

Phrases and Idioms

A bed of roses

Full of joy and pleasures

A big shot

An important person

A blessing in disguise

Good outcome from evil situation

A blind alley

A job which has no prospects

A bone of contention

A cause of quarrel

A bosom friend

An intimate, trusted friend

A burning question

A problem requiring immediate solution

A chicken hearted man

A cowardly person

A child's play

An easy thing

A cock and bull story

An imaginary story which is foolish and unbelievable

A cold blood murder

A murder without any provocation

A commanding presence

An impressive appearance in person

A commending view

A view from the hill top or a commanding position

A cool head To keep one's cool without getting excited

A dark horse A man of hidden abilities

A drawn game In which no side wins

A fair weather friend A selfish friend

A fish of hot water Out of place

A fool's paradise A state of happiness based on false hopes

A hen pecked husband Under the thumb of his wife

A maiden speech A speech made made for the first time

A red letter day An important day

A rolling stone One who goes on changing his place or job

A slip of tongue A mistake in talk

A to Z Thoroughly

A turning point An important happening

Above board

Open, straight

Add fuel to the fire

Make a bad situation worse

All in all

All powerful

An armchair job

A regular job which is considered easy and well paid

Apple of discord

Cause of quarrel

Apple of one's eye

Favorite

At a snail's pace

Very slow

At a stretch

Continuously

At all costs

At any risk

At arm's length

At a distance

At daggers drawn

Enemies

At home

Comfortable

At length

At last

At sea

Confused

At stake

In danger

At the eleventh hour

Last moment

At the mercy of

Dependent on

At the risk of

Risking one's own life

At the zenith

At the top

Bad blood

Enmity

Be-all and end-all

Everything

Behind the scene

Not in public

Beside the mark

Irrelevant

Black sheep

A bad person

Blue blood

Nobility of blood

By the way

In passing

By virtue of

On account of

Catch someone red-handed

Find someone in the very act of wrong doing

Caught my eye

Been noticed

Caught napping

Unawares

Cold comfort

Poor consolation

Cold feet

To be afraid of doing something which is either full of danger or needs courage

Cold shoulder

To ignore somebody, to treat some one in a hostile manner

Cut out for

Most suitable for

Don't hold back

Not to give, keep back

Eye for an eye

Revenge

Far and hear

All places

Fed up

Sick of

Feel and pulse

Guess the attitude

Fool's paradise

Impossible world

French leave

Leave without permission

Get along	To be compatible with some one
Get rid of	Be free
Get the sack	To be dismissed from service
Get up	To stand up, to wake up
Give in	Yield
Give up	Renounce
Give vent to	Express
Good for nothing	Worthless
Hat trick	To achieve three victories one after the other
Hold back	To delay the progress of something
Hold good	Be valid
Hold on unpleasantness	Continue doing something without caring about its toughness or
Hold water	prove true

Hold your tongue

Keep quiet

In at ease

Uneasy

In a fix

Confusion

In a nut shell

Briefly

In an instant

Very quickly

In the twinkling of an eye

Very quickly

In vogue

In fashion

Jack of all trades

A person knowing something of everything

Look down upon

Hate

Lose heart

Feel discouraged

Make room

Leave in favour of

Make the best of a bad bargain

To gain something from a losing proposition

Man of all seasons

An honest cultured person who is at home everywhere

Mincing matters

To observe the right manner in one's behaviour

Miss the boat	To miss the opportunity
Narrow escape	To be saved narrowly
On the verge of	On the point of
Null and void	Cancelled
On account of	Because of
On the eve of	Occasion, at the time of
Once and for all	Finally
Out of order	Not in working condition
Passing the buck	Shift responsibility
Pay back in the same coin	Treat as other treat
Playing truant	To be absent without permission
Playing a second fiddle	Act as a subordinate
Poisoning her ears	Speaking ill of

Rags of riches	Going from poverty to wealth
Rat race	Stiff competition
Red tape	Bureaucratic hurdles
Road block	Hurdle
Root of the matter	Deep-seated truth
Run riot	Run without restraint
save their face	Avoid disgrace
Sleeping partner	Not playing an active role
Spin a yarn	To tell a story
Storm in a teacup	Great fuss about a small thing
Straight from the horse's mouth	Totally reliable information directly d from the original source
Sum and substance	Gist
Take the bull by horns	Face a problem boldly
To be in the good/bad books of	To be in favour/disfavour with

To break the ice

To break silence

To bring to the book

To punish

To bring to light

To expose

To call a spade a spade

Speak plainly and directly

To call names

To abuse

To carry a day

To win a victory

To cut a sorry figure

To feel ashamed

To dance to one's tune

To do according to the wishes of others

To end in smoke

To fail

To fall short of

Not to come up to expectation

To give a slip

To escape

To give away

To distribute

To hope against hope

Hoping when there is no hope

To keep abreast of

To know

To keep an eye

Have a watch

To keep the ball rolling

To maintain the interest in talk

To keep up appearance

To keep a false show

To make amends for

To compensate

To make up one's mind

To be determined

To nip in the bud

To destroy in the very beginning

To read between the lines

To read carefully

To see eye to eye

To agree

To split hair

To go into minute details

To take to task

To scold

To turn the table

To reserve the situation

To vie with

To compete

To wash one's dirty linen in public

To settle one's disputes in public

To worship the rising sun

To flatter the man in power

Toe the line

To follow what others are doing

Trump card

The best move

Under a cloud

Suspicion

Under lock and key

carefully

Underdog

The poor, Inferior, weak

Up and doing

Active

Uphill task

A difficult job

Ups and downs

Good and bad time

Upto the mark

Satisfactory

Via-media

Middle course

Wash one's hands off

Refuse to have anything to do

Wide of the mark

Irrelevant