*

*mower with a newer one.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[64235, 64240]

**restore** someone’s **trust in** something and **restore** someone’s

**belief in** something; **restore** someone’s **faith in**

something to reinstate someone’s belief, faith, trust, etc., in

something. \_ *I knew that a good performance on the test*

*would restore my parents’ belief in me.* \_ *Her faith was*

*restored in the government.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[64344, 64349]

**return the compliment** and **return** someone’s **compliment**

to pay a compliment to someone who has paid

you a compliment. \_ *Mary told me that my hair looked*

*nice, so I returned her compliment and told her that her hair*

*was lovely.* \_*When someone says something nice, it is polite*

*to return the compliment.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[64431, 64439]

**revolve around** someone or something and **revolve**

**about** someone or something **1.** *Lit.* to spin or move

around someone or something. \_ *Do you think that the*

*whole world revolves around you?* \_ *The moon revolves*

*about the earth.* **2.** *Fig.* [for people or things] to center

upon someone or something or to be primarily concerned

with someone or something. \_*The way all of this is going*

*to turn out revolves around Bob.* \_ *The success of the picnic*

*revolves around the weather.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[64519, 64524]

**ride on** someone’s **coattails** and **hang on** someone’s

**coattails** *Fig.* to make one’s good fortune or success on

the strength of someone else’s. (Also with *else,* as in the

examples.) \_ *Bill isn’t very creative, so he rides on John’s*

*coattails.* \_ *Some people just have to hang on somebody*

*else’s coattails.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[64540, 64545]

**ride roughshod over** someone or something and **run**

**roughshod over** someone or something *Fig.* to treat

someone or something with disdain or scorn. \_ *Tom*

*seems to ride roughshod over his friends.* \_ *You shouldn’t*

*have come into our town to ride roughshod over our laws*

*and our traditions.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[64606, 64609]

**right and left** and **left and right** to both sides; on all

sides; everywhere. \_ *I dropped the tennis balls, and they*

*rolled right and left.* \_ *There were children everywhere—*

*running right and left.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[64618, 64620]

**right away** and **right now**immediately. \_*John: Take this*

*over to Sue. Bill: Right away.* \_*John: How soon can you do*

*this? Sue: Right away.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[64621, 64624]

**right down** someone’s **alley** and **right up** someone’s **alley**

*Fig.* ideally suited to one’s interests or abilities. \_*Skiing is*

*right down my alley. I love it.* \_ *This kind of thing is right*

*up John’s alley.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[64629, 64632]

**right off the bat** and **straight off the bat** *Fig.* immediately;

first thing. \_*When he was learning to ride a bicycle,*

*he fell on his head right off the bat.* \_ *The new manager*

*demanded new office furniture right off the bat.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[64653, 64658]

**\***a **right to** do something and **\***the **right to** do something the

freedom to do something; the legal or moral permission

or license to do something. (\*Typically: **get ~; have ~;**

**give** someone **~**.) \_ *You don’t have the right to enter my*

*home without my permission.* \_*I have a right to grow anything*

*I want on my farmland.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[64659, 64663]

**\***a **right to** something and **\***the **right to** something a privilege

or license to have something. (\*Typically: **get ~;**

**have ~; give** someone **~**.) \_*I have the right to have the*

*kind of house I want.* \_ *You have a right to any house you*

*can afford.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[64692, 64696]

**ring in** someone’s **ears** and **ring in** someone’s **mind** *Fig.*

[for words or a sound] to linger in one’s consciousness. \_

*Her words rang in my ears for days.* \_*The sound of the choir*

*rang in their minds long after they had finished their*

*anthem.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[64729, 64740]

**ring the curtain down† (on** something**)** and **bring the**

**curtain down† (on** something**) 1.** *Fig.* to lower a theater

curtain, usually at the end of an act or a play. (More

literal than W.) \_ *After one hundred performances, it’s*

*time to ring the curtain down on our show for the last time.*

\_ *As we bring down the curtain on another successful performance,*

*let’s be thankful nothing serious went wrong.*

**2.** *Fig.* to bring something to an end; to declare something

to be at an end. \_*It’s time to ring the curtain down on our*

*relationship. We have nothing in common anymore.* \_

*We’ve tried our best to make this company a success, but it’s*

*time to ring down the curtain.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[64767, 64772]

**rinse** someone’s **mouth out† (with soap)** and **wash**

someone’s **mouth out† (with soap)** *Fig.* to punish one

by washing one’s mouth out with soap, especially for using

foul language. (Usually a jocular threat.) \_*If you say that*

*again, I’ll rinse your mouth out with soap.* \_*I will wash out*

*your mouth if you swear.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[64843, 64846]

**rip** something **in half** and **rip** something **in two** to tear

something into two parts. \_ *Did you know that Ed can*

*rip a telephone book in half ?* \_ *I can rip a newspaper in*

*two.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[64851, 64855]

**rip** something **off (of )** someone or something and **rip** something

**off†** to tear something away from someone or something.

(*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.) \_*I ripped*

*the cover off of the book accidentally.* \_*I ripped off the book*

*cover.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[64856, 64859]

**rip** something **out of** someone or something and **rip** something

**out†** to tear something out of someone or something.

\_*The high priest ripped the beating heart out of the*

*sacrificial victim.* \_*The priest ripped out the victim’s heart.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[64912, 64916]

**rise from the dead** and **rise from the grave** *Fig.* to

come back to life after being dead. \_*Albert didn’t rise from*

*the dead. He wasn’t dead in the first place.* \_*The movie was*

*about a teenager who rose from the grave and haunted his*

*high school friends.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[64955, 64960]

**risk of rain** and **risk of showers; risk of thunder-**

**(storms)** a chance of precipitation. (Used only in

weather forecasting. There is no “risk” of hazard or injury

involved.) \_ *And for tomorrow, there is a slight risk of*

*showers in the morning.* \_*There is a 50 percent risk of rain*

*tonight.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[64976, 64981]

**rivet** one’s **gaze on** someone or something and **rivet** one’s

**glare on** someone or something *Fig.* to fasten one’s gaze

onto someone or something. (As if it were attached by rivets.)

\_*He riveted his gaze on the surly young man.* \_*Walter*

*riveted his hateful glare on the last page of the contract*

*and sneered.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[64987, 64990]

**rivet** something **on(to)** something and **rivet** something **on†**

to attach something to something with rivets. \_*The pockets*

*of these jeans are riveted onto the body of the pants.* \_

*You should rivet on this part of the frame to the wall.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[65007, 65009]

**roam about** and **roam around** to wander or range about

freely. \_ *Stay where you are and don’t roam about.* \_ *I’m*

*too tired to roam around very much.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[65210, 65214]

**roll** something **off (of )** someone or something and **roll** something

**off†** to cause something to roll away, off someone or

something. (*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.) \_

*The other workers quickly rolled the wheel off of the injured*

*man.* \_ *Please roll off the wheel quickly!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[65215, 65219]

**roll** something **onto** something and **roll** something **on†** to

apply something or a coat of a substance by rolling something

saturated with the substance on the thing to be

coated. \_ *You should roll another coat of paint onto this*

*wall over here.* \_ *Roll on another coat.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[65251, 65254]

**rolling in** something and **rolling in money; rolling in**

**it** *Fig.* having large amounts of something, usually money.

\_ *That family is rolling in money.* \_ *Bob doesn’t need to*

*earn money. He’s rolling in it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[65276, 65281]

**romp on** someone and **romp all over** someone **1.** *Fig. Inf.*

to beat or win over, as in a sports contest. \_ *Our team*

*romped on our opponents and beat them 10 to 1.* \_ *We*

*romped all over them.* **2.** *Fig. Inf.* to scold someone. \_*The*

*teacher romped on the students for their behavior.* \_ *He*

*romped all over all of them.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[65315, 65320]

**root** someone or something **out of** something and **root** someone

or something **out†** to seek and remove someone or

something from something or some place; to seek to discover

or bring something to light. \_ *The committee*

*wanted to root all the lazy people out of the club.* \_ *The*

*manager rooted out all the deadwood.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[65350, 65353]

**rope** someone **into** something and **rope** someone **in†** *Fig.*

to cause someone to get involved in some project. \_*She’s*

*always trying to rope me into her club.* \_*Let’s rope in someone*

*to help with cleaning up.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[65400, 65402]

a **rotten egg** and a **bad egg** a bad or despised person; an

evil influence. \_ *That guy is a real rotten egg.* \_ *She sure*

*has turned out to be a rotten egg.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[65408, 65412]

**\***a **rough idea (about** something**)** and **\***a **rough idea**

**(of** something**)** a general idea; an estimate. (\*Typically: **get**

**~; have ~; give** someone **~**.) \_ *I need to get a rough*

*idea of how many people will be there.* \_ *I’ll manage to get*

*a rough idea. That’s good enough.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[65441, 65444]

**rough-and-tumble** and **rough-and-ready** disorderly;

aggressive. \_*That was a rough-and-tumble football game.*

\_ *George is too rough-and-ready for me. He doesn’t know*

*how to act around civilized people.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[65445, 65450]

**round off to** something and **round up to** something;

**round down to** something to express a number in the

nearest whole amount or nearest group of 1, 10, 100,

1,000, 1/10, 1/100, 1/1,000, etc. \_*When doing taxes, Anne*

*rounded her figures off to the nearest dollar.* \_ *These census*

*population figures are rounded up to the nearest million.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[65499, 65502]

**roust** someone **out of** something and **roust** someone **out†**

to force someone out of something. \_ *Bob’s brother*

*rousted him out of bed just in time for the school bus.* \_ *He*

*rousted out his brother.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[65503, 65507]

**rout** someone or something **out of** some place and **rout**

someone or something **out†** to remove someone or something

from some place by force. \_ *The soldiers routed the*

*snipers out of the deserted buildings.* \_*They routed out the*

*snipers.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[65531, 65535]

**rub elbows (with** someone**)** and **rub shoulders with**

someone *Fig.* to associate with someone; to work closely

with someone. (No physical contact is involved.) \_*I don’t*

*care to rub elbows with someone who acts like that!* \_*I rub*

*shoulders with John at work. We are good friends.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[65588, 65591]

**rub** something **into** something and **rub** something **in†** to

cause something to penetrate a surface by rubbing it

against the surface. \_ *Rub this lotion into your muscles. It*

*will stop the aching.* \_ *Try rubbing in this lotion.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[65592, 65596]

**rub** something **off (of )** something and **rub** something **off†**

to remove something from something by rubbing. (*Of* is

usually retained before pronouns.) \_ *The butler rubbed*

*the tarnish off the pitcher.* \_*The butler rubbed off the dark*

*tarnish.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[65597, 65600]

**rub** something **onto** something and **rub** something **on†** to

apply something onto the surface of something by rubbing.

\_ *Alice rubbed suntan lotion onto her arms and legs.*

\_ *Rub on some of this lotion.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[65641, 65646]

**rule in favor of** someone or something and **rule for** someone

or something [for a judge or deliberating body] to

award a decision to someone or something or to render a

decision favoring someone or something. \_ *The judge*

*ruled for the defendant.* \_ *The examining board ruled in*

*favor of dismissing George.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[65674, 65678]

**ruminate about** something and **ruminate on** something

to ponder and think about something. (Alludes to a cow,

relaxing and chewing its cud, as if it is thinking.) \_ *He*

*sat, ruminating about the events of the day, humming and*

*eating peanuts.* \_ *Let me ruminate on this a little bit.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[65704, 65707]

**run a fever** and **run a temperature** to have a body temperature

higher than normal; to have a fever. \_ *I ran a*

*fever when I had the f lu.* \_ *The baby is running a temperature*

*and is grouchy.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[65715, 65718]

**run a risk (of** something**)** and **run the risk (of** something**)**

to take a chance that something (bad) will happen. \_ *I*

*don’t want to run the risk of losing my job.* \_ *Don’t worry.*

*You won’t have to run a risk.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[65724, 65728]

**run a tight ship** and **run a taut ship** to run a ship or

an organization in an orderly and disciplined manner.

(*Taut* and *tight* mean the same thing. *Taut* is correct nautical

use.) \_ *The new office manager really runs a tight*

*ship.* \_ *Captain Jones is known for running a taut ship.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[65753, 65757]

**run amok** and **run amuck** to go awry; to go bad; to turn

bad; to go into a frenzy. (From a Malay word meaning to

run wild in a violent frenzy.) \_*Our plan ran amok.* \_*He*

*ran amuck early in the school year and never quite got back*

*on the track.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[65759, 65762]

**run an errand** and **do an errand; go on an errand**

to take a short trip to do a specific thing; to complete an

errand. \_*I’ve got to run an errand. I’ll be back in a minute.*

\_ *John has gone on an errand. He’ll be back shortly.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[65774, 65780]

**run around like a chicken with its head cut off** and

**run (around) in circles** *Fig.* to run around frantically

and aimlessly; to be in a state of chaos. (Alludes to a

chicken that continues to run around aimlessly after its

head has been chopped off.) \_ *I spent all afternoon running*

*around like a chicken with its head cut off.* \_ *If you*

*run around in circles, you’ll never get anything done.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[65834, 65839]

**run circles around** someone and **run rings around**

someone *Fig.* to outrun or outdo someone. (Alludes to

someone who runs fast enough to run in circles around a

competitor and still win the race.) \_ *John is a much better*

*racer than Mary. He can run circles around her.* \_*Mary*

*can run rings around Sally.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[66004, 66008]

**run** one’s **fingers through** one’s **hair** and **run** one’s

**hand through** one’s **hair** to comb one’s hair with one’s

fingers. \_ *I came in out of the wind and ran my fingers*

*through my hair to straighten it out a bit.* \_*He ran his hand*

*through his hair and tried to make himself presentable.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[66068, 66070]

**run riot** and **run wild** *Fig.* to get out of control. \_ *The*

*dandelions have run riot in our lawn.* \_ *The children ran*

*wild at the birthday party and had to be taken home.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[66093, 66097]

**run** someone or something **into** something and **run** someone

or something **in†** to take or drive someone or something

into something or some place. \_ *Let me run you into the*

*city this morning. I need the car today.* \_ *Do you want to*

*go to town? I have to run in George and you can come along.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[66098, 66102]

**run** someone or something **off (of )** something and **run** someone

or something **off†** to drive someone or something off

something. (*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.) \_

*Go out and run those dogs off the lawn.* \_ *Go run off the*

*dogs from the lawn.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[66103, 66106]

**run** someone or something **out of** something and **run** someone

or something **out†** to chase someone or something out

of something or some place. \_ *The old man ran the kids*

*out of his orchard.* \_ *He ran out the kids.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[66152, 66159]

**run** something **into** something and **run** something **in† 1.** to

guide or route something, such as a wire or a pipe, into

something or a place. \_ *The worker ran the circuit into*

*each room.* \_ *He ran in the circuit as specified.* **2.** to guide

something into something; to drive or steer something

into something else. \_ *Bobby ran his bicycle into the wall,*

*bending the front wheel.* \_ *Please don’t run your car into*

*the wall!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[66160, 66167]

**run** something **into the ground** and **drive** something **into**

**the ground 1.** *Lit.* to pound or force something into the

ground. \_ *Use a heavy mallet to drive the stakes into the*

*ground.* \_ *Run this post into the ground and nail this sign*

*to it.* **2.** *Fig.* to carry something too far. \_ *It was a good*

*joke at first, Tom, but you’ve run it into the ground.* \_ *Just*

*because everyone laughed once, you don’t have to drive it*

*into the ground.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[66178, 66181]

**run** something **out of** something and **run** something **out†** to

drive or steer something out of something or some place.

\_ *The cowboys ran the cattle out of the corral.* \_ *They ran*

*out the cattle.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[66182, 66186]

**run** something **over to** someone or something and **run** something

**over†** to carry something to someone or something.

\_ *Would you please run this package over to Mrs. Franklin?*

\_ *Do you know where Bill lives? Please run over this*

*package.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[66208, 66217]

**Run that by (me) again.** and **Run it by (me) again.**

*Inf.* Please repeat what you just said.; Please go over that

one more time. \_ *Alice: Do you understand? Sue: No. I*

*really didn’t understand what you said. Run that by me*

*again, if you don’t mind.* \_ *John: Put this piece into the*

*longer slot and the remaining piece into the slot on the bottom.*

*Sue: Run that by again. I got lost just after* put*.* \_

*Mary: Keep to the right, past the fork in the road, then turn*

*right at the crossroads. Do you follow? Jane: No. Run it by*

*me again.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[66320, 66323]

a **rush on** something and a **run on** something a large

demand for something. \_ *There was a rush on bottled*

*water during the drought.* \_ *During the hot summer, there*

*was a run on air conditioners.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[66330, 66335]

**rush** someone or something **into** something and **rush** someone

or something **in†** to lead or carry someone or something

into something or some place hurriedly. \_ *I rushed*

*her into the hospital emergency room, and everything was*

*soon all right.* \_ *The nurse rushed in the emergency medical*

*equipment.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[66336, 66341]

**rush** someone or something **out of** something and **rush** someone

or something **out†** to lead or guide someone or something

out of something or some place hurriedly. \_ *The*

*ushers rushed everyone out of the church so they could clean*

*the place before the next wedding.* \_ *They rushed out*

*another edition of the newspaper that afternoon.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[66388, 66391]

**\***the **sack** and **\***the **ax** dismissal from one’s employment.

(\*Typically: **get ~; give** someone **~**.) \_ *Poor Tom got*

*the sack today. He’s always late.* \_ *I was afraid that Sally*

*was going to get the ax.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[66622, 66626]

**satisfy** something **by** something and **satisfy** something **with**

something to fulfill a requirement, using a particular thing,

such as a school or college course. \_ *Can I satisfy the*

*requirements by taking a course in art?* \_ *Will I satisfy the*

*requirement with this course?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[66679, 66683]

**save** someone’s **skin** and **save** someone’s **neck; save** one’s

**bacon** *Fig.* to save someone from injury, embarrassment,

or punishment. \_ *I saved my skin by getting the job done*

*on time.* \_ *Thanks for saving my neck! I would have fallen*

*down the stairs if you hadn’t held my arm.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[66684, 66689]

**save (**something**) for a rainy day** and **put** something

**aside for a rainy day; hold** something **back for a**

**rainy day; keep** something **for a rainy day** *Fig.* to

reserve something—usually money—for some future

need. \_ *I’ve saved a little money for a rainy day.* \_ *Keep*

*some extra allowance for a rainy day.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[66724, 66728]

**saw** something **off (of )** something and **saw** something **off†**

to cut something off something with a saw. (*Of* is usually

retained before pronouns.) \_ *He sawed the branch off of*

*the tree.* \_ *Sam sawed the dead branch off.* \_ *Saw off*

*another branch on the other side.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[66761, 66764]

**say** one’s **piece** and **speak** one’s **piece** to say what one

must say; to recite what one has planned to say. \_ *Look,*

*just say your piece and get out of here.* \_*I said my piece and*

*left.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[66838, 66840]

**Says me!** and **Sez me!** *Inf.* a formulaic answer to *Says*

*who?* \_*Tom: Says who? Fred: Says me, that’s who!* \_*Tom:*

*You? Fred: You got it, buster. Says me!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[66841, 66845]

**Says who?** and **Sez who?** *Inf.* a formulaic challenge indicating

disagreement with someone who has said something.

\_ *Tom: Says who? Fred: Says me, that’s who!* \_ *She*

*drew herself up to her full height, looked him straight in the*

*eye, and said, “Says who?”*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[66874, 66878]

**\*scarce as hen’s teeth** and **scarcer than hen’s teeth**

*Cliché* scarce; seldom found. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *I do*

*declare, decent people are as scarce as hen’s teeth in these*

*chaotic times.* \_*Handmade lace is scarcer than hen’s teeth;*

*most lace is made by machine.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[66894, 66898]

**scare** someone or an animal **out of** something and **scare**

someone or an animal **out†** to frighten someone or an animal

out of something or some place. \_*The old man tried*

*to scare the kids out of his orchard by shouting at them.* \_

*Karen scared out the intruder.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[66945, 66948]

**scatter** something **about†** and **scatter** something **around†**

to throw or distribute something about. \_ *The children*

*scattered the books about and left the room in a general*

*mess.* \_ *They scattered about all the books and papers.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[66987, 66990]

**scoop** something **out of** something and **scoop** something

**out†** to remove something from something by dipping

or scooping. \_ *She scooped the water out of the bottom of*

*the rowboat.* \_ *Karen scooped out the water.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[67038, 67042]

**scour** something **off (of )** something and **scour** something

**off†** to clean something off something else by scouring.

(*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.) \_*See if you can*

*scour the rust off the cookie sheet.* \_*I will scour off the rust*

*with steel wool.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[67068, 67072]

**scrape along (on** something**)** and **scrape along (with**

something**)** to manage just to get along with a minimum

amount of something. \_ *We can just scrape along on the*

*money I earn from my sewing.* \_ *Do you think you can*

*scrape along with just $400 per month?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[67073, 67079]

**scrape by (on** something**)** and **scrape by (with** something**)**

to manage just to get by with something. (Usually

applies to a more specific period or time or a more specific

event than scrape along (on something).) \_ *There is*

*not really enough money to live on, and we just have to*

*scrape by on what we can earn.* \_ *We can’t scrape by with*

*only that amount of money.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[67085, 67091]

**scrape** someone or something **together†** and **scrape** someone

or something **up†** *Fig.* to find and collect something;

to locate and assemble a group of people or things. (Based

on scrape something up.) \_ *I’m sure we can scrape up*

*someone for the job.* \_ *Mary scraped a few dollars together*

*for some new books.* \_ *John barely scraped up enough*

*money to pay his rent.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[67096, 67100]

**scrape** something **off (of )** someone or something and

**scrape** something **off†** to rub or stroke something off

someone or something. (*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.)

\_*I sat down and scraped the caked mud off of me.*

*It was everywhere!* \_ *Jake scraped off the rust.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[67104, 67107]

**scrape** something **out of** something and **scrape** something

**out†** to remove something by scraping. \_ *Scrape all the*

*peanut butter out of the jar before you discard it.* \_ *Scrape*

*out the peanut butter.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[67125, 67132]

**scratch about (for** something**)** and **scratch around (for**

something**) 1.** *Lit.* to hunt for something in dirt, gravel,

rocks, etc. \_*The prospector spent the day scratching about*

*for signs of gold.* \_*The chickens were scratching around for*

*something to eat.* **2.** *Fig.* to look very hard for something.

\_*The children were scratching about the kitchen for something*

*to eat.* \_ *I’ve been scratching around for a new assistant*

*for months now.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[67172, 67176]

**scream bloody murder** and **yell bloody murder** *Fig.*

to complain bitterly; to complain unduly. \_*When we put*

*him in an office without a window, he screamed bloody*

*murder.* \_ *There is something wrong next door. Everyone*

*is yelling bloody murder.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[67204, 67208]

**screen** someone or something **out of** something and **screen**

someone or something **out†** to filter someone or something

out of something. \_ *The test screened all the unqualified*

*candidates out of the group.* \_ *We screened out the suppliers*

*who were not financially sound.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[67279, 67283]

**scrimp and save** and **pinch and scrape** to be very

thrifty; to live on very little money, often in order to save

up for something. \_ *We had to scrimp and save in order*

*to send the children to college.* \_ *The Smiths pinched and*

*scraped all year in order to go on a Caribbean cruise.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[67307, 67310]

**scrub** something **off (of )** something and **scrub** something

**off†** to clean something off something by scrubbing. (*Of*

is usually retained before pronouns.) \_*I have to scrub the*

*mud off the porch steps.* \_ *Did you scrub off all the grease?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[67314, 67317]

**scrub** something **out of** something and **scrub** something

**out†** to clean something out of something by scrubbing.

\_ *Please scrub the gravy out of the pot.* \_ *Are you going to*

*scrub out the burned material?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[67368, 67370]

**seal a bargain** and **seal the bargain** *Fig.* to signify or

celebrate the reaching of an agreement or bargain. \_*They*

*signed the papers and sealed the bargain by drinking champagne.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[67374, 67377]

**seal** something **off from** someone or something and **seal**

something **off†** to make something inaccessible to someone

or something. \_*The police sealed the building off from*

*everyone.* \_*They sealed off the building from all the reporters.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[67385, 67388]

**sealed with a kiss** and **SWAK** written and sent with love

and care. (The initialism is sometimes written on love letters.

Also an acronym.) \_ *All her letters come SWAK.* \_ *I*

*know they are sealed with a kiss, because she says so.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[67524, 67530]

**see eye to eye (about** someone or something**) (with**

someone**)** and **see eye to eye (on** someone or something**)**

**(with** someone**)** *Fig.* [for someone] to agree about someone

or something with someone else. \_ *I’m glad we see*

*eye to eye about Todd with Mary.* \_ *I see eye to eye with*

*Mary.* \_*Will labor and management ever see eye to eye on*

*the new contract?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[67548, 67554]

**see no further than the end of** one’s **nose** and **cannot**

**see (any) further than the end of** one’s **nose;**

**can’t see beyond the end of** one’s **nose** *Fig.* to be

narrow-minded; to lack understanding and perception. \_

*She is so selfish she can see no further than the end of her*

*nose.* \_ *You don’t care about anyone but yourself. You can’t*

*see any further than the end of your nose.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[67555, 67559]

**see no objection (to** something**)** and **not see any**

**objection (to** something**)** not to think of any objection

to something. \_ *I see no objection to your idea.* \_ *Do you*

*see any objection?* \_ *I do not see any objection to anything*

*you have done.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[67597, 67601]

**see** someone **into** something and **see** someone **in†** to usher

or accompany someone into something or some place. \_

*Please see her into the room and make sure she is seated*

*where she can hear the speaker.* \_ *Please see in the speaker*

*and make sure she finds her seat on the stage.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[67621, 67624]

**see** someone **out (of** something**)** and **show** someone **out**

**(of** something**)** to accompany or escort someone out of

something or some place. \_*Please see our guest out of the*

*factory.* \_ *Please show our guest out.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[67733, 67735]

**See you.** and **See ya.** *Inf.* Good-bye. (See also I’ll see you

later.) \_ *Good game, Tom. See ya.* \_ *See you, old chum.*

*Give me a ring.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[67740, 67744]

**See you later, alligator.** and **Later, alligator.** *Inf.*

Good-bye. (Sometimes the reply is After while(, crocodile.))

\_ *Bob: See you later, alligator. Jane: After while,*

*crocodile.* \_ *Bob: Bye, Tom. Tom: See you later, alligator.*

*Bob: Later.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[67752, 67757]

**seeing pink elephants** and **seeing pink spiders;**

**seeing snakes** intoxicated; recovering from a drinking

bout; having the delirium tremens. \_ *When I got to*

*the point of seeing pink elephants, I knew that something*

*had to be done.* \_ *The old one who’s shaking—he’s probably*

*seeing snakes.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[67824, 67828]

**segregate** someone **from** someone else and **segregate**

something **from** something else to separate someone from

someone else or something from something else. \_ *I was*

*asked to segregate the swimmers from the nonswimmers.* \_

*Let’s segregate the larger fish from the smaller ones.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[67933, 67938]

**sell** someone **out†** and **sell** someone **down the river** to

betray someone; to reveal damaging information about

someone. \_ *Bill told everything he knew about Bob, and*

*that sold Bob down the river.* \_ *You’ll be sorry if you sell*

*me out.* \_ *Lefty sold out his friends, and we’ll all soon be*

*arrested.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[67965, 67967]

**sell the farm** and **bet the farm***Fig.* to liquidate all one’s

assets in order to raise money to invest in something. \_

*It’s a risky proposition. I wouldn’t bet the farm on it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[67987, 67992]

**send in for** something and **send off for** something to dispatch

an order for something to a company or other body

making a public offer of goods. \_*I sent in for a new product*

*that is supposed to make my hair grow back.* \_*Did you*

*send in for that country-and-western CD as you said you*

*would?* \_ *I sent off for the proper contest entry forms.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[68052, 68056]

**send** someone **into** something and **send** someone **in†** to

make someone go into something or some place. \_*George*

*sent me into the house for a hammer.* \_ *The boys know*

*where it is. He should have sent in the boys.* \_ *George sent*

*me in.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[68121, 68124]

**send** someone **out of** something and **send** someone **out†**

to order someone to leave something or some place. \_*The*

*teacher sent the student out of the room.* \_*The teacher sent*

*out the troublesome students.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[68128, 68130]

**send** someone **over (to)** some place and **send** someone

**over†** to order someone to go to some place. \_*I sent Dave*

*over to the main office.* \_ *Please send over someone else.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[68144, 68149]

**send** someone **to the showers** and **send** someone **to the**

**locker room***Fig.* to order a player from the playing field,

thus ending the player’s participation for the day. \_ *The*

*coach had sent four players to the showers before the end of*

*the game.* \_ *He was angry enough to send them all to the*

*locker room.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[68174, 68177]

**send** something **into** something and **send** something **in†** to

dispatch something, such as an order, to a company or

other body making a public offer of goods. \_ *I sent the*

*order in to the home office.* \_ *I sent in the order.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[68222, 68226]

**separate** someone **from** someone else and **separate** something

**from** something else to segregate people or things.

\_*The nurse separated the infected people from the healthy*

*ones.* \_ *Please separate the spoiled apples from the good*

*ones.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[68233, 68236]

**separate** something **off from** something and **separate**

something **off†** to remove something from something. \_

*Frank separated the cream off from the milk.* \_*Separate off*

*the hens from the rooster.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[68237, 68240]

**separate** something **out of** something and **separate** something

**out†** to remove something out from something. \_

*She used a filter to separate the dirt particles out of the*

*water.* \_ *A filter separated out the impurities.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[68241, 68246]

**separate the men from the boys** and **separate the**

**sheep from the goats** *Fig.* to separate the competent

from those who are less competent. (Not necessarily just

about males.) \_ *This is the kind of task that separates the*

*men from the boys.* \_ *Working in a challenging place like*

*this really separates the sheep from the goats.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[68354, 68358]

**set eyes on** someone or something and **lay eyes on** someone

or something *Fig.* to see someone or something for the

first time. \_ *I knew when I set eyes on that car that it was*

*the car for me.* \_ *Have you ever laid eyes on such a beautiful*

*f lower?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[68359, 68363]

**set fire to** someone or something and **set** someone or something

**on fire** to ignite someone or something; to put

someone or something to flames. \_ *The thief set fire to*

*the building.* \_ *The poor man accidentally set himself on*

*fire.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[68372, 68379]

**set forth on** something and **launch forth on** something

**1.** *Lit.* to start out on something, such as a journey. \_ *We*

*intend to set forth on our journey very early in the morning.*

\_*What time will you launch forth on your trip?* **2.** *Fig.*

to begin presenting a speech or an explanation. \_*As soon*

*as John set forth on his speech, three people walked out.* \_

*Every time he launches forth on a presentation, it’s a half*

*hour before he shuts up.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[68403, 68407]

**set** one **(back) on** one’s **feet** and **set** one **on** one’s **feet**

**again** *Fig.* to reestablish someone; to help someone

become active and productive again. \_*Gary’s uncle helped*

*set him back on his feet.* \_ *We will all help set you on your*

*feet again.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[68500, 68504]

**set** someone or something **down†** and **put** someone or something

**down†** to lower or set down someone or something.

(See also set something down; put someone or something

down.) \_ *Put me down!* \_ *Please set that vase down. It*

*cost a fortune.* \_ *Put down that gun!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[68582, 68586]

**set** something **back†** and **put** something **back†** to set something,

like a timepiece, to a lower number. (*Put* is less

common.) \_ *It’s that time of year when you must set your*

*clocks and watches back!* \_ *Set back your clock tonight.* \_

*I have to put all the clocks back.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[68587, 68592]

**set** something **back from** something else and **set** something

**back†** to place something at some distance from something

else. \_ *Set the glasses back from the edge or they will*

set something before someone, something, or some 598

*get knocked off.* \_ *You should set back the crystal vase a*

*little. It’s too close to the edge.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[68602, 68610]

**set** something **down†** and **put** something **down† 1.** to place

something on the surface of something. \_ *Andy set the*

*hot skillet down on the dishcloth and burned a hole in it.* \_

*He set down the skillet here and burned the counter.* **2.** to

write something on paper. \_ *Let me put this down on*

*paper so we will have a record of what was said.* \_*I will set*

*down this note on paper.* **3.** to land an aircraft. \_*The pilot*

*put the plane down exactly on time.* \_ *I can’t set down this*

*plane in the fog.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[68647, 68651]

**set** something **into** something and **set** something **in†** to install

something into its place. \_ *The movers set the stove into*

creature

*its proper place, and the plumber hooked it up two days later.*

\_ *They set in the stove carefully.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[68667, 68673]

**set** something **right** and **make** something **right; make**

something **good; put** something **right** to correct something;

to alter a situation to make it more fair. \_ *This is a*

*very unfortunate situation. I’ll ask the people responsible to*

*set this matter right.* \_ *I’m sorry that we overcharged you.*

*We’ll try to put it right.* \_ *I know I owe you some money,*

*but don’t worry, I’ll make it good.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[68674, 68677]

**set** something **straight** and **put** something **straight** to figure

out and correct something; to straighten out a mess.

\_ *I am sorry for the error. I am sure we can set it straight.*

\_ *We’ll put this matter straight in a short time.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[68742, 68746]

**settle a score with** someone and **settle the score**

**(with** someone**)** *Fig.* to clear up a problem with someone;

to get even with someone. \_ *John wants to settle a score*

*with his neighbor.* \_ *Tom, it’s time you and I settled the*

*score.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[68826, 68831]

**\***a **shadow of** oneself and **\***a **shadow of itself; \***a

**shadow of** one’s **former self** *Fig.* someone or something

that is not as strong, healthy, full, or lively as before.

(\*Typically: **be ~; become ~**.) \_ *The sick man was a*

*shadow of his former self.* \_ *The abandoned mansion was*

*merely a shadow of its old self.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[68832, 68835]

a **shady character** and a **suspicious character** *Fig.* an

untrustworthy person; a person who makes people suspicious.

\_ *There is a suspicious character lurking about in*

*the hallway. Please call the police.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[68857, 68862]

**shake hands** and **shake** someone’s **hand** to take someone’s

hand and move it up and down to greet someone or

mark an agreement with someone. (See also shake hands

(with someone).) \_*David shook my hand when he greeted*

*me.* \_ *Anne and John shook hands before their business*

*appointment.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[68872, 68875]

**shake in** one’s **boots** and **quake in** one’s **boots** *Fig.* to

be afraid; to shake from fear. \_ *I was shaking in my boots*

*because I had to go see the manager for being late.* \_ *Stop*

*quaking in your boots, Bob. I’m not going to fire you.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[68980, 68983]

**shed crocodile tears** and **cry crocodile tears** *Fig.* to

shed false tears; to pretend that one is weeping. \_ *The*

*child wasn’t really hurt, but she shed crocodile tears anyway.*

\_*He thought he could get his way if he cried crocodile tears.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[68984, 68988]

**shed (some) light on** something and **throw (some)**

**light on** something *Fig.* to reveal something about something;

to clarify something. (Also with *any*.) \_ *This discussion*

*has shed some light on the problem.* \_ *Let’s see if*

*Ann can throw any light on this question.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[68999, 69003]

**shift for** oneself and **fend for** oneself to get along by oneself;

to support oneself. \_ *I’m sorry, I can’t pay your rent*

*anymore. You’ll just have to shift for yourself.* \_ *When I*

*became twenty years old, I left home and began to fend for*

*myself.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[69045, 69048]

**shoot a place up†** and **shoot the place up†** *Fig.* to fire

a gun in or at a place, usually at people. \_ *The cowboy*

*walked into the saloon and began to shoot the place up.* \_

*They shot up the place.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[69076, 69079]

**shoot** one’s **cookies** and **shoot** one’s **breakfast; shoot**

one’s **supper** *Sl.* to empty one’s stomach; to vomit. \_ *I*

*think I’m gonna shoot my cookies.* \_ *I shot my supper, and*

*I was glad to get rid of it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[69122, 69125]

**shoot the bull** and **shoot the crap; shoot the shit**

*Inf.* to chat and gossip. (The same as throw the bull. Use

caution with *crap, shit*.) \_*Let’s get together sometime and*

*shoot the bull.* \_*You spend too much time shooting the crap.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[69194, 69203]

**shot full of holes** and **shot to ribbons; shot to hell;**

**shot to pieces 1.** *Fig.* [of an argument that is] demolished

or comprehensively destroyed. \_*Come on, that theory*

*was shot full of holes ages ago.* \_ *Your argument is all*

*shot to hell.* **2.** to be very intoxicated due to drink or drugs.

\_*Tipsy? Shot to ribbons, more like!* \_*Boy, I really felt shot*

*full of holes. I’ll never drink another drop.* **3.** totally ruined.

(Use *hell* with caution.) \_*My car is all shot to hell and can’t*

*be depended on.* \_*This rusty old knife is shot to hell. I need*

*a sharper one.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[69265, 69277]

**shove** someone or something **down** someone’s **throat** and

**ram** someone or something **down** someone’s **throat;**

**force** someone or something **down** someone’s **throat**

**1.** *Lit.* to force someone to swallow something. \_ *The*

*harsh nurse forced the medicine down the patient’s throat.*

\_ *The zookeepers rammed the food down the python’s*

*throat.* **2.** *Fig.* to force someone to accept something. \_

*Don’t try to force that car down my throat! I don’t want it!*

\_ *You can’t force that nonsense down my throat!* \_ *I don’t*

*want any more insurance, and I don’t want anyone to shove*

*any insurance down my throat.* \_ *Mary isn’t invited to my*

*party, and I don’t wish for anyone to ram her down my*

*throat!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[69301, 69306]

**show** one’s **teeth** and **bare** one’s **teeth** *Fig.* to act in an

angry or threatening manner. (Alludes to what an angry

wolf or dog does.) \_*We thought Bob was meek and mild,*

*but he really showed his teeth when Jack insulted his girlfriend.*

\_ *The enemy forces didn’t expect the country they*

*invaded to bare its teeth.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[69321, 69326]

**show** someone **into** somewhere and **show** someone **in†** to

lead or usher someone into somewhere. \_ *The butler*

*showed me into the sitting room and asked me to wait.* \_

*The car dealer showed me into the sales office and asked me*

*to sign some papers.* \_ *The butler showed in the guests one*

*by one.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[69338, 69341]

**show** someone **to a seat** and **show** one **to** one’s **seat** to

lead or direct someone to a place to sit. \_*May I show you*

*to your seat, sir?* \_*The ushers showed us to our seats politely*

*and efficiently.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[69342, 69345]

**show** someone **(to) the door** and **see** someone **to the**

**door** to lead or take someone to the door or exit. \_*After*

*we finished our talk, she showed me to the door.* \_ *Bill and*

*I finished our chat as he saw me to the door.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[69381, 69385]

**shrug** something **off (as** something**)** and **pass** something

**off (as** something**)** to ignore something unpleasant or

offensive as if it meant something else. \_*She shrugged off*

*the criticism as harmless.* \_*I passed off the remark as misinformed.*

\_ *Bill scolded me, but I just passed it off.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[69420, 69428]

**Shut the stable door after the horse has bolted.**

and **Lock the stable door after the horse is**

**stolen.** *Prov.* To try to prevent something that has already

happened; to act too late. \_*When Ray heard that the bank*

*had failed, he tried to withdraw his money, but there was*

*no money to withdraw. He was shutting the stable door after*

*the horse had bolted.* \_*Jenny has stopped smoking since the*

*doctor told her that her lungs were in bad shape, but I’m*

*afraid she’s locking the stable door after the horse is stolen.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[69438, 69440]

**Shut your cake hole!** and **Shut your pie hole! Shut**

**your face!** *Inf.* Shut up!; Shut your mouth! \_ *I’ve heard*

*enough! Shut your cake hole!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[69441, 69448]

**shuttle** someone or something **from person to person**

and **shuttle** someone or something **from place to place**

(Specific persons or places are sometimes expressed.) to

move or pass someone or something from person to person;

to move or pass someone or something from place

to place. \_*My phone call was shuttled from person to person.*

\_ *Mary shuttled her children from home to school to*

*practice.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[69502, 69505]

**sift** something **out of** something and **sift** something **out†** to

get rid of something in something else by sifting. \_ *Dan*

*sifted the impurities out of the f lour.* \_*Walter sifted out the*

*foreign matter.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[69595, 69599]

**sign** someone **out of** some place and **sign** someone **out†** to

make a record of someone’s departure from some place.

\_ *Did someone sign you out of the factory, or did you just*

*open the door and leave?* \_ *I signed out those two who just*

*left.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[69624, 69628]

**sign** something **out of** some place and **sign** something **out†**

to make a record of the borrowing of something from

some place. \_ *Dave signed the tape recorder out of the*

*library.* \_*Dave signed out the tape recorder as well as some*

*blank tapes.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[69665, 69673]

**\*silent as the dead** and **\*silent as the grave** completely

silent. (Has ominous connotations because of the

reference to death. Usually used to promise someone that

you will be silent and therefore not betray a secret. \*Also:

**as ~**.) \_*I knew something was wrong as soon as I entered*

*the classroom; everyone was silent as the dead.* \_ *Jessica is*

*as silent as the grave on the subject of her first marriage.* \_

*If you tell me what Katy said about me, I promise to be as*

*silent as the grave.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[69710, 69715]

**sing a different tune** and **sing another tune** *Fig.* to

change one’s manner, usually from bad to good. (Almost

the same as dance to another tune.) \_*When she learned*

*that I was a bank director, she began to sing a different tune.*

\_ *You will sing another tune as soon as you find out how*

*right I am!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[69722, 69729]

**Sing before breakfast, you’ll cry before night.** and

**Sing before breakfast, you’ll cry before supper.**

*Prov.* If you wake up feeling very happy, your mood will

change before the end of the day. \_ *Jill: I woke up in such*

*a good mood today. I don’t even know why, but everything*

*seems good. Jane: Sing before breakfast, you’ll cry before*

*night.* \_*Alan: Good morning, dear! Isn’t it a wonderful day?*

*I feel great. Jane: Sing before breakfast, you’ll cry before supper.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[69738, 69742]

**sing** someone’s or something’s **praises** and **sing the**

**praises of** someone or something *Fig.* to praise someone

highly and enthusiastically. \_ *The boss is singing his new*

*secretary’s praises.* \_ *The theater critics are singing the*

*praises of the young actor.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[69803, 69810]

**sink** something **in(to)** someone or something and **sink** something

**in† 1.** *Lit.* to drive or push something into someone

or something. \_*The brave hero sank the wooden stake into*

*the vampire.* \_*The hero sank in the stake.* **2.** *Fig.* to invest

time or money in someone or something. (Sometimes

implying that it was wasted.) \_*You would not believe how*

*much money I’ve sunk into that company!* \_ *She sank in a*

*lot of money, but it was all wasted.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[69896, 69899]

**sit idly by** and **stand idly by** to remain close, doing nothing

to help. \_*I do not intend to stand idly by while my children*

*need my help.* \_*The wealthy man sat idly by while the*

*poor people starved.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[69914, 69918]

**sit on its hands** and **sit on their hands** *Fig.* [for an

audience] to refuse to applaud. (See also sit on one’s

hands.) \_ *The performance was really quite good, but the*

*audience sat on its hands.* \_ *They sat on their hands during*

*the first act.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[70106, 70114]

**skim** something **off (of )** something and **skim** something

**off† 1.** *Lit.* to scoop something off the surface of something.

(*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.) \_ *The*

*cook skimmed the fat off the stew.* \_ *The cook skimmed off*

*the fat.* **2.** *Fig.* to remove a portion of something of value,

such as money, from an account. (*Of* is usually retained

before pronouns.) \_*The auditor was skimming a few dol-*

*lars a day off the bank’s cash flow.* \_ *Kelly skimmed off a*

*few dollars each day.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[70189, 70192]

**slack up (on** something**)** and **slack off (on** something**)** to

release the pressure or tension on something. (See also

slack off.) \_ *Slack up on the rope a bit, will you?* \_ *Please*

*slack off!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[70233, 70238]

**slant** something **toward** someone or something and **slant**

something **in favor of** someone or something to bias something

toward someone or something; to twist information

so it favors someone or something. \_ *The writer slanted*

*the story toward the plaintiff ’s charges.* \_ *The reporter*

*slanted her story in favor of one political party.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[70276, 70283]

**slap** someone **on the wrist** and **slap** someone’s **wrist 1.**

*Lit.* to strike someone’s wrist with the open hand, as a punishment.

\_ *Aunt Maude slapped Tony on the wrist when*

*he grabbed a couple of her freshly baked cookies.* \_*Tony was*

*slapped on the wrist when he tried to swipe some cookies.*

**2.** *Fig.* to administer only the mildest of punishments to

someone. \_ *The judge did nothing but slap the mugger on*

*the wrist.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[70301, 70304]

**slap** something **onto** someone or something and **slap** something

**on†** to place something onto someone or something

by slapping. \_*Tim slapped a sign onto Gary that said “kick*

*me.”* \_ *Tim came up to Gary’s back and slapped on a sign.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[70365, 70368]

**sleep like a log** and **sleep like a baby** to sleep very

soundly. \_ *Everyone in our family sleeps like a log, so no*

*one heard the thunderstorm in the middle of the night.* \_

*Nothing can wake me up. I usually sleep like a baby.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[70478, 70481]

**slide** something **into** something and **slide** something **in†** to

insert something into something effortlessly. \_*Henry slid*

*the end of the seat-belt buckle into its holder and started the*

*car.* \_ *Slide in the buckle and make sure it’s tight.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[70482, 70485]

**slide** something **out of** something and **slide** something **out†**

to cause something to slip or glide out of something without

much effort. \_*The hunter slid his knife out of its sheath*

*and got ready to skin the deer.* \_ *He slid out the heavy box.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[70640, 70643]

**slip** something **in(to)** something and **slip** something **in†** to

cause something to slide or glide into something. \_ *Max*

*slipped the bullets into their chambers and got ready to fire.*

\_ *He slipped the bullets in silently.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[70652, 70656]

**slip something over on** someone or something and **slip**

**one over on** someone or something; **slip something**

**over; slip one over** to deceive someone. \_*Are you trying*

*to slip something over on me?* \_ *I think he tried to slip*

*one over on me.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[70796, 70800]

**slosh** something **on(to)** someone or something and **slosh**

something **on†** to splash or spill a liquid onto someone or

something. \_ *Betty sloshed the charcoal lighter f luid on*

*Fred, and he went in to wash it off.* \_ *Then she sloshed the*

*f luid onto the charcoal.* \_ *Slosh on some more.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[70839, 70843]

**\*slow as molasses in January** and **slower than**

**molasses in January** very slow-moving. (\*Also: **as**

**~**.) \_ *Can’t you get dressed any faster? I declare, you’re as*

*slow as molasses in January.* \_ *The traffic on the way to*

*the concert was slower than molasses in January.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[70844, 70847]

**slow but sure** and **slowly but surely** slow but unstoppable.

\_ *Bob’s progress on his novel was slow but sure.* \_

*Nancy is finishing the paint job on her house, slowly but*

*surely.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[70870, 70873]

**slow** someone or something **up†** and **slow** someone or something

**down†** to cause someone or something to reduce

speed. \_ *I’m in a hurry. Don’t try to slow me down.* \_

*Please slow up the train. There are sheep near the track.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[70926, 70928]

**\*sly as a fox** and **\*cunning as a fox** *Cliché* smart and

clever. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *My nephew is as sly as a fox.* \_

*You have to be cunning as a fox to outwit me.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[70972, 70975]

the **small hours (of the night)** and the **wee hours (of**

**the night)** the hours immediately after midnight. \_*The*

*dance went on into the small hours of the night.* \_*Jim goes*

*to bed in the wee hours and gets up at lunchtime.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[70980, 70984]

**small print** and **fine print** an important part of a document

that is not easily noticed because of the smallness

of the printing. \_ *You should have read the small print*

*before signing the contract.* \_ *You should always read the*

*fine print of an insurance policy.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[71061, 71065]

**smear** something **on(to)** someone or something and **smear**

something **on†** to spread or rub something onto someone

or something. \_*Judy asked Jeff to smear the sun lotion onto*

*her, and he was very happy to do so.* \_ *She smeared on the*

*lotion.* \_ *Jane smeared a little on.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[71137, 71145]

**smoke** someone, something, or an animal **out of** something

and **smoke** someone, something, or an animal **out† 1.** *Lit.*

to force someone, something, or an animal out of something

or a place, using smoke. \_ *The police used tear gas*

*to smoke the kidnappers out of the house.* \_ *They smoked*

*out the crooks.* **2.** *Fig.* to drive someone or something out

into public view, as if using smoke or something similar.

\_ *What will it take to smoke these crooks out of government?*

\_ *We will smoke out the corrupt officials yet.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[71160, 71163]

**\*smooth as glass** and **\*smooth as silk** *Cliché* smooth

and shiny. (Often used to describe calm bodies of water.

\*Also: **as ~**.) \_*The bay is as smooth as glass, so we should*

*have a pleasant boat trip.* \_ *This custard is smooth as silk.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[71177, 71181]

**smooth** something **onto** someone or something and **smooth**

something **on†** to spread or flatten something onto someone

or something. \_ *Ted smoothed the suntan lotion onto*

*Alice, who lay on a towel in the sand.* \_ *He smoothed on*

*some lotion.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[71208, 71212]

**smuggle** someone or something **into** some place and **smuggle**

someone or something **in†** to move someone or something

across a border into a place illegally and in secret.

\_*The secret agent smuggled his family into the country and*

*then defected.* \_ *He smuggled in his family.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[71213, 71217]

**smuggle** someone or something **out of** some place and

**smuggle** someone or something **out†** to move someone or

something across a border out of a place illegally and in

secret. \_ *Judy smuggled her cousin out of the country in a*

*van.* \_ *She smuggled out her cousin.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[71294, 71297]

**snap** something **into** something and **snap** something **in†** to

put or press something into something with an audible

snap. \_ *Next, you snap this little part into this slot here.* \_

*Snap in these legs then tighten the screws.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[71304, 71307]

**snap** something **out of** something and **snap** something **out†**

to remove something from something, causing an audible

snap. \_ *Jeff snapped the plastic plug out of the socket.*

\_ *He snapped out the plug.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[71347, 71350]

**snatch** someone **out of the jaws of death** and **snatch**

someone **from the jaws of death** *Fig.* to save someone

from almost certain or imminent death. \_ *The soldier*

*snatched the tiny child from the jaws of death.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[71433, 71436]

**snip** something **off (of )** something and **snip** something **off†**

to cut something off something. (*Of* is usually retained

before pronouns.) \_ *She snipped a dead blossom off the*

*rosebush.* \_ *Jane snipped off a bud.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[71476, 71480]

**snow** someone or something **under with** something and

**snow** someone or something **under†** to burden someone

or something with something. (Usually too much work.)

\_*The busy season snowed us all under with too much work.*

\_ *The heavy workload snowed under the office staff.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[71601, 71605]

**so still you could hear a pin drop** and **so quiet you**

**could hear a pin drop** *Fig.* very quiet. (Also with *can.*)

\_*When I came into the room, it was so still you could hear*

*a pin drop. Then everyone shouted, “Happy birthday!”* \_

*Please be quiet. Be so quiet you can hear a pin drop.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[71641, 71645]

**soak** something **off (of )** something and **soak** something **off†**

to remove something, such as a label or surface soil, from

something by soaking in a liquid. (*Of* is usually retained

before pronouns.) \_ *She soaked the labels off the bottles*

*and jars.* \_ *Please soak off the label.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[71646, 71649]

**soak** something **out of** something and **soak** something **out†**

to remove something, such as a stain, from something by

soaking in a liquid. \_ *Dan soaked the stain out of his shirt*

*and then washed it.* \_ *Dan soaked out the stain.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[71729, 71734]

**\*soft as a baby’s bottom** and **soft as a baby’s backside;**

**\*soft as down; \*soft as silk; \*soft as velvet**

*Cliché* very soft and smooth to the touch. (\*Also: **as**

**~**.) \_ *This cloth is as soft as a baby’s bottom.* \_ *The kitten’s*

*fur was as soft as down.* \_ *Your touch is soft as silk.* \_

*This lotion will make your skin soft as velvet.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[71741, 71744]

**soft money** and **easy money** money obtained without

much effort. \_ *Don’t become dependent on soft money.* \_

*In college he got spoiled by soft money—a check from his*

*parents every week.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[71819, 71825]

**\***a **(solid) grasp of** something and **\***a **(sound) grasp of**

something**; \***a **(good) grasp of** something *Fig.* a firm

understanding of something. (\*Typically: **get ~; have**

**~; give** someone **~**.) \_ *Try to get a grasp of the basic*

*rules.* \_ *You don’t have a good grasp of the principles yet.*

\_ *John was unable to get a solid grasp of the methods used*

*in his work, and we had to let him go.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[71836, 71840]

**(some) new blood** and **fresh blood** *Fig.* new personnel;

new members brought into a group to revive it. \_*This*

*company needs some new blood on its board to bring in new*

*ideas.* \_*We’re trying to get some new blood in the club. Our*

*membership is falling.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[71841, 71856]

**Some people (just) don’t know when to quit.** and

**Some people (just) don’t know when to give**

**up.; Some people (just) don’t know when to**

**stop. 1.** You, or someone being talked about, should stop

doing something, such as talking, arguing, scolding, etc.

(Often directed toward the person being addressed.) \_

*Bill: I hate to say it again, but that lipstick is all wrong for*

*you. It brings out the wrong color in your eyes, and it makes*

*your mouth larger than it really is. Jane: Oh, stop, stop!*

*That’s enough! Some people just don’t know when to quit.*

\_ *John: Those bushes out in the backyard need trimming.*

*Sally: You keep criticizing! Is there no end to it? Some people*

*don’t know when to stop!* **2.** Some people do not know

when to slow down and stop working so hard. \_*Jane: He*

*just kept on gambling. Finally, he had no money left. Sally:*

*Some people don’t know when to quit.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[71857, 71859]

**some pumpkins** and **some punkins** someone or something

great or special. (Old.) \_ *That chick is some punkins!*

\_ *Isn’t this little gadget really some pumpkins?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[71902, 71905]

someone’s **time has come** and some creature’s **time has**

**come** *Euph.* someone or some creature is about to die. \_

*The poor old dog’s time has come.* \_ *My time has come.*

*I’m ready to go.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[72000, 72003]

**son of a gun** and **son of a bachelor** a worthless person.

(A substitute for son of a bitch.) \_ *That tightfisted*

*son of a gun won’t buy me a beer.* \_ *He can be a real son of*

*a bachelor when he’s in a bad mood.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[72040, 72044]

**sorry about that** and **sorry ’bout that** sorry; whoops.

(A gross understatement, said more as a self-deprecating

joke than as an apology.) \_*You spill hot cocoa on my coat,*

*and all you can say is “Sorry ’bout that”?* \_ *When the passenger*

*stepped on my toe, she said, “Sorry about that.”*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[72045, 72048]

a **sorry sight** and a **sad sight** a sight that one regrets seeing;

someone or something that is unpleasant to look at.

\_*Well, aren’t you a sorry sight! Go get cleaned up and put*

*on some fresh clothes.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[72056, 72059]

**Sort of.** and **Kind of.** Yes, but only to a small degree. \_

*Bob: Do you like what you’re doing in school? Alice: Kind*

*of.* \_ *Henry: What do you think about all these new laws?*

*Do they worry you? John: Sort of.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[72060, 72062]

**sort of** something and **kind of** something almost something;

somewhat; somehow. \_*Isn’t it sort of cold out?* \_*That was*

*kind of a stupid thing to do, wasn’t it?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[72089, 72092]

**sound as if** and **sound like** to seem, from what has been

said, as if something were so. (*Sound like* is colloquial.)

\_ *It sounds as if you had a good vacation.* \_ *You sound*

*like you are angry.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[72248, 72251]

**speak for itself** and **speak for themselves** [for something]

not to need explaining; to have an obvious meaning.

\_*The facts speak for themselves. Tom is guilty.* \_*Your*

*results speak for themselves. You need to work harder.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[72282, 72289]

**Speak of the devil (and in he walks).** and **Talk of**

**the devil (and he is sure to appear).** *Prov.* Talk

about a certain person, and that person appears. (Used

when someone appears whom you have just been talking

about.) \_ *Alan: I haven’t seen Bob for weeks. Jane: Look,*

*here comes Bob right now. Alan: Well, talk of the devil.* \_

*Hi, there. We were just talking about you. Speak of the devil*

*and in he walks.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[72390, 72397]

**(speaking) (quite) frankly** and **frankly speaking** a

transitional phrase announcing that the speaker is going

to talk in a more familiar and totally forthright manner.

\_*Tom: Speaking quite frankly, I’m not certain she’s the one*

*for the job. Mary: I agree.* \_ *Bob: We ought to be looking at*

*housing in a lower price bracket. Bill: Quite frankly, I agree.*

\_*“Frankly speaking,” said John, “I think you’re out of your*

*mind!”*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[72456, 72461]

**spend money like it’s going out of style** and **spend**

**money like there’s no tomorrow** *Fig.* to spend

money recklessly; to spend money as if it were worthless

or will soon be worthless. \_ *Extravagant? She spends*

*money like it’s going out of style!* \_*I can’t control it. I spend*

*money like there is no tomorrow.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[72521, 72524]

**spill (out) into** something and **spill (over) into** something

to be so great in number or volume as to expand into

another area. \_*The crowd spilled out into the street.* \_*The*

*well-wishers spilled over into the neighbor’s yard.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[72540, 72543]

**spill the beans** and **spill the works** *Fig.* to give away a

secret or a surprise. \_ *There is a surprise party for Heidi*

*on Wednesday. Please don’t spill the beans.* \_ *Paul spilled*

*the works about Heidi’s party.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[72590, 72593]

**spin** something **out of** something and **spin** something **out†**

to remove liquid from something by spinning. \_ *The*

*washer spun the water out of the load of clothing.* \_ *The*

*washer spun out all the water in the clothes.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[72613, 72618]

**\***the **spit and image of** someone and **\***the **spitting**

**image of** someone the very likeness of someone; a very

close resemblence to someone. (\*The second version is a

frequent error. \*Typically: **be ~; look like ~**.) \_*John*

*is the spit and image of his father.* \_ *At first, I thought you*

*were saying* spitting image.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[72628, 72631]

**spit** something **in(to)** something and **spit** something **in†** to

expel something from the mouth into something. \_ *He*

*spit his gum into the toilet.* \_ *He opened the toilet and spit*

*in his gum.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[72657, 72662]

**splash about** and **splash around 1.** to move about in

a volume of a liquid, splashing. \_ *The children splashed*

*about in the pool.* \_ *They splashed around for an hour.*

**2.** [for a liquid] to move about, splashing. \_ *The water*

*splashed about in the bucket.* \_*It splashed around as I carried*

*the bucket.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[72710, 72714]

**splinter off ((of )** something**)** and **splinter off (from**

something**)** [for a bit of something] to tear off or separate

from something. (*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.)

\_*A piece of wood splintered off of the oar and dropped into*

*the water.* \_*A tiny bit splintered off and stuck in my hand.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[72715, 72719]

**split a gut** and **bust a gut 1.** *Fig. Inf.* to laugh very hard.

\_*He laughed until he nearly split a gut.* \_*The clown made*

*me bust a gut laughing.* **2.** *Fig. Inf.* to work very hard. \_ *I*

*split a gut to get this place fixed up in a week.* \_ *Don’t bust*

*a gut cleaning up for me. I love things that are a bit messy.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[72756, 72760]

**split** something **between (**someone **and** someone else**)** and

**split** something **between (**something **and** something else**)**

to divide something between two people or things. \_*The*

*cook split the last of the pie between Jane and Carla.* \_ *We*

*have to split the copies of the reports between the two committees.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[72765, 72769]

**split** something **off (of )** something and **split** something **off†**

to sever connection with something; to separate from

something. (*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.) \_

*Dave split a piece of wood off the log to use for kindling.* \_

*He split off a stick of wood.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[72811, 72815]

**sponge** something **off of** someone or something and

**sponge** something **off†** to beg or borrow money or food

from someone or a group. \_*Please stop sponging food and*

*money off your relatives!* \_ *Stop sponging off food and*

*money all the time!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[72881, 72886]

**sprawl about** and **sprawl around** to slouch or lounge

somewhere; to spread oneself out casually while lounging.

(Usually refers to habitual action, perhaps in a number of

places.) \_ *He sprawled about, loafing the afternoon away.*

\_ *When I came into the room, four teenage boys were*

*sprawled around the furniture, watching television.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[72895, 72899]

**spray** something **onto** someone or something and **spray**

something **on†** to direct a mist or stream of a liquid onto

someone or something. \_ *Danny sprayed cold water onto*

*the boys and cooled them off.* \_ *Dan sprayed on some cold*

*water.* \_ *I sprayed the paint on and it dried almost immediately.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[72931, 72934]

**spread** something **onto** something and **spread** something

**on†** to distribute a coating of something onto something.

\_*Spread the butter onto the bread evenly.* \_*Spread on the*

*butter evenly.* \_ *Donna spread the paint on with a roller.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[72967, 72970]

**spring for** something and **bounce for** something *Sl.* to treat

someone by buying something. \_ *I’m bouncing for pizza.*

*Any takers?* \_ *Ralph sprang for drinks, and we all had a*

*great time.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[73024, 73028]

**sprinkle** something **on(to)** someone or something and

**sprinkle** something **on†** to scatter or dribble something

onto someone or something. \_*The minister sprinkled the*

*water onto the baby.* \_ *The cook sprinkled on a dusting of*

*powdered sugar.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[73047, 73054]

**spurt out (of** someone or something**)** and **spurt (out)**

**(from** someone or something**)** to squirt out of someone or

something; to erupt in a stream out of someone or something.

\_ *Hot lava spurted out of the volcano.* \_ *Hot lava*

*spurted out from the volcano.* \_*The blood spurted out from*

*Walter where he had been slashed.* \_ *Blood spurted from*

*the wound.* \_ *The fountain had a carved fish with water*

*spurting from its mouth.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[73179, 73182]

**squash** something **into** something and **squash** something

**in†** to press or mash something into something. \_ *She*

*squashed the clay into the mold.* \_*She squashed in the clay*

*and started to make a bowl.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[73210, 73214]

The **squeaking wheel gets the oil.** and The **squeaky**

**wheel gets the oil.** *Prov.* People who complain the

most will get attention or what they want. \_ *If you don’t*

*get good service at the hotel, make sure to tell the manager*

*that you’re dissatisfied. The squeaking wheel gets the oil.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[73229, 73233]

**squeeze** someone or something **into** something and

**squeeze** someone or something **in†** to press or push someone

or something into something small. \_ *Let’s see if we*

*can squeeze everyone into the car.* \_ *Let’s squeeze in one*

*more.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[73257, 73260]

**squeeze** something **out of** something and **squeeze** something

**out†** to press something until something is expelled

from something. \_*Claire squeezed some toothpaste out of*

*the tube.* \_ *She squeezed out some toothpaste.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[73336, 73340]

**squirt** something **out of** something and **squirt** something

**out†** to cause something to spurt out of something. \_

*He squirted a bit of the vaccine out of the syringe, making*

*sure the needle was not clogged.* \_ *He squirted out a bit of*

*the vaccine.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[73372, 73379]

**stack the deck (against** someone or something**)** and

**stack the cards (against** someone or something**)** to

arrange things against someone or something. (Originally

from card playing; stacking the deck is to cheat by arranging

the cards to be dealt out to one’s advantage.) \_ *I can’t*

*get ahead at my office. Someone has stacked the cards*

*against me.* \_*Do you really think that someone has stacked*

*the deck? Isn’t it just fate?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[73428, 73431]

**stake out a claim to** something and **stake out a claim**

**on** something to lay claim to something. \_*The prospector*

*staked out a claim to the promising piece of land.* \_ *We*

*staked out a claim on two seats at the side of the auditorium.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[73495, 73501]

**stamp** something **out of** someone or something and **stamp**

something **out†** *Fig.* to eliminate a characteristic of someone

or something; to destroy a characteristic of someone

or something. \_ *I would really like to stamp that mean*

*streak out of you.* \_ *We were not able to stamp the excess*

*costs out of the proposal and had to reject it.* \_*We couldn’t*

*stamp out their bad behavior.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[73614, 73621]

**stand (in) back of** someone or something and **stand**

**behind** someone or something **1.** *Lit.* to place oneself at

the rear of someone or something. \_ *Please stand behind*

*your friends.* \_ *The police told them to stand behind the*

*fence.* **2.** *Fig.* to guarantee someone or something; to guarantee

the performance or worth of someone or something.

\_*I will stand back of Elaine. I trust her totally.* \_*The manufacturer*

*stands behind this product.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[73663, 73667]

**stand** one’s **ground** and **hold** one’s **ground** to stand up

for one’s rights; to resist an attack. \_ *The lawyer tried to*

*confuse me when I was giving testimony, but I managed to*

*stand my ground.* \_ *Some people were trying to crowd us*

*out of the line for tickets, but we held our ground.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[73903, 73908]

**start off on the wrong foot** and **step off on the**

**wrong foot** *Fig.* to begin things incorrectly. (As if one

were beginning to march and began on the right rather

than the left foot.) \_ *Give me some advice. I don’t want to*

*start off on the wrong foot.* \_*Tim stepped off on the wrong*

*foot in his new job.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[73913, 73919]

**start (off) with a clean slate** and **start (over) with**

**a clean slate** *Fig.* to start out again afresh; to ignore

the past and start over again. \_ *I plowed under all last*

*year’s f lowers so I could start with a clean slate next spring.*

\_*If I start off with a clean slate, then I’ll know exactly what*

*each plant is.* \_ *When Bob got out of jail, he started over*

*with a clean slate.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[73950, 73954]

**start** someone **in (as** something**)** and **start** someone **out**

**(as** something**)** to start someone on a job as a certain kind

of worker. \_*I got a job in a restaurant today. They started*

*me in as a dishwasher.* \_*I now work for the telephone company.*

*They started me out as a local operator.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[74008, 74012]

**starve** someone or an animal **out of** some place and **starve**

someone or an animal **out†** to force a living creature to

come out of a hiding place or a place of security by starvation.

\_*The attackers tried to starve the people out of the*

*walled city.* \_ *We tried to starve out the mice.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[74226, 74230]

**steal the spotlight** and **steal the show***Fig.* to give the

best performance in a show, play, or some other event; to

get attention for oneself. \_ *The lead in the play was very*

*good, but the butler stole the show.* \_ *Ann always tries to*

*steal the spotlight when she and I make a presentation.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[74259, 74263]

**steam** something **off (of )** something and **steam** something**†**

to loosen and remove something by an application of

steam. (*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.) \_ *Toby*

*steamed the old paper off the wall.* \_ *Toby steamed off the*

*old wallpaper.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[74264, 74267]

**steam** something **out of** something and **steam** something

**out†** to remove something embedded, through an application

of steam. \_ *The cleaner was not able to steam the*

*wrinkles out of my jacket.* \_ *I tried to steam out the gum.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[74422, 74427]

**step on** someone’s **toes** and **tread on** someone’s **toes**

**1.** *Lit.* to step down onto someone’s toes, causing pain. \_

*Please don’t step on my toes as you walk by.* **2.** *Fig.* to offend

or insult someone, as if causing physical pain. \_ *You’re*

*sure I won’t be stepping on her toes if I talk directly to her*

*supervisor?* \_ *I didn’t mean to tread on your toes.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[74428, 74431]

**step on the gas** and **step on it** to hurry up; to make a

vehicle go faster. (As if stepping on an automobile’s accelerator.

\_ *Step on the gas. We are going to be late!* \_ *Step*

*on it! Let’s go!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[74515, 74520]

**stick by** someone or something and **stick with** someone or

something to support someone or something; to continue

supporting or committing to someone or something when

things are bad. \_ *Don’t worry. I’ll stick by you no matter*

*what.* \_ *I feel as if I have to stick by my brother even if he*

*goes to jail.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[74594, 74597]

**stick** something **into** someone or something and **stick** something

**in†** to insert something into someone or something.

\_*The technician stuck a needle into my arm and took some*

*blood out.* \_ *She stuck in the needle.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[74598, 74601]

**stick** something **on(to)** someone or something and **stick**

something **on†** to affix something onto someone or something.

\_ *The baggage clerk stuck a label onto Jimmy as a*

*joke.* \_ *Jimmy stuck on the label.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[74730, 74733]

**stink to high heaven** and **smell to high heaven** *Fig.*

to smell very bad. \_ *What happened? This place stinks to*

*high heaven.* \_ *This meat smells to high heaven. Throw it*

*away!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[74755, 74757]

**stir** something **into** something and **stir** something **in†** to mix

something into something. \_*The painter stirred too much*

*red pigment into the paint.* \_*The painter stirred in the pigment.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[74775, 74778]

**stitch** something **onto** something and **stitch** something **on†**

to sew something onto the surface of something else. \_

*Fred stitched the badge onto his jacket.* \_ *Fred stitched on*

*the badge.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[74807, 74811]

**Stolen fruit is sweetest.** and **Stolen pleasures are**

**sweetest.** *Prov.* People often enjoy illicit things just

because they are illicit. \_ *To judge from the number of his*

*extramarital affairs, John must believe that stolen pleasures*

*are sweetest.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[74821, 74823]

**stone(-cold) sober** and **cold sober** absolutely sober.

\_*I am stone-cold sober, or I will be by morning anyway.* \_

*I found the secret to waking up cold sober. Don’t drink.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[74831, 74833]

**stool (pigeon)** and **stoolie** an informer. (Originally

underworld.) \_ *Some stool pigeon spilled the works to the*

*boys in blue.* \_ *There’s nothing I hate worse than a stoolie.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[74858, 74861]

**stop by (**some place**)** and **stop in (**some place**)** to visit some

place, usually briefly. \_ *I was coming home, but I decided*

*to stop by my aunt’s on the way.* \_ *She was very glad that I*

*stopped in.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[74914, 74921]

**Stop the music!** and **Stop the presses!** *Inf.* Stop everything!;

Hold it! (*Presses* refers to the printing presses used

to print newspapers. This means that there is recent news

of such magnitude that the presses must be stopped so a

new edition can be printed immediately.) \_ *John (entering*

*the room): Stop the music! There’s a fire in the kitchen!*

*Mary: Good grief! Let’s get out of here!* \_*“Stop the presses!”*

*shouted Jane. “I have an announcement.”*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[74974, 74976]

**straightaway** and **straight off** right away; immediately,

without thinking or considering. \_ *We’ll have to depart*

*straight off.* \_ *Straightaway I knew something was wrong.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[75085, 75088]

**strain** something **off of** something and **strain** something

**off†** to remove the excess or unwanted liquid from something.

\_*The cook strained the grease off the cooking juices.*

\_ *The cook strained off the grease.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[75105, 75108]

**strap** someone or something **in(to)** something and **strap**

someone or something **in†** to tie or bind someone or something

into something. \_*Mother strapped little Jimmy into*

*his seat.* \_ *She strapped in Jimmy.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[75109, 75112]

**strap** something **onto** someone or something and **strap**

something **on†** to tie or bind something onto someone or

something. \_ *The hiker strapped the load onto her partner.*

\_ *She strapped on the backpack.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[75139, 75141]

a **streak of bad luck** and a **string of bad luck** a series

of events that are only bad luck. \_ *After a long string of*

*bad luck, we finally got a lucky break.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[75142, 75144]

a **streak of good luck** and a **string of good luck** a

series of fortunate events. \_ *After a series of failures, we*

*started out on a streak of good luck.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[75156, 75160]

**stretch a point** and **stretch the point** *Fig.* to interpret

a point flexibly and with great latitude. \_ *Would it be*

*stretching a point to suggest that everyone is invited to your*

*picnic?* \_ *To say that everyone is invited is stretching the*

*point.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[75177, 75180]

**stretch** one’s **money** and **make** one’s **money stretch**

*Fig.* to economize so that one’s money lasts longer. \_ *We*

*have to stretch our money in order to be able to buy groceries*

*at the end of the month.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[75198, 75201]

**stretch the truth** and **stretch the point; stretch it**

*Fig.* to exaggerate. \_ *When he claimed to have a Ph.D., he*

*was stretching the truth.* \_ *Sally tends to stretch the point*

*when telling tales about her wild teenage years.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[75257, 75260]

**strike a bargain** and **strike a deal** to reach an agreement

on a price or negotiation (for something). \_ *They*

*argued for a while and finally struck a bargain.* \_*They were*

*unable to strike a bargain, so they ended their meeting.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[75267, 75273]

**strike a happy medium** and **hit a happy medium;**

**find a happy medium**to find a compromise position;

to arrive at a position halfway between two unacceptable

extremes. \_*Ann likes very spicy food, but Bob doesn’t care*

*for spicy food at all. We are trying to find a restaurant that*

*strikes a happy medium.* \_*Tom is either very happy or very*

*sad. He can’t seem to hit a happy medium.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[75282, 75285]

**strike a sour note** and **hit a sour note** *Fig.* to signify

something unpleasant. \_ *Jane’s sad announcement struck*

*a sour note at the annual banquet.* \_ *News of the accident*

*hit a sour note in our holiday celebration.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[75324, 75327]

**strike out on** one’s **own** and **set out on** one’s **own** to

start out to live, work, or travel by oneself. \_ *I couldn’t*

*get along with my business partner, so I decided to strike out*

*on my own.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[75368, 75372]

**strike** something **off (of )** someone or something and **strike**

something **off†** to knock something off someone or something.

(*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.) \_ *She*

*accidentally struck John’s hat off of him.* \_ *She struck off a*

*chunk of ice.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[75438, 75443]

**strip** someone or something **down to** something and **strip**

someone or something **down†** to remove the covering of

someone or something down to the lowest level. \_ *The*

*emergency room nurse stripped the unconscious patient*

*down to his shorts.* \_ *He stripped down the patient to his*

*underwear.* \_ *He stripped the patient down.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[75457, 75462]

**strip** something **off (of )** someone or something and **strip**

something **off†** to tear something from someone or something.

(*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.) \_ *The*

*paramedic stripped the shirt off the burn victim and began*

*to treat her burns.* \_ *The medic stripped off the patient’s*

*shirt.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[75503, 75509]

**\*strong as a horse** and **\*strong as an ox; \*strong**

**as a lion** *Cliché* [of a living creature] very strong. (\*Also:

**as ~**.) \_ *Jill: My car broke down; it’s sitting out on the*

*street. Jane: Get Linda to help you push it; she’s as strong as*

*a horse.* \_ *The athlete was strong as an ox; he could lift his*

*own weight with just one hand.* \_ *The football player was*

*strong as a lion.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[75584, 75588]

**stub** one’s **toe against** something and **stub** one’s **toe on**

something to ram one’s toe accidentally against some hard

object. \_*Don’t stub your toe against that brick in the path.*

\_ *Claire stubbed her toe against one of the legs of the sofa.*

\_ *I stubbed my toe on the bottom step.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[75593, 75599]

**\*stubborn as a mule** and **\*obstinate as a mule**

*Cliché* very stubborn. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_*I tried to convince*

*Jake to go to the doctor, but he’s as stubborn as a mule.* \_

*For four years, Henry pestered his parents to let him learn*

*the trumpet. They tried to talk him into some other, quieter*

*instrument, but he was stubborn as a mule, and now he*

*has a trumpet.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[75633, 75635]

**Stuff a sock in it!** and **Put a sock in it!** *Inf.* Shut up!

\_ *I’ve heard enough. Stuff a sock in it!* \_ *Stuff a sock in it!*

*You are a pain.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[75641, 75647]

**stuff** someone or something **into** someone or something and

**stuff** someone or something **in†** to force someone or something

into someone or something. \_ *The sheriff stuffed*

*Tex into the tiny cell.* \_ *He stuffed in some other prisoners,*

*too.* \_ *Donna got down her suitcase and stuffed her clothes*

*in.* \_ *The nurse stuffed the oatmeal into the old man faster*

*than he could swallow it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[75680, 75686]

**stumble across** someone or something and **stumble**

**(up)on** someone or something**; stumble into** someone

or something to find someone or something, usually by

accident. (See also stumble into someone or something.) \_

*I stumbled across an interesting book yesterday when I was*

*shopping.* \_ *Guess who I stumbled into at the library yesterday?*

\_ *I got lucky and stumbled on the right answer.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[75723, 75727]

**sub** someone **for** someone else and **sub** something **for** something

else to substitute someone for someone else or something

for something else. \_ *I will sub Chuck for Roger for*

*this next play only.* \_ *We will sub the red ones for the blue*

*ones.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[75787, 75792]

**substitute** someone **for** someone else and **substitute**

something **for** something else to exchange someone or

something for someone or something else; to replace

someone or something with someone or something else.

\_ *Shall I substitute Fred for Mary in the front office?* \_

*Please substitute fish for beef on my dinner order.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[75835, 75837]

**suck (some) brew** and **suck (some) suds** *Sl.* to drink

beer. \_ *Wanna go suck some brew?* \_ *I’m tired of sucking*

*suds. Got any whisky?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[75839, 75842]

**suck** someone **in†** and **take** someone **in†** to deceive someone.

\_ *I try to shop carefully so that no one can take me in.*

\_*I think that someone sucked in both of them. I don’t know*

*why they bought this car.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[75847, 75852]

**suck** someone or something **into** something and **suck** someone

or something **in†** [for a vacuum] to draw someone or

something into something. \_ *The whirlpool sucked the*

*swimmers into the depths of the river.* \_ *The whirlpool*

*sucked in a swimmer.* \_ *A whirlpool nearly sucked our*

*canoe in.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[75891, 75896]

**sucker** someone **into** something and **sucker** someone **in†**

*Sl.* to deceive someone into some sort of scam or confidence

game; to play someone for a fool. \_*Surely you don’t*

*think you can sucker me into doing something as stupid as*

*that, do you?* \_ *The con artist suckered in an unsuspecting*

*tourist.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[75977, 75979]

**suit** someone **to a T** and **fit** someone **to a T** to be very

appropriate for someone. \_ *This kind of job suits me to a*

*T.* \_ *This is Sally’s kind of house. It fits her to a T.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[75989, 75992]

**sulk about** someone or something and **sulk over** someone

or something to pout or be sullen about someone or something.

\_ *What are you sulking about now?* \_ *There is no*

*need to sulk over Mary.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76061, 76066]

**Suppose I do?** and **Supposing I do?** *Inf.* And what does

it matter if I do? What are you going to do about it? \_

*Alice: Do you really think it’s right to do something like that?*

*Sue: Suppose I do?* \_ *Fred: Are you going to drive up into*

*the mountains as you said you would? Sally: Supposing I do?*

*Fred: I’m just asking.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76067, 76074]

**Suppose I don’t?** and **Supposing I don’t?** *Inf.* And

what will happen if I don’t? (Said as a sort of threat. Not

usually with question intonation.) \_ *Bill: You’d better get*

*yourself over to the main office. Tom: Suppose I don’t?* \_

*Father: You simply must do better in school. Tom: Supposing*

*I don’t? Father: Your clothing and personal belongings*

*will be placed on the curb for the garbage pickup, and we*

*will have the locks changed. Next question.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76075, 76083]

**Supposed to.** and Someone or something **is supposed to.**

Someone or something is meant to do something. (Frequently,

in speech, *supposed* is reduced to *s’posed*. The

words *someone* or *something* can be replaced with nouns

or pronouns, or used themselves.) \_ *Mary: They didn’t*

*deliver the f lowers we ordered. Sue: Supposed to. Give them*

*a call.* \_*Sally: This screw doesn’t fit into hole number seven*

*in the way the instructions say it should. Bill: It’s supposed*

*to. Something’s wrong.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76093, 76097]

**\*sure as God made little green apples** and **\*sure**

**as eggs is eggs; \*sure as fate; \*sure as I’m stand-**

**ing here; \*sure as you live** *Rur.* absolutely certain.

(\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *I’m as sure as God made little green*

*apples that he’s the one.* \_ *I’m right, as sure as you live!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76109, 76111]

a **sure bet** and a **sure thing** a certainty; something that

is sure to take place. \_ *Of course, this land will become*

*valuable in a few years. It’s a sure thing!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76204, 76207]

**swab** something **out of** something and **swab** something

**out†** to wipe or mop something out of something. \_*The*

*doctor swabbed the wax out of my ear.* \_ *I swabbed out the*

*last of the mud on the f loor.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76320, 76326]

**swear on a stack of Bibles** and **swear on** one’s

**mother’s grave** to state something very earnestly,

pledging to tell the truth. (**~ a stack of Bibles** refers

in an exaggerated way to swearing to tell the truth in court

by placing one’s hand on a Bible.) \_ *I swear on a stack of*

*Bibles that I am telling the truth.* \_ *Of course, I’m telling*

*the truth. I swear on my mother’s grave!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76351, 76354]

**sweat blood** and **sweat bullets** *Fig.* to be very anxious

and tense. \_ *What a terrible test! I was really sweating*

*blood at the last.* \_ *Bob is such a bad driver. I sweat bullets*

*every time I ride with him.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76372, 76380]

**sweat** something **out of** someone and **sweat** something

**out† 1.** *Lit.* to apply enough heat to cause someone to

sweat, with the goal of removing bodily poisons or the

cause of a disease. \_ *They used the ancient treatment of*

*sweating the disease out of me. It worked!* \_ *They used*

*steam to sweat out the f lu.* **2.** *Fig.* to force someone to

reveal information under pressure. \_ *The cops couldn’t*

*sweat the information out of Max.* \_ *They couldn’t sweat*

*out the information.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76389, 76392]

**sweep in (from** some place**)** and **breeze in (from** some

place**)** to arrive suddenly from some place. \_ *Tom just*

*swept in from his vacation to face a pile of work on his desk.*

\_ *Max breezed in from Vegas and asked about Lefty.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76400, 76405]

**sweep** one **off** one’s **feet** and **knock** one **off** one’s **feet**

**1.** *Lit.* to knock someone down. \_ *The wind swept me off*

*my feet.* \_*Bill punched Bob playfully, and knocked him off*

*his feet.* **2.** *Fig.* to overwhelm someone (figuratively). \_

*Mary is madly in love with Bill. He swept her off her feet.*

\_ *The news was so exciting that it knocked me off my feet.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76417, 76420]

**sweep** someone **into** something and **sweep** someone **in†**

to place someone into an elective position decisively. \_

*The decisive victory swept all the candidates of the reform*

*party into office.* \_ *The victory swept in the candidates.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76429, 76432]

**sweep** someone or something **out of** something and **sweep**

someone or something **out†** to remove or brush someone

or something from something or some place. \_ *The voters*

*swept the crooks out of office.* \_ *We swept out the dirt.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76441, 76444]

**sweep** something **into** something and **sweep** something **in†**

to move something into something or some place by

sweeping. \_*Liz swept the crumbs into the dish.* \_*Liz held*

*the dish and swept in the crumbs.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76445, 76448]

**sweep** something **off (of )** something and **sweep** something

**off†** to remove something by sweeping. (*Of* is usually

retained before pronouns.) \_*The waiter swept the crumbs*

*off the tablecloth.* \_ *He swept off the crumbs.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76488, 76493]

**\*sweet as honey** and **sweeter than honey; sweet**

**as sugar** very sweet; charming. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_*Larry’s*

*words were sweeter than honey as he tried to convince Alice*

*to forgive him.* \_ *Jill: Is Mary Ann nice? Jane: Yes, indeed.*

*She’s as sweet as honey.* \_ *Your little girl is darling! Just as*

*sweet as sugar.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76518, 76524]

**sweetheart agreement** and **sweetheart deal** a private

agreement reached between a public agency or government

official and a private company that includes illicit

payments or special favors. \_ *They found that the mayor*

*was involved in a number of sweetheart agreements.* \_*Most*

*of the building contractors in town would be out of business*

*if they didn’t have sweetheart deals with the local politicians.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76559, 76562]

**\*swift as an arrow** and **\*swift as the wind; \*swift**

**as thought** very fast. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *The new intercity*

*train is swift as an arrow.* \_ *You won’t have to wait for*

*me long; I’ll be there, swift as thought.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76571, 76579]

**swim against the tide** and **swim against the current**

**1.** *Lit.* to swim in a direction opposite to the flow of

the water. \_ *She became exhausted, swimming against the*

*tide.* \_ *If you really want strenuous exercise, go out in the*

*stream and swim against the current.* **2.** *Fig.* to do something

that is in opposition to the general movement of

things. \_ *Why can’t you cooperate? Do you always have to*

*swim against the tide?* \_ *You always seem to waste your*

*energy swimming against the current.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76620, 76623]

**swindle** someone **out of** something and **swindle** something

**out of** someone to cheat someone out of something. \_

*The crooks tried to swindle her out of her inheritance.* \_

*The crooks swindled $3,000 out of the old woman.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76670, 76674]

**swish** something **off (of )** someone or something and **swish**

something **off†** to brush something off someone or something.

(*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.) \_ *The*

*barber swished the loose hairs off of Paul’s collar.* \_*The barber*

*swished off the loose hairs.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76799, 76801]

**tack** something **onto** something and **tack** something **on†** to

add something onto something. \_ *The waiter kept tacking*

*charges onto my bill.* \_*He tacked on charge after charge.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76805, 76809]

**tag along (after** someone**)** and **tag along (behind** someone**)**

to follow along after someone; to go along with someone.

\_*The family dog tagged along after the children wherever*

*they went.* \_ *Can I tag along?* \_ *Do you mind if I tag*

*along behind you?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76855, 76857]

**take a break** and **take** one’s **break** to have a short rest

period in one’s work. \_ *It’s ten o’clock—time to take a*

*break.* \_ *I don’t usually take my break until 10:30.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76858, 76861]

**take a chance** and **take a risk** to try something where

failure or bad fortune is likely. \_ *Come on, take a chance.*

*You may lose, but it’s worth trying.* \_ *I’m not reckless, but*

*I don’t mind taking a risk now and then.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76878, 76882]

**take a dig at** someone and **take a jab at** someone**; take**

**digs at** someone *Fig.* to insult or pester someone. \_ *Why*

*did you take a jab at Sam?* \_ *You’re always taking digs at*

*people who think they’re your friends.* \_*Jane is always taking*

*digs at Bob, but she never really means any harm.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76892, 76895]

**take a fall** and **take a dive** to fake being knocked out in

a boxing match. \_ *Wilbur wouldn’t take a fall. He doesn’t*

*have it in him.* \_*The boxer took a dive in the second round*

*and made everyone suspicious.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76896, 76902]

**take a fancy to** someone or something and **take a liking**

**to** someone or something; **take a shine to** someone or

something to develop a fondness or a preference for someone

or something. \_ *John began to take a fancy to Sally*

*late last August at the picnic.* \_ *I’ve never taken a liking to*

*cooked carrots.* \_ *I think my teacher has taken a shine to*

*me.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76921, 76923]

**take a guess** and **hazard a guess; make a guess** to

guess. \_ *Even if you don’t know, please take a guess.* \_ *If*

*you don’t know the answer, hazard a guess.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76933, 76939]

**take a hike** and **take a walk 1.** *Fig. to go on a hike; to*

*do hiking.* \_ *It’s a beautiful day. Let’s take a hike in the*

*woods.* \_ *We took a hike through the forest to visit John’s*

*cabin.* **2.** *Fig.* to leave; to beat it. \_ *Okay, I’ve had it with*

*you. Take a hike! Beat it!* \_ *I had enough of the boss and*

*the whole place, so I cleaned out my desk and took a walk.*

**3.** Go to take a walk.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76948, 76953]

**take a leaf out of** someone’s **book** and **take a page**

**from** someone’s **book** *Fig.* to behave or to do something

in a way that someone else would. \_ *When you act like*

*that, you’re taking a leaf out of your sister’s book, and I don’t*

*like it!* \_ *You had better do it your way. Don’t take a leaf*

*out of my book. I don’t do it well.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76960, 76964]

**take a load off (of )** someone’s **mind** and **take a lot off**

**(of )** someone’s **mind** *Fig.* to relieve one’s mind of a problem

or a worry. (*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.)

\_*I’m glad to hear that. It sure takes a load off of my mind.*

\_ *This will take a load off her mind.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76966, 76970]

**Take a long walk off a short pier.** and **Go play in**

**the traffic.** *Inf.* Get out of here!; Go do something that

will get you permanently out of here! \_ *Get out of here!*

*Take a long walk off a short pier!* \_*You bother me. Go play*

*in the traffic.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76971, 76975]

**take a look at** someone or something and **have a look at**

someone or something to observe or examine someone or

something. \_ *I asked the doctor to take a look at my cut.*

\_ *Would you please have another look at your work? It is*

*not complete.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76976, 76981]

**take a look for** someone or something and **have a look**

**for** someone or something to make a visual search for someone

or something; to look for someone or something. \_

*Please go to the library and have a look for a book about*

*snakes.* \_ *Take a look for a man in a black suit. He is your*

*guide.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[76999, 77002]

**take a pop at** someone and **take a poke at** someone to

punch at someone. \_*Willie took a pop at me, but I ducked.*

\_ *The drunk took a poke at the cop—which was the wrong*

*thing to do.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[77030, 77031]

**take a shower** and **take a bath** to bathe. \_ *I take a*

*shower every morning.* \_ *John takes a hot bath to relax.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[77131, 77134]

**take care of number one** and **take care of numero**

**uno** to take care of oneself. \_ *Mike, like everybody else,*

*is most concerned with taking care of number one.* \_*If you*

*don’t take care of numero uno, who will?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[77264, 77271]

**take it on the chin** and **take it on the nose 1.** *Lit.* to

stand up to something adverse, such as criticism. (Fig. on

taking a direct punch to the head in boxing.) \_*They laid*

*some blunt criticism on him, but he took it on the chin.* \_

*I knew he could take it on the nose.* **2.** *Fig.* to receive the

full brunt of something. \_ *Why do I have to take it on the*

*chin for something I didn’t do?* \_ *If you did it, you have to*

*learn to take it on the chin.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[77318, 77323]

**take liberties with** someone or something and **make free**

**with** someone or something to freely use or abuse someone

or something. \_*You are overly familiar with me, Mr. Jones.*

*One might think you were taking liberties with me.* \_*I don’t*

*like it when you make free with my lawn mower. You should*

*at least ask when you want to borrow it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[77340, 77344]

**take no stock in** something and **not take stock in** something;

**not put (a lot) of stock in** something to pay no

attention to someone; not to believe or accept something.

\_ *I take no stock in anything John has to say.* \_ *He doesn’t*

*take stock in your opinions either.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[77365, 77369]

**take off (after** someone or something**)** and **take out**

**(after** someone or something**)** to begin to chase someone

or something. \_ *The bank guard took off after the robber.*

\_ *Did you see that police car take off ?* \_ *It took out after*

*the bank robber’s car.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[77380, 77386]

**take off from work** and **take ((some) time) off from**

**work; take off (from work)** not to appear at one’s

place of work for a period of time, hours or days. (Often

used of an excused or planned absence.) \_ *I will have to*

*take off from work to go to the doctor.* \_*I want to take some*

*time off from work and paint the house.* \_*Ken took off from*

*work when he was ill.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[77403, 77408]

**take on a new significance** and **take on a new**

**meaning** [for an event] to acquire a new interpretation;

[for something] to become more meaningful or more significant.

\_ *All these monuments take on a new meaning*

*when you realize the amount of human artistry and skill it*

*took to design and build them.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[77420, 77430]

**take** one’s **belt in† (a notch)** and **pull** one’s **belt in† (a**

**notch) 1.** *Lit.* to tighten one’s belt a bit. (Probably

because one has not eaten recently or because one has lost

weight.) \_ *He pulled his belt in a notch and smiled at his*

*success at losing weight.* \_ *He took in his belt a notch and*

*wished he had something to eat.* **2.** *Fig.* to reduce expenditures;

to live or operate a business more economically.

(As if one were going to have to eat less.) \_ *They had to*

*take their belts in a notch budgetarily speaking.* \_*The people*

*at city hall will have to pull in their belts a notch unless*

*they want to raise taxes.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[77449, 77453]

**take** one’s **hands off (of )** someone or something and **get**

one’s **hands off (of )** someone or something to let go of

someone or something. (*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.)

\_ *Get your hands off of me!* \_ *Please take your*

*hands off the cake plate.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[77530, 77535]

**take revenge (against** someone**)** and **seek revenge**

**(against** someone**); get revenge against** someone;

**take revenge (on** someone**) (for** something**)** to get even

with someone. \_ *Linda planned to take revenge against*

*Ellen.* \_ *I intend to take revenge on Paul for what he did.*

\_ *I will not seek revenge.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[77546, 77548]

**take sick** and **take ill** to become ill. \_ *I took sick with a*

*bad cold last week.* \_ *I hope I don’t take ill before final*

*exams.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[77590, 77595]

**take** someone **by surprise** and **catch** someone **by surprise**

to startle someone; to surprise someone with something

unexpected. \_ *Oh! You took me by surprise because*

*I didn’t hear you come in.* \_ *Bill caught his mother by surprise*

*by coming to the door and pretending to be selling*

*something.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[77597, 77603]

**take** someone **down a peg (or two)** and **take** someone

**down a notch (or two); knock** someone **down a**

**peg (or two); knock** someone **down a notch (or**

**two)** *Fig.* to reprimand someone who is acting too arrogant.

\_ *The teacher’s scolding took Bob down a notch or*

*two.* \_ *He was so rude that someone was bound to knock*

*him down a peg or two.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[77616, 77619]

**take** someone **for an idiot** and **take** someone **for a fool**

to assume that someone is stupid. \_ *I wouldn’t do anything*

*like that! Do you take me for an idiot?* \_ *I don’t take*

*you for a fool. I think you’re very clever.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[77725, 77730]

**take** someone or something **into account** and **take into**

**account** someone or something to remember to consider

someone or something. \_ *I hope you’ll take Bill and Bob*

*into account when you plan the party.* \_*I’ll try to take into*

*account all the things that are important in a situation like*

*this.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[77748, 77753]

**take** someone or something **out of** something and **take** someone

or something **out†** to carry, lead, or guide someone or

something out of something or some place. (See also take

something out.) \_*He was becoming quite ill from the smoke,*

*and I had to take him out of the room.* \_ *They took out the*

*injured people.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[77813, 77817]

**take** someone’s **word for** something and **take** someone’s

**word on** something to believe what someone says about

something without seeking further information or proof.

\_ *It’s true! Take my word for it.* \_ *I can’t prove it. You will*

*have to take my word on it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[77862, 77865]

**take** something **amiss** and **take** something **the wrong**

**way** to understand something as wrong or insulting. \_

*Would you take it amiss if I told you I thought you look*

*lovely?* \_ *I was afraid you’d take it the wrong way.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[77946, 77950]

**take** something **into account** and **take** something **into**

**consideration** to consider something to be an important

factor in some decision. \_*We will take your long years*

*of service into account when we make our final decision.* \_

*You can be certain that we will take it into consideration.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[77955, 77957]

**take** something **into** some place and **take** something **in†** to

carry something into a place. \_*Fred took the birthday cake*

*into the dining room.* \_ *Liz took in the cake for us.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[77992, 77995]

**take** something **out of** someone or something and **take** something

**out†** to remove something from the inside of someone

or something. \_ *The doctors took a large intestinal*

*tumor out of Wally.* \_ *She took out a sheet of paper.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[78069, 78074]

**take** something **with a pinch of salt** and **take something**

**with a grain of salt** *Fig.* to listen to a story or

an explanation with considerable doubt. \_ *You must take*

*anything she says with a grain of salt. She doesn’t always tell*

*the truth.* \_*They took my explanation with a pinch of salt.*

*I was sure they didn’t believe me.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[78092, 78096]

**take the bit in** one’s **teeth** and **take the bit between**

**the teeth** to put oneself in charge; to take charge. \_

*Someone needed to direct the project, so I took the bit in my*

*teeth.* \_ *If you want to get something done, you’ve got to*

*take the bit between your teeth and get to work.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[78152, 78155]

**take the heat** and **take some heat** *Sl.* to receive or put

up with criticism (for something). \_ *The cops have been*

*taking some heat about the Quincy killing.* \_ *If you can’t*

*take the heat, stay out of the kitchen.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[78179, 78186]

**take the lid off (of )** something and **take the lid off†**

**1.** *Lit.* to remove the lid from something. (*Of* is usually

retained before pronouns.) \_*I took the lid off the box and*

*set it aside.* \_ *Karen took off the lid.* **2.** *Fig.* to reveal a set

of previously concealed problems. (*Of* is usually retained

before pronouns.) \_ *You took the lid off this mess. You*

*straighten it out!* \_ *You took off the lid, so you have to settle*

*it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[78279, 78283]

**take turns ((at)** doing something**)** and **take turns (at**

something**); take turns (with** something**)** [for two or

more people] to alternate in doing something. \_*Let’s take*

*turns with mowing the lawn.* \_ *Do you want to take turns*

*at answering the telephone?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[78312, 78315]

**take up space** and **take up room**to fill or occupy space.

(Note the variations in the examples.) \_*The piano is taking*

*up too much room in our living room.* \_ *John, you’re*

*not being any help at all. You’re just taking up space.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[78575, 78581]

**tank up (on** something**)** and **tank up with** something

**1.** *Lit.* to fill one’s fuel tank with something. \_ *I need to*

*tank up on premium gas to stop this engine knock.* \_ *It’s*

*time to stop and tank up.* \_ *We need to tank up with gas.*

**2.** *Sl.* to drink some kind of alcoholic beverage. \_ *Toby*

*spent the evening tanking up on bourbon.* \_ *Jerry tanked*

*up with gin and went to sleep.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[78605, 78607]

**tap** something **into** something and **tap** something **in†** to move

something in with light blows. \_*The mechanic tapped the*

*bracket into place.* \_ *The worker tapped in the bracket.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[78661, 78668]

**\***a **taste of** one’s **own medicine** and **\***a **dose of** one’s

**own medicine** *Fig.* a sample of the unpleasantness that

one has been giving other people. (\*Typically: **get ~;**

**have ~; give** someone **~**.) \_ *Now you see how it feels*

*to have someone call you names! You are getting a taste of*

*your own medicine!* \_ *John, who is often rude and abrupt*

*with people, was devastated when the teacher treated him*

*rudely. He doesn’t like having a dose of his own medicine.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[78816, 78820]

**tear** someone or something **to pieces** and **tear** someone or

something **to shreds** to rip or shred someone or something

into bits. \_ *Careful of that dog. It will tear you to*

*pieces!* \_ *The dog tore the newspaper to pieces.* \_ *It tore*

*my shoes to shreds.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[78850, 78854]

**tear** something **off (of )** someone or something and **tear**

something **off†** to peel or rip something off someone or

something. (*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.) \_

*Max tore the necklace off his victim and ran away with it.*

\_ *He tore off the necklace.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[78859, 78862]

**tear** something **out of** something and **tear** something **out†**

to remove something from something by ripping or tearing.

\_*Tear the coupons out of the magazine and save them.*

\_ *Please tear out the coupons.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[78877, 78880]

**tease** something **out of** something and **tease** something

**out†** to lure something out of something by teasing or

tempting. \_ *I managed to tease the cat out of the tree with*

*a bit of fish.* \_ *I teased out the cat.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[78936, 78939]

**tell its own story** and **tell its own tale** *Fig.* [for the

state of something] to indicate clearly what has happened.

\_ *The upturned boat told its own tale. The fisherman had*

*drowned.* \_ *The girl’s tear-stained face told its own story.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[78970, 78973]

**tell** someone **from** someone else and **tell** something **from**

something else to distinguish one from another. \_ *I can’t*

*tell Chuck from Roger. They look so much alike.* \_ *I can’t*

*tell orange from yellow.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[79040, 79045]

a **tempest in a teacup** and a **tempest in a teapot** an

argument or disagreement over a very minor matter. \_

*The entire issue of who was to present the report was just a*

*tempest in a teapot.* \_ *The argument at the office turned*

*into a tempest in a teacup. No one really cared about the*

*outcome.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[79078, 79082]

**terrify** someone **into** something and **terrorize** someone

**into** something to threaten or frighten someone into doing

something. \_*The salesman is just trying to terrify you into*

*buying a new car by saying the one you have is dangerous.*

\_ *They tried to terrorize people into staying off the streets.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[79129, 79133]

**Thank goodness!** and **Thank heavens!** Oh, I am so

thankful! \_ *John: Well, we finally got here. Sorry we’re so*

*late. Mother: Thank goodness! We were all so worried.* \_

*Jane: There was a fire on Maple Street, but no one was hurt.*

*Bill: Thank heavens!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[79166, 79172]

**Thank you for inviting me.** and **Thank you for inviting**

**us.; Thank you for having me.; Thank you for**

**having us.** a polite expression said to a host or hostess

on departure. \_ *Mary: Good-bye, glad you could come.*

*Bill: I had a great time. Thank you for inviting me.* \_*John:*

*I had a good time. Thank you for inviting me. Sally: Come*

*back again, John. It was good talking to you.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[79184, 79187]

**Thank you very much.** and **Thank you so much.** a

more polite and emphatic way of saying Thank you. \_

*Tom: Welcome. Come in. Bob: Thank you very much.* \_*Bill:*

*Here’s the book I promised you. Sue: Thank you so much.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[79197, 79205]

**Thanks (a lot).** and **Thank you a lot. 1.** *Inf.* Thank you,

I am grateful. \_ *Bill: Here, take mine. Bob: Thanks a lot.*

\_ *Mary: Well, here’s your pizza. Bill: Thanks.* **2.** That is

not worth much.; That is nothing to be grateful for. (Sarcasm

is indicated by the tone of voice used with this

expression.) \_*John: I’m afraid that you’re going to have to*

*work the night shift. Bob: Thanks a lot.* \_*Fred: Here’s your*

*share of the money. We had to take out nearly half to make*

*up for the damage you did to the car. Bill: Thanks a lot.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[79220, 79223]

**Thanks for the ride.** and **Thanks for the lift.** Thank

you for giving me a ride in your car. \_ *John (stopping the*

*car): Here we are. Bob: Thanks for the ride. Bye. John: Later.*

\_ *As Fred got out of the car, he said, “Thanks for the lift.”*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[79317, 79320]

**That’s all she wrote.** and **That’s what she wrote.** *Inf.*

That is all of it.; That is the last of it. \_ *Here’s the last one*

*we have to fix. There, that’s all she wrote.* \_*That’s what she*

*wrote. There ain’t no more.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[79321, 79331]

**That’s all** someone **needs.** and **It’s all** someone **needs.;**

**(It’s) just what you need.; That’s just what you**

**need.** Someone does not need that at all.; That’s the last

straw! (Always sarcastic. The *someone* can be a person’s

name or a pronoun.) \_ *Jane: The dog died and the basement*

*is just starting to f lood. Fred: That’s all we need.* \_

*Sally: Bill, the check you wrote to the Internal Revenue Service*

*was returned. There’s no more money in the bank. Bill:*

*That’s all we need.* \_ *Bob: On top of having too many bills*

*to pay, now I have car trouble! Mary: That’s just what you*

*need!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[79357, 79363]

**(That’s) fine with me.** and **(That’s) fine by me.;**

**(That’s) okay by me.; (That’s) okay with me.** That

is agreeable as far as I am concerned. (The expressions

with *by* are colloquial.) \_ *Sue: I’m giving away your old*

*coat. Bob: That’s fine with me.* \_ *Sally: Can I take twenty*

*dollars out of your wallet? Fred: That’s okay by me—if you*

*can find it, of course.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[79379, 79384]

**That’s (just) the way it goes.** and **That’s (just) how**

**it goes.; That’s (just) the way it is.** *Inf.* That is the

normal way of things.; That is fate. \_ *Mary: All my roses*

*died in the cold weather. Sue: That’s the way it goes.* \_*Sally:*

*Someone stole all the candy we left out in the front office.*

*Jane: That’s just how it goes.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[79403, 79406]

**That’s my boy.** and **That’s my girl.** That is my child of

whom I am proud.; I’m proud of this young person. \_

*After the game, Tom’s dad said, “That’s my boy!”* \_ *That’s*

*my girl! Always a winner!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[79434, 79442]

**That’s the way the ball bounces.** and **That’s the**

**way the cookie crumbles.; That’s the way the**

**mop flops.** *Prov.* You cannot control everything that

happens to you.; You should accept the bad things that

happen. \_*Bill: I bought a hundred lottery tickets this week,*

*but I still didn’t win! Alan: That’s the way the ball bounces.*

\_*I was planning to have fun on my vacation, but I’ve been*

*sick the whole time. I guess that’s just the way the cookie*

*crumbles.* \_ *That’s tough, but that’s the way the mop f lops.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[79467, 79468]

**That sucks.** and **It sucks.** *Sl.* That is worthless. \_ *Yuck!*

*That sucks!* \_ *This meat loaf is terrible. It sucks.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[79603, 79612]

**There are two sides to every question.** and **There**

**are two sides to every story.** *Prov.* There are valid

reasons for holding opposing opinions. \_ *Jim: I can’t see*

*why anyone would object to building a city park on the corner.*

*John: There are two sides to every question. Maybe the*

*people who own the buildings on the corner don’t want them*

*knocked down.* \_*Fred: Only an idiot would want to go hang*

*gliding. It’s too dangerous. Ellen: There are two sides to every*

*question. Maybe some people think it’s enjoyable enough to*

*be worth the risk.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[79755, 79759]

**(There’s) no smoke without fire.** and **Where there’s**

**smoke there’s fire.** *Prov.* There is usually some truth

behind every rumor. \_ *I’m going to withdraw all my*

*money from that bank. I read an article that the bank was*

*in financial trouble, and where there’s smoke there’s fire.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[79760, 79768]

**There’s no such thing as a free lunch.** and **There**

**ain’t no such thing as a free lunch.** *Prov. Cliché*

Everything costs something. (Can imply that you should

be suspicious of anything that appears to be free.) \_*Fred:*

*This advertisement says I can get an expensive camera for*

*free! Jane: Don’t be so gullible. There’s no such thing as a*

*free lunch.* \_*Mary gave me her sewing machine, but I had*

*to give it $100 worth of repairs before I could even use it.*

*There’s no such thing as a free lunch.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[79807, 79809]

**There, there.** and **There, now.** an expression used to

comfort someone. \_ *There, there. You’ll feel better after*

*you take a nap.* \_ *There, now. Everything will be all right.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[79810, 79817]

**There will be hell to pay.** and **There will be the**

**devil to pay.** *Inf.* There will be a lot of trouble if something

is done or if something is not done. (See also have

the devil to pay.) \_ *Fred: If you break another window,*

*Andy, there will be hell to pay. Andy: I didn’t do it! I didn’t.*

\_ *Bill: I’m afraid there’s no time to do this one. I’m going*

*to skip it. Bob: There will be hell to pay if you do.* \_ *Bill*

*broke a window, and now there will be the devil to pay.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[79866, 79870]

**\*thick as a short plank** and **\*thick as two short**

**planks** exceptionally dim-witted. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_

*Dumb? He’s as thick as a short plank, more like.* \_ *Oh, I’d*

*not say she was stupid. As thick as two short planks, yes, but*

*stupid? Never!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[79945, 79951]

**(Things) could be better.** and **(I) could be better.;**

**(Things) might be better.** a response to a greeting

meaning “My state is not as good as it might be.” (Not necessarily

a direct answer.) \_ *John: How are things going,*

*Fred? Fred: Things could be better. And you? John: About*

*the same.* \_*Bob: Hi, Bill! How are you? Bill: I could be better.*

*What’s new with you? Bob: Nothing much.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[79952, 79957]

**(Things) could be worse.** and **(I) could be worse.** a

response to a greeting meaning “My state is not as bad as

it might be.” (Not necessarily a direct answer.) \_ *John:*

*How are you, Fred? Fred: Things could be worse. And you?*

*John: Okay, I guess.* \_ *Bob: Hi, Bob! What’s happening?*

*Bob: I could be worse. What’s new with you?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[79964, 79973]

**Things will work out (all right).** and **Everything will**

**work out (all right).; Everything will work out**

**for the best.; Things will work out for the best.**

The situation will reach a satisfactory conclusion.; The

problem(s) will be resolved. \_ *“Cheer up!” Mary said to*

*a gloomy Fred. “Things will work out all right.”* \_ *Mary:*

*Oh, I’m so miserable! Bill: Don’t worry. Everything will work*

*out for the best.* \_ *“Now, now, don’t cry. Things will work*

*out,” consoled Sally, hoping that what she was saying was*

*really true.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[79975, 79981]

**think a lot of** someone or something and **think a great**

**deal of** someone or something; **think highly of** someone

or something; **think much of** someone or something to

think well of someone or something. \_*The teacher thinks*

*a lot of Mary and her talents.* \_*No one really thinks a great*

*deal of the new policies.* \_ *I think highly of John.* \_ *The*

*manager doesn’t think much of John and says so to everyone.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[80026, 80031]

**think little of** someone or something and **think nothing**

**of** someone or something to have a low opinion of someone

or something. \_ *Most experts think little of Jane’s theory.*

\_ *People may think nothing of it now, but in a few years*

*everyone will praise it.* \_*The critics thought little of her latest*

*book.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[80038, 80049]

**Think nothing of it.** and **Don’t give it another**

**thought.; Don’t give it a (second) thought.**

**1.** You’re welcome.; It was nothing.; I was glad to do it.

\_ *Mary: Thank you so much for driving me home. John:*

*Think nothing of it.* \_ *Sue: It was very kind of you to bring*

*the kids back all the way out here. Alice: Think nothing of*

*it. I was delighted to do it.* **2.** You did no harm at all. (A

very polite way of reassuring someone that an action has

not harmed or hurt the speaker.) \_*Sue: Oh, sorry. I didn’t*

*mean to bump you! Bob: Think nothing of it.* \_*Jane: I hope*

*I didn’t hurt your feelings when I said you were too loud.*

*Bill: Don’t give it a second thought. I was too loud.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[80076, 80080]

**think** someone **hung the moon (and stars)** and **think**

someone **is God’s own cousin** *Rur.* to think someone

is perfect. \_*Joe won’t listen to any complaints about Mary.*

*He thinks she hung the moon and stars.* \_ *Jim is awful*

*stuck-up. He thinks he’s God’s own cousin.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[80169, 80174]

**This doesn’t quite suit me.** and **It doesn’t quite suit**

**me.** This is not quite what I want.; This does not please

me. (Compare this with (It) suits me (fine).) \_ *Clerk:*

*How do you like this one? Mary: It doesn’t quite suit me.* \_

*Bob: This doesn’t quite suit me. Let me see something a little*

*darker. Clerk: How’s this? Bob: Better.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[80210, 80214]

**\***a **thorn in** someone’s **side** and **\***a **thorn in** someone’s

**flesh** *Fig.* a constant bother or annoyance to someone.

(\*Typically: **be ~; become ~**.) \_ *This problem is a*

*thorn in my side. I wish I had a solution for it.* \_ *John was*

*a thorn in my f lesh for years before I finally got rid of him.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[80260, 80266]

**three sheets in the wind** and **three sheets (to the**

**wind); two sheets to the wind** *Inf.* intoxicated and

unsteady. (Sheets are the ropes used to manage a ship’s

sails. It is assumed that if these ropes were blowing in the

wind, the ship would be out of control.) \_ *He had gotten*

*three sheets to the wind and didn’t pay attention to my*

*warning.* \_ *By midnight, he was three sheets.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[80280, 80283]

**thrill** someone **to pieces** and **thrill** someone **to death;**

**thrill** someone **to bits** *Fig.* to please or excite someone

very much. \_ *John sent f lowers to Ann and thrilled her to*

*pieces.* \_ *Your wonderful comments thrilled me to death.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[80293, 80296]

**thrilled to death** and **thrilled to pieces** *Fig.* very

excited; to be very pleased. \_ *She was thrilled to death to*

*get the f lowers.* \_*I’m just thrilled to pieces to have you visit*

*me.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[80409, 80414]

**throw in the towel** and **throw in the sponge; toss**

**in the sponge** *Fig.* (From boxing, where this is done by

a boxer’s trainer to stop the fight.) to signal that one is

going to quit; to quit. \_ *When John could stand no more*

*of Mary’s bad temper, he threw in the towel and left.* \_

*Don’t give up now! It’s too soon to throw in the sponge.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[80453, 80458]

**throw** oneself **at** someone and **fling** oneself **at** someone *Fig.*

to give oneself willingly to someone else for romance. \_

*I guess that Mary really likes John. She practically threw herself*

*at him when he came into the room.* \_ *Everyone could*

*see by the way Tom flung himself at Jane that he was going*

*to ask her for a date.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[80467, 80474]

**throw** oneself **at the mercy of** some authority and **throw**

oneself **on the mercy of** some authority**; throw** oneself

**(up)on** someone’s **mercy** *Fig.* to seek mercy from a court

of law, especially at one’s sentencing for a crime; to seek

help from an official or institution. \_ *He pleaded guilty*

*and threw himself at the mercy of the court.* \_*It did no good*

*to throw myself on the mercy of the State Department.* \_

*Please don’t! I throw myself upon your mercy!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[80534, 80539]

**throw** someone or an animal **off (of )** something and **throw**

someone or an animal **off†** to divert or confuse someone or

an animal away from something, such as the scent, track,

or trail. (*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.) \_ *She*

*put a little detail in her story to throw the cops off of her*

*trail.* \_ *The diversion threw off the investigation.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[80563, 80567]

**throw** someone or something **into** something and **throw**

someone or something **in†** to cast or hurl someone or something

into something. \_ *The cops threw Max into jail*

*again.* \_ *The warden opened the cell door and threw in the*

*prisoner.* \_ *We threw the aluminum cans in the bin.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[80568, 80573]

**throw** someone or something **off (of )** something and **throw**

someone or something **off†** to cast someone or something

off something. (*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.)

\_ *The character in the movie wanted to throw the heroine*

*off a cliff.* \_ *He went to the middle of the bridge and threw*

*off the gun used in the shooting.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[80578, 80582]

**throw** someone or something **out of** something and **throw**

someone or something **out†** to eject someone or something

from something or a place. \_ *The intruder tried to throw*

*Walter out of the window.* \_ *He went to the window and*

*threw out Walter.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[80588, 80591]

**throw** someone **out of** something and **throw** someone **out†**

to force a person to leave a place or an organization. \_

*John behaved so badly that they threw him out of the party.*

\_ *I was very loud, but they didn’t throw me out.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[80668, 80674]

**throw** something **into the bargain** and **include** something

**in the bargain; throw** something **in†** to include

something extra in a deal. \_*To encourage me to buy a new*

*car, the car dealer threw a free radio into the bargain.* \_ *If*

*you purchase three pounds of chocolates, I’ll throw one*

*pound of salted nuts into the bargain.* \_*She threw in a free*

*calendar.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[80691, 80696]

**throw** something **together†** and **slap** something

**together†** to assemble or arrange something in haste. \_

*Don’t just slap something together! Use care and do it right.*

\_ *You assembled this device very badly. It seems that you*

*just slapped it together.* \_ *John went into the kitchen to*

*throw together something for dinner.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[80723, 80726]

**throw the bull** and **throw the crap** *Sl. Fig.* to chat; to

boast. (Use caution with *crap*.) \_ *Tom could really throw*

*the bull and sound right as rain.* \_*You’re just throwing the*

*crap. Can it!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[80781, 80784]

**thrust** something **into** someone or something and **thrust**

something **in†** to stab or run something into someone or

something. \_ *The knight thrust his lance into the villain.*

\_ *He thrust in his knife.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[80803, 80808]

**thumb a ride** and **hitch a ride** to get a ride from a passing

motorist; to make a sign with one’s thumb that indicates

to passing drivers that one is asking for a ride. \_*My*

*car broke down on the highway, and I had to thumb a ride*

*to get back to town.* \_ *Sometimes it’s dangerous to hitch a*

*ride with a stranger.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[80818, 80822]

**thumb through** something and **leaf through** something

to look through a book, magazine, or newspaper, without

reading it carefully. \_*I’ve only thumbed through this book,*

*but it looks very interesting.* \_ *I leafed through a magazine*

*while waiting to see the doctor.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[80922, 80924]

**tie one on** and **hang one on; lay one on; tie it on**

*Sl.* to get drunk. \_*The boys went out to tie one on.* \_*They*

*laid one on, but good.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[80934, 80937]

**tie** someone or something **into** something and **tie** someone or

something **in†** to seek to establish a connection between

someone or something and something. \_*The police tried*

*to tie Sarah into the crime.* \_ *They tried to tie in Liz, too.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[80973, 80977]

**tie** something **onto** someone or something and **tie** something

**on†** to attach something to someone or something by

tying or binding. \_ *I tied his house key onto him so he*

*wouldn’t lose it.* \_ *I tied on his gloves so he would not lose*

*them.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[81063, 81066]

**tightfisted (with money)** and **closefisted (with**

**money)** *Fig.* very stingy with money. \_ *The manager is*

*very closefisted with expenditures.* \_ *My parents are very*

*tightfisted with money.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[81077, 81083]

**till the fat lady sings** and **when the fat lady sings**

*Fig.* at the end; a long time from now. (Supposedly from

a tale about a child—sitting through an opera—who asks

a parent when it will be over. “Not until the fat lady sings”

is the answer.) \_ *Relax. It won’t be over till the fat lady*

*sings.* \_*We can leave with everybody else when the fat lady*

*sings.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[81104, 81108]

**time after time** and **time and (time) again** repeatedly;

over and over (again). \_ *You’ve made the same*

*error time after time! Please try to be more careful!* \_ *I’ve*

*told you time and again not to do that.* \_ *You keep saying*

*the same thing over and over, time and time again. Stop it!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[81255, 81260]

**tip** someone **off† (about** someone or something**)** and **tip**

someone **off (on** someone or something**)** to give someone

a valuable piece of news about someone or something. \_

*I tipped the cops off about Max and where he was going to*

*be that night.* \_ *I tipped off the mayor about the financial*

*crisis.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[81361, 81363]

**to no avail** and **of no avail** *Cliché* with no effect; unsuccessful.

\_ *All of my efforts were to no avail.* \_ *Everything*

*I did to help was of no avail. Nothing worked.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[81368, 81375]

**to put it another way** and **put another way** a phrase

introducing a restatement of what someone, usually the

speaker, has just said. \_ *Father: You’re still very young,*

*Tom. To put it another way, you don’t have any idea about*

*what you’re getting into.* \_*John: Could you go back to your*

*own room now, Tom? I have to study. Put another way, get*

*out of here! Tom: Okay, okay. Don’t get your bowels in an*

*uproar!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[81376, 81380]

**to put it mildly** and **put it mildly** to understate something;

to say something politely. (Note the variation in the

examples.) \_ *She was angry at almost everyone—to put it*

*mildly.* \_*To say she was angry is putting it mildly.* \_*To put*

*it mildly, she was enraged.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[81405, 81409]

**to the bitter end** and **till the bitter end** *Fig.* to the very

end. (Originally nautical. This originally had nothing to

do with bitterness.) \_ *I’ll stay till the bitter end.* \_ *It took*

*me a long time to get through school, but I worked hard at*

*it all the way to the bitter end.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[81410, 81414]

**to the contrary** and **on the contrary** as the opposite of

what has been stated; contrary to what has been stated.

\_ *The brown horse didn’t beat the black horse. To the contrary,*

*the black one won.* \_ *Among spiders, the male is not*

*the larger one. On the contrary, the female is larger.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[81469, 81474]

**toddle away** and **toddle off** to walk away. \_ *Not even*

*noticing what had happened, the old lady got up and toddled*

*away.* \_ *Sam toddled away, leaving us behind to*

*explain things to the boss.* \_ *Wally toddled off, leaving his*

*dinner untouched.* \_ *Don’t just toddle off when I’m talking*

*to you!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[81477, 81481]

**toe the mark** and **toe the line** *Fig.* to do what one is

expected to do; to follow the rules. \_ *You’ll get ahead,*

*Sally. Don’t worry. Just toe the mark, and everything will*

*be okay.* \_ *John finally got fired. He just couldn’t learn to*

*toe the line.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[81584, 81589]

**Too many cooks spoil the stew.** and **Too many**

**cooks spoil the broth.** *Prov. Cliché* Too many people

trying to manage something simply spoil it. \_*Let’s decide*

*who is in charge around here. Too many cooks spoil the stew.*

\_ *Everyone is giving orders, but no one is following them!*

*Too many cooks spoil the broth.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[81650, 81652]

**top story** and **upper story** *Sl.* the brain; one’s mind and

intellect. \_ *A little weak in the upper story, but other than*

*that, a great guy.* \_ *He has nothing for a top story.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[81657, 81662]

**topple off (of )** something and **topple from** something to

fall off the top of something very tall. (*Of* is usually

retained before pronouns.) \_*Careful there! You might topple*

*off of that wall.* \_ *I didn’t get too close to the edge,*

*because I was afraid of toppling off.* \_ *She toppled off the*

*wall.* \_ *The vase toppled from its shelf in the quake.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[81671, 81674]

**tore (up)** and **torn (up) 1.** *Sl.* distraught; emotionally

upset. \_ *I knew you’d be tore up.* \_ *Fred’s really torn up*

*about the accident.* **2.** *Sl.* intoxicated. \_ *He wasn’t just*

*drunk—he was massively tore up.* \_ *Boy, was she torn.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[81679, 81683]

**torn between** someone **and** someone else and **torn**

**between** something **and** something else *Fig.* uncertain

whether to choose one or the other. \_ *I don’t know which*

*to take. I’m torn between Fred and Alice.* \_ *I’m torn*

*between red and green.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[81698, 81702]

**toss** one’s **hat into the ring** and **throw** one’s **hat in the**

**ring** *Fig.* to announce that one is running for an elective

office. \_*Jane wanted to run for treasurer, so she tossed her*

*hat into the ring.* \_*I won’t throw my hat into the ring until*

*the last minute.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[81729, 81734]

**toss** someone or something **off (of )** something and **toss**

someone or something **off†** to hurl someone or something

from something. (*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.)

\_ *The gigantic ape was going to toss the woman off of the*

*Empire State Building.* \_ *The ape did not toss off the*

*woman.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[81735, 81739]

**toss** someone or something **out of** something and **toss** someone

or something **out†** to discard someone or something;

to throw someone or something out of something or some

place. \_*The bartender tossed Walter out of the bar.* \_*The*

*litterbug tossed out the empty can.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[81758, 81760]

**toss** something **into** something and **toss** something**†** to cast

or throw something into something. \_ *Frank tossed the*

*wood into the fire.* \_ *He tossed in the wood.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[81788, 81793]

**touch a sore spot** and **touch a sore point** *Fig.* to refer

to a sensitive matter that will upset someone. (Fig. on the

notion of touching an injury and causing pain.) \_ *I seem*

*to have touched a sore spot. I’m sorry. I didn’t mean to upset*

*you.* \_ *When you talk to him, avoid talking about money.*

*It’s best not to touch a sore point if possible.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[81854, 81859]

a **tough act to follow** and a **hard act to follow** *Fig.* a

difficult presentation or performance to follow or improve

upon with one’s own performance. \_ *Bill’s speech was*

*excellent. It was a tough act to follow, but my speech was*

*good also.* \_ *In spite of the fact that I had a tough act to*

*follow, I did my best.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[81860, 81870]

**\*tough as an old boot** and **\*tough as old (shoe)**

**leather 1.** [of meat] very tough. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *This*

*meat is tough as an old boot.* \_ *Bob couldn’t eat the steak.*

*It was as tough as an old boot.* **2.** [of someone] very strong

willed. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *When Brian was lost in the*

*mountains, his friends did not fear for him; they knew he*

*was tough as leather.* \_*My English teacher was as tough as*

*an old boot.* **3.** [of someone] not easily moved by feelings

such as pity. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *She doesn’t care. She’s as*

*tough as old shoe leather.* \_ *He was born tough as an old*

*boot and has only grown more rigid.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[81895, 81898]

**tough luck** and **tough cookies** That is too bad. (Said as

a reply to someone relating an unfortunate situation.) \_

*Tough luck, but that’s the way the cookie crumbles.* \_*That’s*

*too bad, tough cookies.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[81904, 81907]

a **tough row to hoe** and a **hard row to hoe** *Fig.* a difficult

task to carry out; a heavy set of burdens. \_ *It’s a*

*tough row to hoe, but hoe it you will.* \_ *This is not an easy*

*task. This is a hard row to hoe.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[81942, 81947]

**tow** someone or something **into** something and **tow** someone

or something **in†** to pull something, such as a car or a truck,

into something, such as a garage. (The *someone* refers to

the property of someone, not the person.) \_ *They had to*

*tow my car into the garage to be repaired.* \_ *They towed in*

*my car.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[82031, 82034]

**track** something **into** some place and **track** something **in†**

to bring something, such as mud, into a place on the bottom

of one’s shoes or feet. \_ *Please don’t track mud into*

*the office.* \_ *Don’t track in any mud!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[82060, 82064]

**trade** something **in† (for** something**)** and **trade something**

**in† (on** something**)** to return something, such as a

car, to a place where cars are sold as partial payment on a

new car. \_ *I traded my old car in on a new one.* \_ *I traded*

*in my old jalopy for a newer car.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[82106, 82109]

**trail off** and **trail away** to fade away, as with speech,

words, singing, etc. \_ *Her voice trailed off as she saw who*

*was waiting at the door.* \_ *Ken’s words trailed away as he*

*passed out.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[82121, 82127]

**train** one’s **sights on** something and **have** one’s **sights**

**trained on** something *Fig.* to have something as a goal;

to direct something or oneself toward a goal. (Alludes to

someone using the sights of a gun to aim it. Note plural

use of *sights*.) \_ *You should train your sights on getting a*

*promotion in the next year.* \_ *Lisa has her sights trained*

*on a new car.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[82157, 82159]

**traipse over** and **traipse in** to go or arrive carelessly or

thoughtlessly. \_ *He traipsed over and invited himself in.*

\_ *She came traipsing in at about midnight.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[82412, 82416]

**trick** someone **out of** something and **trick** something **out**

**of** someone to get something from someone by trickery.

\_ *You can’t trick me out of my money. I’m not that dumb!*

\_*Stay alert so that no one tricks you out of your money.* \_

*They tricked the information out of Bob.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[82490, 82494]

**trim** something **off (of )** someone or something and **trim**

something **off†** to cut something off someone or something.

(*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.) \_*I asked*

*the barber to trim the beard off of Ralph.* \_ *The barber*

*trimmed off Ralph’s beard.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[82501, 82505]

**trip on** someone or something and **trip over** someone or

something to stumble on someone or something. \_ *The*

*place was filled with sleeping people. I tripped over perfect*

*strangers on my way to the door.* \_*I tripped on a brick and*

*fell into the wall.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[82544, 82547]

**Trouble is brewing.** and **There is trouble brewing.**

*Fig.* Trouble is developing. \_*Trouble’s brewing at the office.*

*I have to get there early tomorrow.* \_*There is trouble brewing*

*in the government. The prime minister may resign.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[82664, 82669]

**try as I may** and **try as I might** *Cliché* a phrase that

introduces an expression of regret or failure. \_ *Bill: Try*

*as I may, I cannot get this thing put together right. Andy:*

*Did you read the instructions?* \_ *Rachel: Wow! This place*

*is a mess! Mother: Try as I might, I can’t get Andrew to clean*

*up after himself.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[82671, 82681]

**\***a **try at** someone and **\***a **shot at** someone; **\***a **crack at**

someone; **\***a **go at** someone **\***a **stab at** someone an

attempt to convince someone of something; an attempt

to try to get information out of someone; an attempt to

try to train someone to do something. (The expressions

with *shot* and *crack* are more informal than the main entry

phrase. (\*Typically: **take ~; have ~; give** someone

**~**.) \_ *Let me have a crack at him. I can make him talk.* \_

*Let the new teacher have a try at Billy. She can do marvels*

*with unwilling learners.* \_ *Give me a crack at him. I know*

*how to make these bums talk.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[82682, 82688]

**\***a **try at** something and **\***a **shot at** something; **\***a **crack at**

something; **\***a **go at** something; **\***a **stab at** something; **\***a

**whack at** something to take a turn at trying to do something.

(\*Typically: **take ~; have ~; give** someone **~**.)

\_ *All of us wanted to have a try at the prize-winning shot.*

\_ *Let Sally have a shot at it.* \_ *If you let me have a crack*

*at it, maybe I can be successful.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[82747, 82751]

**tuck** someone **in(to)** something and **tuck** someone **in†** to

place someone into something carefully; to wrap someone

in blankets or something similar. \_ *Father tucked*

*Jimmy into bed an hour later than he should have.* \_*Please*

*tuck in Jimmy.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[82763, 82766]

**tuck** something **in(to)** something and **tuck** something **in†** to

fold or stuff something into something. \_*Please tuck your*

*shirttail into your pants.* \_ *Tuck in your shirttail.* \_ *When*

*you make the bed, you have to tuck the sheets in.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[82884, 82887]

**turn around** and **turn about** to reverse direction; to face

the opposite direction or turn completely. \_ *The bus*

*turned around and went the other way.* \_ *Please turn*

*around so I can see who you are.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[82896, 82903]

**turn back the clock** and **turn the clock back**

**turn belly up** and **go belly up 1.** *Sl.* to fail. (See also turn

turtle.) \_ *I sort of felt that the whole thing would go belly*

*up, and I was right.* \_ *The computer—on its last legs anyway—*

*turned belly up right in the middle of an important*

*job.* **2.** *Sl.* to die. (As a fish does when it dies.) \_ *The cat*

*was acting strangely for a while before she turned belly up.*

\_ *Every fish in Greg’s tank went belly up last night.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[82993, 82996]

**turn out (all right)** and **pan out; work out (all right)**

to end satisfactorily. \_*I hope everything turns out all right.*

\_ *Oh, yes. It’ll all pan out.* \_ *Things usually work out, no*

*matter how bad they seem.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[83026, 83031]

**turn (over) in** one’s **grave** and **roll (over) in** one’s

**grave** *Fig.* to show enormous disfavor for something that

has happened after one’s death. \_ *If our late father heard*

*you say that, he’d turn over in his grave.* \_ *Please don’t*

*change the place around too much when I’m dead. I do not*

*wish to be rolling in my grave all the time.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[83057, 83061]

**turn** someone or an animal **out of** something and **turn** someone

or an animal **out†** to eject someone or an animal from

a place. \_ *She turned her own son out of the house.* \_ *You*

*wouldn’t turn a cat out on a night like this, would you?* \_

*She actually turned out her own brother!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[83138, 83143]

**turn** something **around** and **turn** something **about** to

reverse the direction of something; to cause something

to face the opposite direction. \_ *Turn the car around and*

something

*head it in the other direction.* \_ *If you turn the chair*

*around, we can see one another while we talk.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[83201, 83208]

**turn the clock back** and **turn back the clock 1.** *Lit.*

to set a clock to an earlier time. \_*I have to turn the clocks*

*back each fall.* \_ *Please turn back the clock.* **2.** *Fig.* to try

to return to the past. \_*You are not facing up to the future.*

*You are trying to turn the clock back to a time when you*

*were more comfortable.* \_ *Let us turn back the clock and*

*pretend we are living at the turn of the century—the time*

*that our story takes place.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[83306, 83311]

**tweak** something **off (of )** someone or something and **tweak**

something **off†** to flick something off someone or something;

to remove something from someone or something

by pinching. (*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.) \_

*Sarah tweaked a little beetle off of Fred.* \_ *Sarah tweaked*

*off a little bug.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[83337, 83340]

a **twist of fate** and a **turn of fate** *Fig.* a fateful event; an

unanticipated change in a sequence of events. \_*A strange*

*turn of fate brought Fred and his ex-wife together at a New*

*Year’s Eve party in Queens.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[83347, 83352]

**twist** someone **around** one’s **little finger** and **wind**

someone **around** one’s **little finger** *Fig.* to manipulate

and control someone. \_ *Bob really fell for Jane. She can*

*twist him around her little finger.* \_ *Billy’s mother has*

*wound him around her little finger. He’s very dependent on*

*her.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[83370, 83374]

**twist** something **off (of )** something and **twist** something

**off†** to take something off something by twisting. (*Of* is

usually retained before pronouns.) \_*Fran twisted the top*

*off of the bottle of mineral water and poured it.* \_ *She*

*twisted off the top.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[83398, 83406]

**Two is company, (but) three’s a crowd.** and **Two’s**

**company(, three’s a crowd).** *Prov.* A way of asking a

third person to leave because you want to be alone with

someone. (Often implies that you want to be alone with

the person because you are romantically interested in him

or her.) \_ *When Lucy followed Mark and Nora into the*

*drawing room, Nora turned to her and said, “Two’s company,*

*but three’s a crowd.”* \_ *Bill: Can I go to lunch with*

*you and Tom? Jane: Two’s company, three’s a crowd, Bill.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[83441, 83446]

a **two-edged sword** and a **double-edged sword** *Fig.*

something that offers both a good and bad consequence.

\_*The ability to get your insurance to pay for it is a doubleedged*

*sword. They may raise your rates.* \_ *Her authority*

*in the company is a two-edged sword. She makes more enemies*

*than allies.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[83463, 83466]

**type** something **into** something and **type** something **in†** to

insert information into a form or a place on a form by typing

or keying it. \_ *Please type your name and address into*

*this box.* \_ *Please type in your name.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[83508, 83512]

**under** certain **circumstances** and **under** certain **conditions**

*Fig.* depending on or influenced by something;

because of something. \_*Under certain conditions, you can*

*see across the lake to the other side.* \_ *Under certain circumstances,*

*what you propose to do is all right.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[83534, 83538]

**under no circumstances** and **not under any circumstances**

*Fig.* absolutely never. \_*Andy: Under no circumstances*

*will I ever go back there again! Rachel: Why?*

*What happened?* \_*Sue: Can I talk you into serving as a referee*

*again? Mary: Heavens, no! Not under any circumstances!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[83593, 83598]

**under the aegis of** someone and **under the auspices**

**of** someone *Fig.* under the sponsorship or protection of

someone or some group; under the control or monitoring

of someone or some group. \_ *The entire project fell*

*under the aegis of Thomas.* \_ *The entire program is under*

*the auspices of Acme-Global Paper Co., Inc.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[83791, 83794]

**\*(up and) about** and **\*up and around** out of bed and

moving about. (\*Typically: **be ~; get ~**.) \_*I’m up and*

*about, but I’m not really well yet.* \_ *The f lu put Alice into*

*bed for three days, but she was up and around on the fourth.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[83855, 83858]

**up in years** and **advanced in years; along in years;**

**on in years** *Fig.* old; elderly. \_ *My uncle is up in years*

*and can’t hear too well.* \_ *Many people lose their hearing*

*somewhat when they are along in years.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[83877, 83884]

**up the ante** and **raise the ante 1.** *Fig.* to raise the opening

stakes in a betting game. \_*Pete upped the ante on that*

*the poker game to $100 per hand.* \_ *Don’t up the ante any*

*more. You’re betting far too much money already.* **2.** *Fig.* to

increase a price. (Fig. on W.) \_*Sensing how keen the people*

*looking at the house were, Jerry upped the ante another*

*$5,000.* \_ *“Don’t try to up the ante on us,” said the man,*

*“We know what the asking price is.”*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[83885, 83889]

**up the creek (without a paddle)** and **up a creek; up**

**shit creek** *Inf. Fig.* in an awkward position with no easy

way out. \_*I’m sort of up the creek and don’t know what to*

*do.* \_*You are up a creek! You got yourself into it, so get yourself*

*out.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[83920, 83926]

**\*up to** one’s **neck (in** something**)** and **\*up to** one’s **ears**

**(in** something**); \*up to** one’s **eyeballs (in** something**)**

having a lot of something; *Fig.* very much involved in

something; immersed in something. (\*Typically: **be ~;**

**get ~**.) \_ *I can’t come to the meeting. I’m up to my neck*

*in these reports.* \_ *Mary is up to her ears in her work.* \_ *I*

*am up to my eyeballs in things to do! I can’t do any more!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[83932, 83935]

**up to snuff** and **up to scratch** *Fig.* as good as is required;

meeting the minimum requirements. \_ *Sorry, Tom. Your*

*performance isn’t up to snuff. You’ll have to improve or find*

*another job.* \_*My paper wasn’t up to scratch, so I got an F.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[83972, 83976]

**update** someone **about** someone or something and **update**

someone **on** someone or something to tell someone the latest

news about someone or something. \_ *Please update*

*me about the current situation in France.* \_ *Please update*

*me about Tony.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[83984, 83986]

an **uphill battle** and an **uphill struggle** *Fig.* a hard

struggle. \_ *Convincing the senator to see our point of view*

*was an uphill battle, but we finally succeeded.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[84065, 84070]

**use** one’s **head** and **use** one’s **noggin; use** one’s **noodle**

*Fig.* to use one’s own intelligence. (The words *noggin*

and *noodle* are slang terms for “head.”) \_ *You can do better*

*in math if you’ll just use your head.* \_*Jane uses her noggin*

*and gets things done correctly and on time.* \_ *Yes, she*

*sure knows how to use her noodle.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[84120, 84122]

**use the bathroom** and **use the toilet** *Euph.* to urinate

or defecate. \_ *May I be excused to use the bathroom?* \_ *I*

*have to use the toilet.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[84125, 84130]

**use your head for more than a hatrack** and **use**

**your head for more than something to keep**

**your ears apart** *Rur.* to think. \_ *How are we going to*

*solve this problem? Come on, use your head for more than*

*a hatrack.* \_*Instead of whining about it, why don’t you use*

*your head for more than something to keep your ears apart?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[84146, 84149]

**usher** someone or something **into** some place and **usher**

someone or something **in†** to escort or lead a person, a

group, or something into a place. \_*The guard ushered the*

*group into the palace.* \_ *They ushered in the visitors.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[84150, 84153]

**usher** someone or something **out of** some place and **usher**

someone or something **out†** to escort or lead someone or a

group out of a place. \_ *We ushered them from the room.*

\_ *The woman ushered out the guest.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[84220, 84224]

**vary between** someone **and** someone else and **vary**

**between** something **and** something else to fluctuate in

choosing between people or things. \_*In choosing a bridge*

*partner, Sam varied between Tom and Wally.* \_ *I varied*

*between chocolate and vanilla cake for dessert.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[84339, 84343]

**vie (with** someone**) (for** someone or something**)** and **vie**

**(with** someone**) (over** someone or something**)** to compete

or contend with someone for someone or something. \_

*They vied with each other for Mary’s favor.* \_ *I really don’t*

*want to have to vie with Randy for recognition.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[84390, 84394]

**\***a **voice (in** something**)** and **\***a **say (in** something**)** *Fig.* a

part in making a decision. (\*Typically: **get ~; have ~;**

**give** someone **~**.) \_ *I’d like to have a voice in choosing*

*the carpet.* \_*John wanted to have a say in the issue also.* \_

*He says he seldom gets a say.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[84437, 84440]

**vote** someone **into** something and **vote** someone **in†** to elect

someone to office or to membership in a group. \_ *The*

*other party finally voted a candidate into office.* \_*The people*

*voted in the new officers.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[84447, 84450]

**vote** someone **out of** something and **vote** someone **out†** to

remove one from office by defeating one in an election.

\_ *They voted her out of office.* \_ *The electorate voted out*

*a number of incumbents.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[84451, 84454]

**vote** something **into law** and **vote** something **in†** to take a

vote on a proposal and make it a law. \_ *They voted the*

*proposal into law.* \_ *If we vote in this proposal, will that*

*solve everything?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[84488, 84491]

**waffle around** and **waffle about** to be indecisive; to be

wishy-washy about making a decision. \_ *Make up your*

*mind. Stop waff ling around.* \_ *Now, don’t waff le about.*

*Make up your mind.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[84589, 84592]

**wake (up) to** something and **waken to** something to

awaken and face something, such as a problem, sunlight,

music, noise, etc. \_ *I love to wake up to soft music.* \_ *We*

*woke to the smell of freshly brewed coffee.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[84638, 84645]

**walk away with** something and **walk off with** something

**1.** *Fig.* to win something easily. (With little more effort

than is required to carry off the winning trophy.) \_ *John*

*won the tennis match with no difficulty. He walked away*

*with it.* \_ *Our team walked away with first place.* **2.** *Fig.*

to take or steal something. \_*I think somebody just walked*

*off with my purse!* \_*Somebody walked off with my daughter’s*

*bicycle.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[84677, 84683]

**walk on eggs** and **walk on thin ice** *Fig.* to proceed very

cautiously; to be in a very precarious position. (Fig. on the

image of someone walking on something that offers little

support and may collapse at any moment.) \_ *I have to*

*remember that I’m walking on eggs when I give this speech.*

\_ *Careful with radical ideas like that. You’re walking on*

*thin ice.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[84851, 84855]

**wander about** and **wander around** to stroll or amble

around without any purpose evident; to roam around. \_

*We just wandered about downtown all morning, looking at*

*the shop windows.* \_*It’s fun to wander around in a strange*

*town.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[84856, 84860]

**wander away (from** someone or something**)** and **wander**

**off (from** someone or something**)** to roam away from

someone or something. \_ *The little boy wandered away*

*from his mother.* \_ *He wandered off from his sister.* \_ *The*

*dog wandered off.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[84876, 84880]

**wangle** something **from** someone and **wangle** something

**out of** someone *Fig.* to obtain, through argument or

deception, something from someone. \_ *Are you trying to*

*wangle money from me?* \_*You can’t wangle any money out*

*of me.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[84933, 84937]

**Want to make something of it?** and **Wanna make**

**sumpin’ of it?** *Inf.* Do you want to fight about it? (See

also (Do you) want to make something of it?) \_ *So,*

*I’m a little ugly. Wanna make sumpin’ of it?* \_ *I’m sitting*

*in your usual chair, you say? Want to make something of it?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[85093, 85097]

**wash** someone **out of** something and **wash** someone **out†**

to make it necessary for a person to leave a place or program;

to wash someone up. (See also wash someone out.)

\_ *That professor just loves to wash students out of the*

*course.* \_ *The professor washed out over half the class.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[85121, 85125]

**wash** something **off (of )** someone or something and **wash**

something **off†** to clean something off someone or something.

(*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.) \_ *I have*

*to wash this tomato sauce off my jacket before it stains it.* \_

*I will wash off the tomato stains.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[85135, 85138]

**wash** something **out of** something and **wash** something

**out†** to clean some kind of dirt from something. \_ *You*

*had better wash all the stains out of the clothing before you*

*put it in the dryer.* \_ *You will want to wash out the dirt.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[85184, 85186]

**Watch my lips!** and **Read my lips!** *Inf.* I am going to say

something rude to you that I will not say out loud! \_ *You*

*jerk! Watch my lips!* \_ *Hey, chum! Read my lips!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[85193, 85196]

**watch out for** someone and **look out for** someone *Fig.*

to watch over and care for someone. \_ *When I was a kid,*

*my older brother always watched out for me.* \_ *I really*

*needed someone to look out for me then.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[85217, 85220]

**Watch your mouth!** and **Watch your tongue!Watch**

**your language!** *Inf.* Pay attention to what you are saying!;

Do not say anything rude! \_*Hey, don’t talk that way!*

*Watch your mouth!* \_ *Watch your tongue, garbage mouth!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[85227, 85231]

**water over the dam** and **water under the bridge** *Fig.*

past and unchangeable events. \_ *Your quarrel with Lena*

*is water over the dam; now you ought to concentrate on getting*

*along with her.* \_ *George and I were friends once, but*

*that’s all water under the bridge now.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[85246, 85249]

**wave at** someone and **wave to** someone to move an

upraised hand in such a way as to signal recognition to

someone. \_ *The people in the boat waved at us.* \_ *They*

*waved to us after we waved at them.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[85296, 85298]

**wax angry** and **wax wroth** *Fig.* to speak in anger and

with indignity. \_ *Seeing the damage done by the careless*

*children caused the preacher to wax wroth at their parents.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[85331, 85338]

**(We) don’t see you much around here anymore.**

and **(We) don’t see you around here much anymore.**

*Fig.* We haven’t seen you for a long time. (The *we*

can be replaced with *I*.) \_ *Bill: Hello, Tom. Long time no*

*see. Tom: Yes, Bill. We don’t see you much around here anymore.*

\_ *“We don’t see you around here much anymore,”*

*said the old pharmacist to John, who had just come home*

*from college.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[85361, 85364]

**\*weak as a baby** and **\*weak as a kitten** *Cliché* [of

someone] physically very weak. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *Six*

*weeks of illness left the athlete as weak as a baby.* \_ *John is*

*as weak as a kitten because he doesn’t eat well.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[85394, 85399]

**wear more than one hat** and **wear two hats** *Fig.* to

have more than one set of responsibilities; to hold more

than one office. \_ *The mayor is also the police chief. She*

*wears more than one hat.* \_ *I have too much to do to wear*

*more than one hat.* \_*He wears two hats; he’s both CEO and*

*chairman of the board.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[85415, 85420]

**wear** one’s **heart on** one’s **sleeve** and **have** one’s **heart**

**on** one’s **sleeve** *Fig.* to display one’s feelings openly and

habitually, rather than keep them private. \_ *John always*

*has his heart on his sleeve so that everyone knows how he*

*feels.* \_ *Because she wears her heart on her sleeve, it’s easy*

*to hurt her feelings.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[85449, 85453]

**wear** something **off (of )** something and **wear** something

**off†** to grind or rub something off something. (*Of* is usually

retained before pronouns.) \_*The grinding of the bottom*

*of the boat on the sandbanks wore the barnacles off the*

*hull.* \_ *The sand wore off the barnacles.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[85461, 85467]

**wear the britches (in the family)** and **wear the**

**pants (in the family)** *Rur.* to be in charge in the family.

\_ *Jane bosses her husband around something scandalous.*

*It’s clear that she wears the britches in the family.* \_

*I don’t intend to let my wife wear the pants in the family.* \_

*Mary’s a strong-minded woman, but her husband still wears*

*the britches.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[85648, 85651]

**welcome** someone **into** something and **welcome** someone

**in†** to greet one as one is ushered into something or

some place. \_*The Franklins welcomed us into their home.*

\_ *Please welcome in our new members.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[85704, 85713]

**We(‘ll) have to do lunch sometime.** and **Let’s do**

**lunch (sometime).**We must have lunch together sometime.

(A vague statement that may lead to lunch plans.)

\_ *Rachel: Nice to talk to you, Tom. We have to do lunch*

*sometime. Tom: Yes, good to see you. I’ll give you a ring.* \_

*Tom: Can’t talk to you now. Catch you later. Mary: We’ll*

*have to do lunch sometime.* \_ *John: Good to see you, Tom.*

*Tom: Right. Let’s do lunch sometime. John: Good idea. I’ll*

*call you.* \_*Mary: Catch you later. Sue: Sure. Let’s do lunch.*

*Mary: Okay. Call me. Bye.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[85750, 85754]

**well up (from** something**)** and **well up (out of** something**)**

[for a liquid] to gush or pour up and away from something.

\_ *The blood welled up from the wound.* \_ *Clear*

*water welled up out of the rocks.* \_*A gusher of muddy water*

*welled up.* \_ *Tears welled up out of the baby’s eyes.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[85773, 85775]

**well-heeled** and **well-fixed; well-off** *Fig.* wealthy;

with sufficient money. \_ *My uncle can afford a new car.*

*He’s well-heeled.* \_ *Everyone in his family is well-off.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[85809, 85814]

**wet behind the ears** and **not dry behind the ears;**

**hardly dry behind the ears** *Fig.* young and inexperienced.

\_*John’s too young to take on a job like this! He’s still*

*wet behind the ears!* \_ *He may be wet behind the ears, but*

*he’s well-trained and totally competent.* \_*Tom is going into*

*business by himself ? Why, he’s hardly dry behind the ears.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[85856, 85859]

**What (a) nerve!** and **Of all the nerve!** *Inf.* How rude!

\_ *Bob: Lady, get the devil out of my way! Mary: What a*

*nerve!* \_ *Jane: You can’t have that one! I saw it first! Sue:*

*Of all the nerve! I can too have it!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[85860, 85864]

**What a pity!** and **What a shame!** *Fig.* an expression of

consolation meaning That’s too bad. (Can also be used

sarcastically.) \_ *Bill: I’m sorry to tell you that the cat died*

*today. Mary: What a pity!* \_ *Mary: The cake is ruined!*

*Sally: What a shame!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[85983, 85989]

**What do you think of that?** and **What do you think**

**about that?** Isn’t that remarkable?; What is your opinion

of that? \_ *Bob: I’m leaving tomorrow and taking all*

*these books with me. What do you think of that? Mary: Not*

*much.* \_*Sue: I’m going to start taking cooking lessons. What*

*do you think about that? Bill: I’m overjoyed! John: Thank*

*heavens! Mary: Fortune has smiled on us, indeed!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[86063, 86067]

**What (in) the devil?** and **What (in) the dickens?** *Inf.*

What has happened?; What? (Often with the force of an

exclamation.) \_ *What in the devil? Who put sugar in the*

*salt shaker?* \_ *What the dickens? Who are you? What are*

*you doing in my room?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[86106, 86112]

**What more can I do?** and **What else can I do?** I am

at a loss to know what else to do. Is there anything else I

can do? (An expression of desperation, not an inquiry.) \_

*Bob: Did you hear about the death in the Wilson family. Bill:*

*Yes, I feel so helpless. I sent f lowers. What more can I do?* \_

*Bill: Is your child still sick? Mary: Yes. I’m giving her the*

*right medicine. What more can I do?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[86113, 86121]

**What must be, must be.** and **What(ever) will be,**

**will be.** *Prov.* If something is fated to happen, you cannot

stop it from happening.; You cannot foretell the future.

\_ *Harry hoped for many months that he would regain the*

*use of his legs after the accident, but it soon became apparent*

*that he would not. “What must be, must be,” he thought*

*resignedly.* \_ *I’d like to win the contest, but I can’t be sure*

*that I will. What will be, will be.* \_ *The doctors have done*

*all they can. Whatever will be, will be.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[86150, 86155]

**What’s coming off?** and **What’s going down?** *Sl.*

What is happening here?; What is going to happen? (Also

a greeting inquiry.) \_ *Bill: Hey, man! What’s coming off ?*

*Tom: Oh, nothing, just takin’ it easy.* \_ *Bob: Hey, we just*

*got here! What’s going down? Bill: What does it look like?*

*This is a party, dude!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[86191, 86195]

**what’s his face** and **what’s his name** *Sl.* someone

whose name has been forgotten; someone whose name is

being avoided. \_ *Was what’s his name there? I never can*

*remember his name.* \_ *I can’t remember what’s his face’s*

*name either.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[86304, 86308]

**What’s the scam?** and **What’s the deal?** *Sl.* What is

going on around here? (Often implies that something

seems to be wrong.) \_*There’s a big rumpus down the hall.*

*What’s the scam?* \_ *I gave you a twenty, and you give me*

*five back? What’s the deal? Where’s my other five?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[86362, 86368]

**What the devil?** and **What the fuck?; What the**

**hell?; What the shit?** What has happened?; What?

(Often with the force of an exclamation. What the fuck?

and What the shit? are taboo.) \_ *What the devil? Who*

*put sugar in the salt shaker?* \_*What the fuck? Who are you?*

*What are you doing in my room?* \_ *What the shit are you*

*doing here? You’re supposed to be at work.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[86404, 86411]

**What you don’t know won’t hurt you.** and **What**

**you don’t know can’t hurt you.** *Prov.* If you do not

know about a problem or a misdeed, you will not be able

to make yourself unhappy by worrying about it. (Often

used to justify not telling someone about a problem or

misdeed.) \_ *Ellen: What a beautiful diamond necklace!*

*Thank you! But how on earth did you get the money to pay*

*for it? Fred: What you don’t know won’t hurt you.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[86436, 86441]

**What’ll it be?** and **Name your poison.; What’ll you**

**have?; What’s yours?** *Inf.* What do you want to drink?;

What do you want?; How can I serve you? (Typically said

by a bartender or bar waiter or waitress.) \_ *Tom: What’ll*

*it be, friend? Bill: I’ll just have a ginger ale, if you don’t mind.*

\_ *Waitress: What’ll you have? Bob: Nothing, thanks.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[86446, 86450]

**wheedle** something **away from** someone and **wheedle**

something **out of** someone to get something away from

someone by begging or flattery. \_*The crooks wheedled the*

*old lady’s money away from her.* \_*Tim wheedled a few dollars*

*out of his uncle.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[86468, 86472]

**wheel** someone or something **into** something and **wheel**

someone or something **in†** to bring someone or something

into something or some place on wheels. \_ *The orderly*

*wheeled the man into the operating room.* \_ *The orderly*

*wheeled in the patient.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[86476, 86480]

**wheel** someone or something **out of** something and **wheel**

someone or something **out†** to push or steer someone or

something out of something on wheels. \_ *The nurse*

*wheeled the new mother out of the hospital.* \_ *Liz wheeled*

*out the new mother.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[86529, 86539]

**When poverty comes in at the door, love flies out**

**of the window.** and **When the wolf comes in at**

**the door, love creeps out of the window.** *Prov.* If

a couple gets married because they are in love, but they

do not have enough money, they will stop loving each

other when the money runs out. \_ *You young folks may*

*think you can live on love alone, but when poverty comes in*

*at the door, love f lies out of the window.* \_ *After Susan lost*

*her job, she and her unemployed husband had a big argument.*

*When the wolf comes in at the door, love creeps out*

*of the window.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[86540, 86545]

**when push comes to shove** and **if push comes to**

**shove** *Fig.* when things get a little pressed; when the situation

gets more active or intense. \_*When push comes to*

*shove, you know I’ll be on your side.* \_ *If push comes to*

*shove at the meeting, the front office can back you up with*

*some statistics.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[86565, 86570]

**when the going gets tough** and **if the going gets**

**tough; when the going gets rough; if the going**

**gets rough** as things get extremely difficult; when it

becomes difficult to proceed. \_*When the going gets tough,*

*I will be there to help you.* \_*If the going gets tough, just give*

*me a call.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[86591, 86595]

**when you get a minute** and **when you get a chance**

a phrase introducing a request, especially to talk to someone.

\_ *Bill: Tom? Tom: Yes. Bill: When you get a minute,*

*I’d like to have a word with you.* \_ *“Please drop over for a*

*chat when you get a chance,” said Fred to Bill.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[86596, 86602]

**Where can I wash up?** and **Is there some place I**

**can wash up?** *Euph.* a way of asking where the toilet or

bathroom is without referring to one’s need to use it. (Of

course, this is also appropriate to ask where one can wash

one’s hands.) \_ *The minute he got to the house, he asked*

*Fred, “Where can I wash up?”* \_ *Fred: Welcome. Come in.*

*Bill: Oh, is there some place I can wash up?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[86616, 86622]

**Where (have) you been keeping yourself?** and

**Where (have) you been hiding (yourself )?** *Inf.* I

haven’t seen you for a long time. Where have you been?

\_ *Bill: Hi, Alice! Where you been keeping yourself ? Alice:*

*Oh, I’ve been around. How are you doing? Bill: Okay.* \_

*John: What’s up? Bill: Hi. man. Where you been keeping*

*yourself ? John: Oh, I’ve been busy.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[86736, 86743]

**While there’s life there’s hope.** and **Where there’s**

**life there’s hope.** *Prov. Cliché* As long as you are alive,

you should be hopeful, because it is possible that your situation

will improve. \_ *Nancy: What will we do, now that*

*our house and everything we own has burned up? Bill: While*

*there’s life there’s hope.* \_ *Ellen: Ever since my divorce, it*

*seems as if I have nothing to hope for. Jane: I know things*

*seem bleak, but where there’s life there’s hope.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[86856, 86860]

**whisk** something **off (of )** someone or something and **whisk**

something **off†** to brush something off someone or something.

(*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.) \_ *The*

*barber whisked the loose hairs off of the customer.* \_ *The*

*barber whisked off the loose hairs.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[86883, 86890]

**\*white as a sheet** and **\*white as a ghost; \*white as**

**snow; \*white as the driven snow** [of someone]

extremely pale, as if frightened. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *Marilyn*

*turned as white as a sheet when the policeman told her*

*that her son had been in a car wreck.* \_*Did something scare*

*you? You’re white as a sheet!* \_ *Jane made up the bed with*

*her best linen sheets, which are always as white as snow.* \_

*We have a new kitten whose fur is white as the driven snow.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[86915, 86919]

**whittle** something **down (to size)** and **whittle** something

**down†** to cut or diminish something to a more appropriate

size or to the proper size. \_*I whittled the peg down*

*to size and it fit in the hole perfectly.* \_*You are going to have*

*to whittle down expenses.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[86960, 86969]

**Who do you want (to talk to)?** and **Who do you**

**want to speak to?; Who do you wish to speak**

**to?; Who do you wish to talk to?** Who do you want

to speak to over the telephone? (All these questions can

also begin with *whom*. Compare this with With whom

do you wish to speak?) \_*Sue: Wilson residence. Who do*

*you want to speak to? Bill: Hi, Sue. I want to talk to you.* \_

*Tom (answering the phone): Hello? Sue: Hello, who is this?*

*Tom: Who do you wish to speak to? Sue: Is Sally there? Tom:*

*Just a minute.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[86971, 86974]

**Who (in) the hell?** and **Who (in) the devil?** *Inf.* Who?

(An elaboration of *who*. See examples for variations.) \_

*Who in the hell was that masked man?* \_ *Who the hell are*

*you?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[86994, 87000]

**Who’s on the phone?** and **Who’s on the line?** Who

is on the telephone line now?; Who just called on the telephone?

(The caller may still be waiting.) \_*Bill was on the*

*telephone, and Mary walked by. “Who’s on the phone?”*

*asked Mary, hoping the call was for her.* \_ *Tom asked,*

*“Who’s on the line?” Mary covered the receiver and said,*

*“None of your business!”*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[87001, 87005]

**Who’s there?** and **Who is it?** a question asking who is

on the other side of a door or concealed in some other

place. \_ *Hearing a noise, Tom called out in the darkness,*

*“Who’s there?”* \_ *Hearing a knock on the door, Mary went*

*to the door and said, “Who is it?”*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[87017, 87024]

**Who would have thought?** and **Who could have**

**thought?** a question phrase indicating surprise or

amazement; I would never have guessed that something

so surprising could happen. (No answer is expected.) \_

*Tom: Fred just quit his job and went to Africa. Bill: Who*

*would have thought he could do such a thing?* \_*Andy: They*

*say Bill is training for the Olympics in his spare time. Rachel:*

*Who would have thought?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[87034, 87042]

the **whole ball of wax** and the **whole shooting**

**match** the whole thing; the whole matter or affair; the

entire affair or organization. \_ *John is not a good manager.*

*Instead of delegating jobs to others, he runs the whole*

*shooting match himself.* \_*There’s not a hard worker in that*

*whole shooting match.* \_ *I will be glad to be finished with*

*this project. I want to be done with the whole ball of wax.*

\_ *I am tired of this job. I am fed up with the whole ball of*

*wax.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[87046, 87049]

a **whole heap more** and a **whole lot more** *Rur.* a great

deal more. \_ *I think a whole heap more of Joe than I do of*

*his brother.* \_ *Don’t quit now. There’s a whole heap more*

*work to be done.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[87094, 87104]

**Why buy a cow when you can get milk for free?**

and **Why buy a cow when milk is so cheap?** *Prov.*

Why pay for something that you can get for free otherwise.

(Sometimes used to describe someone who will not

marry because sex without any commitment is so easy to

obtain. Jocular and crude.) \_ *I don’t have a car because*

*someone always gives me a ride to work. Why buy a cow*

*when you can get milk for free?* \_ *Mary told her daughter,*

*“You may think that boy will marry you because you’re willing*

*to sleep with him, but why should he buy a cow if he*

*can get milk for free?”*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[87180, 87183]

**will eat** someone **for breakfast** and **will have** someone

**for breakfast** *Fig.* will defeat someone thoroughly. \_

*Watch out! Those guys are incredibly aggressive. They will*

*eat you for breakfast.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[87194, 87197]

**will not hear of** something and **won’t hear of** something

will refuse to tolerate or permit something. \_*You mustn’t*

*drive home alone. I will not hear of it.* \_ *My parents won’t*

*hear of my staying out that late.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[87210, 87220]

**(Will there be) anything else?** and **Is that everything?;**

**Is there anything else?; Will that be all?**

Is there anything else you want?; Is there any other matter

you wish to discuss?; Is there any other request? (These

phrases are used by shopkeepers, clerks, and food service

personnel to find out if the customer wants anything

more.) \_ *Clerk: Here’s the roast you ordered. Will there be*

*anything else? Rachel: No, that’s all.* \_ *Waiter: Anything*

*else? Bill: Just coffee.* \_ *The clerk rang up the last item and*

*asked, “Will that be all?”* \_*Waiter: Anything else? Jane: No,*

*that’s everything.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[87257, 87260]

**win** someone’s **heart** and **win the heart of** someone *Fig.*

to gain the affection of someone; to win the love of someone

exclusively. \_*I hope to win her heart and make her my*

*bride.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[87317, 87320]

**wind** something **onto** something and **wind** something **on†**

to coil or wrap something onto something. \_ *Wind this*

*string onto the ball and save it.* \_ *If you find the ball of*

*string, please wind on this string.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[87410, 87415]

**wipe** someone’s **slate clean** and **wipe the slate clean**

*Fig.* to get rid of or erase someone’s (bad) record. (As if

erasing information recorded on a slate.) \_*I’d like to wipe*

*my slate clean and start all over again.* \_ *Bob did badly in*

*high school, but he wiped his slate clean and did a good job*

*in college.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[87486, 87489]

**\*wise as Solomon** and **\*wise as an owl** very wise.

(\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *If you are in trouble, get Chris to advise*

*you. He’s as wise as Solomon.* \_ *This is a difficult problem.*

*You’d need to be as wise as an owl to be able to solve it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[87537, 87540]

**with a view to** doing something and **with an eye to** doing

something with the intention of doing something. \_*I came*

*to this school with a view to getting a degree.* \_ *The mayor*

*took office with an eye to improving the town.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[87545, 87549]

**with advance notice** and **on advance notice** with

some kind of notification or indication that something is

going to happen or is expected before it actually happens.

\_ *We are happy to provide special meals for anyone with*

*advance notice.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[87619, 87623]

**with no strings attached** and **without any strings**

**attached** *Fig.* unconditionally; with no obligations or

conditions attached. \_*My parents gave me use of their car*

*without any strings attached.* \_*I will accept this job only if*

*there are no strings attached.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[87624, 87628]

**with one hand tied behind** one’s **back** and **with both**

**hands tied behind** one’s **back** *Fig.* even if under a

handicap; easily. \_*I could put an end to this argument with*

*one hand tied behind my back.* \_*John could do this job with*

*both hands tied behind his back.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[87651, 87654]

**with regard to** someone or something and **in regard to**

someone or something concerning someone or something.

\_ *What shall we do in regard to planning dinner?* \_ *With*

*regard to Bill, I think he is working too hard.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[87685, 87692]

**With you in a minute.** and Someone **will be with you**

**in a minute.** Please be patient, someone will attend to

you very soon. (The *someone* can be any person’s name or

a pronoun, typically *I.* If there is no one mentioned, *I* is

implied. The *minute* can be replaced by *moment* or *second*.)

\_ *Sue: Oh, Miss? Clerk: Someone will be with you in*

*a minute.* \_ *Bill: Please wait here. I’ll be with you in a*

*minute. Bob: Please hurry.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[87726, 87733]

**wither on the vine** and **die on the vine 1.** *Lit.* [for

fruit] to shrivel on the vine or stem, unharvested. \_*If we*

*don’t get out there into the field, the grapes will wither on*

*the vine.* \_*The apples will die on the vine if not picked soon.*

**2.** *Fig.* [for someone or something] to be ignored or

neglected and thereby be wasted. \_ *I hope I get a part in*

*the play. I don’t want to just die on the vine.* \_ *Fred thinks*

*he is withering on the vine because no one has chosen him.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[87743, 87752]

**within a stone’s throw (of** something**)** and **(just) a**

**stone’s throw away (from** something**); (just) a**

**stone’s throw (from** something**)** *Fig.* very close (to

something). (Possibly as close as the distance one could

throw a stone. It usually refers to a distance much greater

than one could throw a stone.) \_ *The police department*

*was located within a stone’s throw of our house.* \_ *We live*

*in Carbondale, and that’s just a stone’s throw away from the*

*Mississippi River.* \_*Come visit. We live just a stone’s throw*

*away.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[87753, 87757]

**within an ace of (**doing**)** something and **within a hair(’s**

**breadth) of** something very close to doing something. \_

*I came within an ace of getting into an accident.* \_*We were*

*within an ace of beating the all-time record.* \_ *We were*

*within a hair’s breadth of beating the all-time record.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[87768, 87773]

**within hailing distance** and **within calling distance;**

**within shouting distance** close enough to

hear someone call out. \_*When the boat came within hailing*

*distance, I asked if I could borrow some gasoline.* \_ *We*

*weren’t within shouting distance, so I couldn’t hear what you*

*said to me.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[87774, 87777]

**within limits** and **within bounds** up to a certain point;

with certain restrictions. \_ *You’re free to do what you*

*want—within limits, of course.* \_ *You must try to keep*

*behavior at the party within bounds.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[87804, 87809]

**within** someone’s **reach** and **within** someone’s **grasp**

**1.** *Lit.* close enough to be grasped. \_ *The ball was almost*

*within his reach!* **2.** *Fig.* almost in the possession of someone.

\_ *My goals are almost within my reach, so I know I’ll*

*succeed.* \_*We almost had the contract within our grasp, but*

*the deal fell through at the last minute.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[87823, 87827]

**without a shadow of a doubt** and **beyond the**

**shadow of a doubt** without the smallest amount of

doubt. \_*I am certain that I am right, without a shadow of*

*a doubt.* \_ *I felt the man was guilty beyond the shadow of*

*a doubt.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[87875, 87877]

**wobble about** and **wobble around** to rock, quiver, or

flounder around. \_ *The little baby wobbled about and*

*finally fell.* \_*The vase wobbled around a little and fell over.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[87921, 87930]

**Wonders never cease!** and **Will wonders never**

**cease!** *Prov.* What an amazing thing has happened! (Said

when something very surprising happens. Somewhat

ironic; can imply that the surprising thing should have

happened before, but did not.) \_*Fred: Hi, honey. I cleaned*

*the kitchen for you. Ellen: Wonders never cease!* \_ *Jill: Did*

*you hear? The company is allowing us to take a holiday*

*tomorrow. Jane: Wonders never cease!* \_ *Not only was my*

*plane on time, the airline also delivered my luggage safely.*

*Will wonders never cease?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[87970, 87978]

A **word to the wise (is enough).** and A **word to the**

**wise is sufficient.** *Prov.* You only have to hint something

to wise people in order to get them to understand

it.; Wise people do not need long explanations. (Often

used to signal that you are hinting something.) \_*John’s a*

*pleasant man, but I wouldn’t trust him with money. A word*

*to the wise, eh?* \_*Donna hinted about Lisa’s drinking problem*

*to Lisa’s fiancé, hoping that a word to the wise would*

*be enough.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[87983, 87985]

**words to live by** and **thoughts to live by** useful philosophical

or spiritual expressions. \_ *Thank you for your*

*expression of gratitude. You gave us words to live by.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[88042, 88047]

**work like a beaver** and **work like a mule; work like**

**a horse; work like a slave** *Fig.* to work very hard. \_

*She has an important deadline coming up, so she’s been*

*working like a beaver.* \_*You need a vacation. You work like*

*a slave in that kitchen.* \_ *I’m too old to work like a horse.*

*I’d prefer to relax more.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[88072, 88076]

**work** one’s **tail off** and **work** one’s **buns off; work** one’s

**ass off; work** one’s **butt off** *Inf. Fig.* to work very hard.

(Use caution with *butt*.) \_*I worked my tail off to get done*

*on time.* \_*You spend half your life working your butt off—*

*and for what?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[88152, 88155]

**work some fat off†** and **work some weight off†** to

get rid of body fat by doing strenuous work. \_ *I was able*

*to work a lot of weight off by jogging.* \_ *I need to work off*

*some fat.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[88157, 88165]

**work** someone or something **into** something and **work** someone

or something **in† 1.** to manage to fit someone or something

into something physically. \_ *The magician worked*

*the lady into the tiny cabinet from which she was to disappear.*

\_ *The magician opened the little box and worked in*

*the lady and two small dogs.* **2.** to fit someone or something

into a sequence or series. \_*I don’t have an appointment*

*open this afternoon, but I’ll see if I can work you into*

*the sequence.* \_ *I can’t work in all of you.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[88200, 88203]

**work** something **into** something and **work** something **in†** to

press, mix, or force a substance into something. \_ *You*

*should work the butter into the dough carefully.* \_ *Work in*

*the butter carefully.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[88211, 88214]

**work** something **out of** something and **work** something **out†**

to manipulate something to get it out of something. \_*You*

*have to work the bubbles out of the paint before you use it.*

\_ *You have to stir the batter to work out the lumps.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[88301, 88305]

**\*worked up (over** something**)** and **\*worked up (about**

something**)** excited and agitated about something. (\*Typically:

**be ~; get ~; get** oneself **~**.) \_*Tom is all worked*

*up over the tax increase.* \_ *Don’t get so worked up about*

*something that you can’t do anything about.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[88436, 88440]

**would not be seen dead (**doing something**)** and **would**

**not be caught dead (**doing something**)** would not do

something under any circumstances. \_*I wouldn’t be seen*

*dead going out with Bruno!* \_*Martha would not be caught*

*dead going into a place like that.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[88595, 88599]

**wrench** something **off (of )** someone or something and

**wrench** something **off†** to yank or twist something off

someone or something. (*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.)

\_ *He wrenched the shoes off the sleeping man and*

*ran away.* \_ *He wrenched off the catsup bottle cap.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[88610, 88613]

**wrest** something **off (of )** something and **wrest** something

**off†** to struggle to get something off something. (*Of* is

usually retained before pronouns.) \_*Somehow he wrested*

*the hubcap off the wheel.* \_ *He wrested off the hubcap.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[88646, 88650]

**wring** something **from** something and **wring** something **out**

**of** something to remove liquid from something by squeezing

or twisting. \_ *She wrung the water from the cloth and*

*wiped up the rest of the spill.* \_ *Alice wrung the water out*

*of the washcloth.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[88764, 88771]

**write** something **into** something and **write** something **in†**

**1.** to write information into something. \_*I wrote her telephone*

*number into my notebook.* \_ *I wrote in her number.*

\_ *I took out my notebook and wrote it in.* **2.** to include a

specific statement or provision in a document, such as a

contract or agreement. \_ *I want you to write a stronger*

*security clause into my contract.* \_*I will write in a stronger*

*clause.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[88908, 88911]

**yank** someone or something **into** something and **yank** someone

or something**†** to jerk or pull someone or something into

something. \_*Mary yanked Sally into the car and sped off.*

\_ *She yanked in the anchor rope and we rowed away.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[88912, 88916]

**yank** someone or something **off (of )** something and **yank**

someone or something **off†** to jerk someone or something

off something. (*Of* is usually retained before pronouns.)

\_*She yanked the coffeepot off the counter and ran upstairs.*

\_ *She yanked off the box lid.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[88917, 88921]

**yank** someone or something **out of** something and **yank**

someone or something **out†** to pull or jerk someone or

something out of something. \_ *Sam yanked the turnips*

*out of the ground one by one.* \_ *He yanked out the best of*

*the young carrots from the rich soil.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[88961, 88966]

**yell** one’s **head off** and **yell** one’s **guts out 1.** *Fig.* to yell

loud and long. \_ *I was yelling my head off at the football*

*game.* \_ *Stop yelling your guts out and listen to me.* **2.** *Fig.*

to complain bitterly and loudly. \_*Some lady is yelling her*

*head off about shoddy workmanship out in the lobby.* \_ *I*

*yell my guts out about bad service when I get bad service!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[89047, 89053]

**You and who else?** and **You and what army?** *Inf.* a

phrase that responds to a threat by implying that the threat

is a weak one. \_ *Bill: I’m going to punch you in the nose!*

*Bob: Yeah? You and who else?* \_ *Tom: Our team is going to*

*slaughter your team. Bill: You and what army?* \_*Bill: If you*

*don’t stop doing that, I’m going to hit you. Tom: You and*

*who else?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[89066, 89068]

**You are welcome.** and **You’re welcome.** a polite

response to *Thank you.* \_ *“Thank you for helping me.”*

*“You’re welcome.”* \_*“Thank you very much!” “You are welcome!”*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[89090, 89095]

**You bet your (sweet) life!** and **You bet your boots!;**

**You bet your life!; You bet your (sweet) bippy.**

*Inf. Fig.* You can be absolutely certain of something! \_

*Mary: Will I need a coat today? Bill: You bet your sweet life!*

*It’s colder than an iceberg out there.* \_ *Bill: Will you be at*

*the game Saturday? Tom: You bet your boots!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[89128, 89131]

**You can say that again!** and **You said it!** *Inf.* That is

true.; You are correct. (The word *that* is emphasized.) \_

*Mary: It sure is hot today. Jane: You can say that again!* \_

*Bill: This cake is yummy! Bob: You said it!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[89138, 89146]

**You cannot get blood from a stone.** and **You cannot**

**get blood from a turnip.** *Prov.* You cannot get

help from an uncharitable person or money from someone

who has none. \_*Jerry and James spent two hours trying*

*to convince the old miser to contribute to the children’s*

*hospital; finally, James turned to Jerry and said in disgust,*

*“This is hopeless. We can’t get blood from a stone.”* \_ *The*

*government can’t increase taxes any further—nobody has*

*the money! You can’t get blood from a turnip.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[89210, 89217]

**(You) can’t beat that.** and **(You) can’t top that.** *Inf.*

No one can do better than that. (This *you* represents both

personal and impersonal antecedents. That is, it means

second person singular or plural, and *anyone*.) \_ *Mary:*

*Wow! Look at the size of that lobster! It looks yummy! Bill:*

*Yeah. You can’t beat that. I wonder what it’s going to cost.*

\_ *“What a view! Nothing like it anywhere! You can’t top*

*this!” said Jeff, admiring his room’s ocean view.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[89218, 89223]

**You can’t expect me to believe that.** and **You don’t**

**expect me to believe that.** That is so outrageous that

no one could believe it. \_ *Bill: My father is running for*

*president. Bob: You can’t expect me to believe that.* \_ *Jane:*

*Everyone in our family has one extra toe. Mary: You don’t*

*expect me to believe that!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[89250, 89257]

**(You) can’t win them all.** and **(You) can’t win ’em**

**all.** *Inf.* a catch phrase said when someone, including the

speaker, has lost in a contest or failed at something. (The

*you* is impersonal, meaning *one, anyone.* The apostrophe

on *’em* is not always used.) \_ *Mary: Gee, I came in last*

*again! Jane: Oh, well. You can’t win them all.* \_*“Can’t win*

*’em all,” muttered Alice as she left the boss’s office with nothing*

*accomplished.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[89275, 89279]

**You couldn’t (do that)!** and **You wouldn’t (do that)!**

an indication of disbelief that someone might do something.

\_ *Bill: I’m going to run away from home! Jane: You*

*couldn’t!* \_ *Bill: I get so mad at my brother, I could just*

*strangle him. Tom: You couldn’t do that!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[89332, 89336]

**You got to do what you got to do.** and **A man’s**

**gotta do what a man’s gotta do.** One has to do

whatever it is that one feels obliged to do. \_ *I know I*

*wouldn’t ever agree to that kind of thing, but you got to do*

*what you got to do.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[89356, 89361]

**You (just) wait (and see)!** and **Just (you) wait (and**

**see)!** *Inf.*Wait and see what will happen.; If you wait, you

will see that what I predict will be true. \_ *John: You’ll get*

*what you deserve! Just you wait! Jane: Mind your own business.*

\_ *Bill: Things will get better. You just wait and see!*

*Sue: Sure, but when?*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[89430, 89437]

**You scared the hell out of me.** and **You scared the**

**crap out of me.; You scared the dickens out of**

**me.; You scared the devil out of me.; You scared**

**me out of my wits.; You scared the pants off (of )**

**me.** You frightened me very badly. (Also with subjects

other than second person. *Of* is usually retained before

pronouns.) \_*He scared the hell out of all of us.* \_*She really*

*scared the pants off of me.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[89463, 89470]

**You win some, you lose some.** and **You win a few,**

**you lose a few.** *Prov. Cliché* You cannot always succeed.

(You can say this when you have not succeeded, to show

that you are not discouraged.) \_ *Jill: I was sorry to hear*

*that you didn’t win your court case. Jane: Well, you win*

*some, you lose some.* \_ *Bill: I thought it was terrible that*

*you didn’t get a prize in the art contest. Bob: You win a few,*

*you lose a few.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[89494, 89499]

**You’ll get onto it.** and **You’ll get into it.** *Inf.* Don’t

worry. You will become more comfortable with this situation

soon.; You will catch the spirit of the situation soon.

\_ *Bill: I just can’t seem to do this right. Bob: You’ll get into*

*it.* \_*Mary: How long does it take to learn to work this computer?*

*Jane: Don’t fret. You’ll get onto it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[89559, 89566]

**You’re out of your mind!** and **You’ve got to be out**

**of your mind!** *Inf.* You must be crazy for saying or doing

that! (Said to someone who has said or done something

silly or stupid.) \_ *Andy: Go to the Amazon? You’re out of*

*your mind! Jane: Maybe so, but doesn’t it sound like fun?* \_

*Mary: Come on, Jane. Let’s go swimming in the river. Jane:*

*Look at that filthy water. Swim in it? You’ve got to be out of*

*your mind!*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[89656, 89659]

**Zip (up) your lip!** and **Zip it up!** *Inf.* Be quiet!; Close your

mouth and be quiet! \_ *“I’ve heard enough. Zip your lip!”*

*hollered the coach.* \_*Andy: All right, you guys. Shut up! Zip*

*it up! Bob: Sorry. Andy: That’s better.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[89679, 89683]

**zonked (out)** and **zounked (out) 1.** *Sl.* drug intoxicated.

\_ *She’s too zonked to drive.* \_ *Jed was almost*

*zounked out to unconsciousness.* **2.** *Sl.* exhausted; asleep.

\_ *She was totally zonked out by the time I got home.* \_ *I*

*feel zounked. Good night.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[90030, 90033]

**come around (to visit)** and **come around (for**

**a visit)** to pay a casual visit to someone. \_*Why don’t you*

*come around to visit next week?* \_ *Why don’t you come*

*around for a visit? You are welcome any time.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[90042, 90049]

**crash down (around** someone or something**)** and **crash**

**down (about** someone or something**) 1.** *Lit.* [for something] to collapse

on someone or something. \_ *The walls crashed in around*

*the burning house.* \_*The branches of the tree crashed down*

*on the roof.* \_ *The old barn crashed down.* **2.** *Fig.* [for the

structure and stability of one’s life] to fall apart. \_ *Her*

*whole life crashed down around her.* \_ *Everything he was*

*familiar with crashed down about him.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[90147, 90151]

**do a dump on** someone or something; **dump all over**

someone or something *Sl.* to criticize someone or something;

to destroy someone or something. \_ *There is no need to*

*do a dump on me. I didn’t wreck your car.* \_ *The boss—*

*mad as a wet hen—dumped all over me.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[90382, 90388]

**hang by a hair** and **hang by a thread 1.** *Lit.* to hang

by something very thin, such as a thread or a hair. \_ *The*

*tiniest part of the mobile hung by a thread, the rest are on*

*plastic cords.* **2.** *Fig.* to depend on something very insubstantial;

to hang in the balance. \_ *Your whole argument is*

*hanging by a thread.* \_ *John isn’t failing geometry, but his*

*passing grade is just hanging by a hair.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[90420, 90425]

**hold** something **in†** and **keep** something **in† 1.** *Fig.* to keep one’s emotions inside oneself.

\_ *You really shouldn’t hold those feelings inside of you.* \_

*I have kept all this inside myself too long.* \_ *You shouldn’t*

*hold in all that anger.* **2.** *Lit.* to hold in one’s stomach, gut,

belly, etc. \_*Hold your belly in so you don’t look like a blimp.*

\_ *Hold in your stomach.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[90426, 90431]

**hold**

something **inside ((of )** one(self)); **keep** something **inside**

**((of )** one(self)) *Fig.* to keep one’s emotions inside oneself.

\_ *You really shouldn’t hold those feelings inside of you.* \_

*I have kept all this inside myself too long.* \_ *You shouldn’t*

*hold in all that anger.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[90712, 90718]

**look down**

one’s **nose at** someone or something; **look down on**

someone or something to view someone or something as

lowly or unworthy. \_ *She looked down at all the waiters*

*and treated them badly.* \_ *They looked down on our humble*

*food.* \_*Don’t look down your nose at my car just because*

*it’s rusty and noisy.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[90725, 90728]

**check into** something; **see into**

something *Fig.* to investigate something. \_*I’ll have to look*

*into that matter.* \_ *The police checked into her story.* \_

*Don’t worry about your problem. I’ll see into it.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[90729, 90736]

**lose** one’s **hold on** someone or something and **lose** one’s

**grip on** someone or something **1.** *Lit.* to fail to keep one’s

handhold on someone or something. \_ *I lost my hold on*

*the child, and she nearly slipped away.* \_ *She lost her grip*

*on the bag of jewels and it fell overboard.* **2.** *Fig.* to give up control

over someone or something. \_ *The manager lost her hold*

*on her employees and was fired.* \_*Fred is losing his grip on*

*his workers.* \_ *He is losing his hold over his empire.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[90830, 90835]

**\*over** someone; **\*above**

someone *Fig.* to an authority higher than someone. (\*Typically:

**be ~; go ~**.) \_ *I don’t want to have to go over*

*your head, but I will if necessary.* \_ *I had to go over Fran*

*to get it done.* \_ *My boss wouldn’t listen to my complaint,*

*so I went above her.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[90856, 90866]

**\*plain as day** and **\*plain as a pikestaff 1.** *Cliché* very

plain and simple. (\*Also: **as ~**.) \_ *Although his face was*

*as plain as day, his smile made him look interesting and*

*friendly.* \_*Fred: I have a suspicion that Marcia is upset with*

*me. Alan: A suspicion? Come on, Fred, that’s been plain as*

*a pikestaff for quite some time!* **2.** *Cliché* clear and understandable. (\*Also:

**as ~**.) \_ *The lecture was as plain as day. No one had to*

*ask questions.* \_*Jane: I don’t understand why Professor Potter*

*has been so friendly this week. Alan: It’s plain as the nose*

*on your face. He wants to be nominated for Professor of the*

*Year.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[90924, 90930]

**dash cold water on** something; **throw**

**cold water on** something *Fig.* to discourage doing something;

to reduce enthusiasm for something. (Alludes to

cooling passion with cold water.) \_ *When my father said*

*I couldn’t have the car, he poured cold water on my plans.*

\_*John threw cold water on the whole project by refusing to*

*participate.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[91206, 91212]

**tune in (on** someone or something**)** and **tune in (to** someone

or something**) 1.** *Lit.* to adjust a radio or television set

to receive a broadcast of someone or something. \_ *Let’s*

*tune in on the late news.* \_ *I don’t want to tune in tonight.*

**2.** *Fig.* to pay attention to

someone or something. \_*I just can’t tune in on these professors.*

\_ *I listen and I try, but I just can’t tune in.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[91282, 91290]

**watch out for** someone or something and **look out for**

someone or something **1.** to be on guard for someone or

something; to be on watch for the arrival or approach of

someone or something. \_*Watch out for someone wearing*

*a white carnation.* \_ *Look out for John and his friends.*

*They’ll be coming this way very soon.* **2.** *Fig.* to try to avoid a confrontation with

someone or something. \_ *Watch out! That car nearly hit*

*you!* \_*Look out for John. He’s looking for you, and he’s really*

*mad.* \_ *Thanks. I’d better look out.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

[91296, 91305]

**work** oneself **(up) into a lather** and **work** oneself **(up)**

**into a sweat 1.** *Lit.* to work

very hard and sweat very much. (In the way that a horse

works up a lather.) \_ *Don’t work yourself up into a lather.*

*We don’t need to finish this today.* \_ *I worked myself into*

*a sweat getting this stuff ready.* **2.** *Fig.* to get excited or

angry. (An elaboration of work oneself up to something.)

\_ *Now, now, don’t work yourself up into a lather.*

\_*He had worked himself into such a sweat, I was afraid he*

*would have a stroke.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*