

Idiom	Meaning	Example
a babe in arms	a baby, a child who is still wet behind the ears	Dar was just a babe in arms when we emigrated to Canada.
a babe in the woods	a defenseless person; a naive, young person	He's just a babe in the woods. He needs someone to protect him.
a bad taste in my mouth	a feeling that something is false or unfair, a feeling of ill will	I left the meeting with a bad taste in my mouth. There was a lot of dishonesty in the room.
a bad time	a lot of teasing, a rough time	The class gave him a bad time about his pink shorts.
a ball-park figure	a number that is near the total; approximate figure	Fifty is a ball-park figure. It's close to our class size.
a bar fly	a person who often goes to bars or lounges	Every evening Penny goes to <i>Lucifer's</i> . She's quite a bar fly.
a bar star	a girl who goes to bars to drink and find friends	Lola was known as a bar star at <i>Pinky's Lounge</i> .
a bare-faced lie	a deliberate lie, a planned lie	His statement to the police was false - a bare-faced lie.
a barnburner	an exciting game, a cliff-hanger	When the Flames play the Oilers it's a barnburner - a great game.
a barrel of laughs	a lot of fun, a person who makes you laugh	Let's invite Chang to our party. He's a barrel of laughs.
a basket case	a person who is very nervous, in bad shape	If Gloria has one more crisis, she'll be a basket case.
a bawling out	a scolding, a lecture, an earful , catch it	When I forgot to do my chores Dad gave me a bawling out.
a bed of roses	an easy life, a pleasant place to work or stay	Who said that retirement is a bed of roses?
a bee in her bonnet	upset, a bit angry, on edge	Aunt Betsy was kind of cranky, like she had a bee in her bonnet.
a beehive of activity	a busy place, a room full of working people	The kids are making crafts. It's a beehive of activity in there!
a big rig	a big truck, a semi-trailer truck	Do you have a driver's license? Have you ever driven a big rig?
a big shot	an important person, a boss, a big wheel	On payday he spends money like a big shot, buying drinks for all.
a big wheel	a person with power, a big shot	Bing has been acting like a big wheel since he got promoted.
a big wig	an important person, a president etc., VIP	Barry is a big wig in Gulf Oil - a vice president or something.
a bimbo	a foolish girl, an airhead	Don't call any girl a bimbo, please.
a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush	having one is better than seeing many	When searching for a better job, remember A bird in the hand... .
a bit at sea	a bit unsure, uncertain	He seems a bit at sea since his brother died. They were close.
a bit dense	(See dense)	
a bit off/a bit mental	not rational, unbalanced, one brick short	Kate talks to the birds. Do you think she's a bit off?

a bitch [B]	a complaining woman, a woman who nags	What a bitch! She complains to us and criticizes her kids.
a bite to eat	a lunch, a snack	We can grab a bite to eat at the arena. They sell snacks there.
a bitter pill	a negative event, a loss, a painful experience	Divorce is a bitter pill for her. She believed in her marriage.
a black mark	a mark beside your name means you are bad	If you cause an accident, you get a black mark beside your name.
a blackout (TV)	refusal to broadcast an event during that event	A blackout is intended to encourage fans to attend an event.
a blackout (war)	a policy that requires lights to be turned off	Blackouts prevented bombers from seeing their targets at night.
a blank look	eyes show that a person does not understand, the lights are on but...	When I called her name, she gave me a blank look, as though she didn't know me.
a blast	a great time, a lot of fun	The students were having a blast until the teacher walked in.
a blessing in disguise	a problem that becomes a benefit or advantage	The rainstorm was a blessing in disguise. It stopped the fire.
a blow job [B]	giving oral sex to a man, fellatio	If you want a blow job, you'll have to shower first.
a blowout	to win by a large score, no contest	"Did the Flames win?" "Ya, 11-2. It was a blowout."
a blowout	a flat tire, a tire that breaks suddenly	We were late because our van had a blowout on the freeway.
a bone to pick	something to argue about, a matter to discuss	Joe sounded angry when he said, "I have a bone to pick with you."
a breath of fresh air	a nice change, a new presence	Having Lan around the house is a breath of fresh air - she's so nice.
a breath of wind	a breeze, a light wind	In the evening, the lake was calm. There wasn't a breath of wind.
a brick	a dependable person, a friend who always helps	Parveen helped me get through my divorce. She's a real brick!
a brick short	(See one brick short of a full load)	
a budding genius	a child who appears to be very intelligent	The newspaper described Pam as "a budding genius" on the violin.
a bull in a china shop	a big, reckless person in a room full of fragile things; cramp your style	Imagine a 300-pound football player at a tea party, and you have a bull in a china shop.
a bum rap	unfair blame, unjust sentence, take the rap	It was a bum rap. Eddie didn't steal those paintings.
a bummer	an unfortunate event, bad luck, too bad	"Somebody broke a window in his car and stole his stereo." "That's a bummer."
a bun in the oven	pregnant, expecting a baby	Mabel has a bun in the oven. The baby's due in April.
a bunch of malarkey	an untrue story, a lot of bunk , bull	"Do you believe what the psychic said about your future?" "No. It's a bunch of malarkey."
a bundle of nerves	a very nervous person; uptight person	May has so many problems - she's just a bundle of nerves.
a card	(See such a card)	
a case of	an example of, it's a case of	Look at Bosnia. That's a case of ethnic civil war.

a caution	a bold or shocking person, no shrinking violet	She is a caution! She told the judge he was all wrong.
a cheap drunk	a person who gets drunk on one or two drinks	Jo admits she's a cheap drunk. Her limit is two drinks.
a checkup	a doctor's examination, a medical examination	If you aren't feeling well, go to the doctor for a checkup.
a chicken in every pot	enough food for every family	No one will be hungry if there's a chicken in every pot.
a chin wag	a conversation, a visit	The grandmothers were talking happily - having a chin wag.
a chip off the old block	a boy who is like his dad, the apple doesn't...	Eric is a chip off the old block. He's just like his dad.
a chunk of change	a large amount of money, a few grand , big bucks	I bet that condo cost him a chunk o' change - 300 grand at least.
a clean bill of health	a good report from the doctor, a good checkup	You'll never get a clean bill of health if you eat fat meat!
a cliff-hanger	a game that is close until the end, a barnburner	Every election in this town is a real cliff-hanger - a close race.
a close call	close to danger or an accident	That was a close call. The train nearly hit the bus!
a close shave	very close to serious injury or death	The old man described his fight with the bear as a close shave.
a clutch hitter (baseball)	a batter who hits when runners are on base	Joe's a clutch hitter. He's batting .431 with runners on base.
a common thread	an idea or theme that is similar to others	There's a common thread in most of Berton's stories.
a contract out on	a contract that pays to have someone killed	There's a contract out on Mike. The boss doesn't like him.
a coon's age	many years, a dog's age	We haven't been out to the coast in a coon's age. It's been years.
a crash course	a short course that has the main facts and skills	He took a crash course in cooking and bought a cafe.
a crush on	sudden feeling of love or romance	Judy has a crush on Tim. See the way she looks at him.
a crying shame	a sad event, it is too bad	It's a crying shame that they didn't have fire insurance.
a cut above	superior, better	A scholar's work is a cut above. It's superior to the others.
a cut-up	a joker, a person who tells jokes and has fun	When Marsha goes to a party she's a real cut-up - a lot of fun.
a daredevil	a daring person, bodacious , take a chance	What a daredevil! She jumped across a ten-foot chasm!
a dead giveaway	a clear signal, an obvious sign	The smile on her face was a dead giveaway that she got the job.
a dead heat	a race that finishes in a tie for first, dead even	A photograph of the finish line proved that it was a dead heat.
a dead loss	a complete loss, a write-off (see write it off)	The spoiled meat was a dead loss. We couldn't eat any of it.
a dead ringer	a very close likeness, like a twin	Chad is a dead ringer for Mel Gibson. They look like twins.

a dickens of a time	a difficult task, a task with problems, a hell of a time	After the car slid in the ditch we had a dickens of a time getting it back on the road.
a different kettle of fish	different, not the same	A cult is not a religion. A cult is a different kettle of fish entirely.
a dildo [B]	a manufactured penis, a vibrator shaped like a penis	"When Ed's away I use a dildo."
"Oh. That's interesting."		
a dime a dozen	very cheap, low priced, dirt cheap	He can remember when eggs were cheap - a dime a dozen.
a dog's age	a long time, 10-15 years, a coon's age	Mel! I haven't seen you for a dog's age - at least ten years!
a dog's breakfast	a mixture of many things, a hodgepodge	This book is a dog's breakfast. It contains a bit of everything.
a dog's life	a poor life, hard times	Without a job, it's a dog's life.
a doggy bag	a bag or container for food you don't eat at the restaurant or café	If we can't eat all the lobster, ask for a doggy bag and we'll take it home. We can have it for lunch tomorrow.
a double-edged sword	a device that can help you and hurt you	Truth is a double-edged sword. It can imprison me or set me free.
a downer (drug)	a drug that relaxes you, a sedative	Before bedtime he took a downer to help him relax and sleep.
a downer (sadness)	an event or statement that causes sadness	News of the war was a downer. Most of the people dreaded war.
a drag	a boring time, a yawner	Mary's party was a drag. We just sat around and talked.
a dressing down	a scolding, a lecture, a piece of my mind	Mother gave me a dressing down when I said bad words.
a drop in the bucket	a small part, a tiny piece, the tip of the iceberg	This donation is only a drop in the bucket, but it is appreciated.
a duke's mixture	an odd combination of things, a strange mixture of items, a dog's breakfast , Fibber McGee's closet	When Lynn opened the lid of the box she found a duke's mixture - everything from jewelry to birdseed!
a dust-up	a fight, a skirmish; set-to	The boys argued and had a little dust-up, but no one got hurt.
a fair shake	a fair deal, a just settlement	The insurance company gave us a fair shake - paid all our damages.
a falling out	a disagreement, a break in friendship	Guy and Jean had a falling out. They argued about religion.
a false move	a wrong move, a threatening action	A man with a gun said, "If you make a false move, you're dead."
a far cry	not similar, very different	This is good sherry, but it's a far cry from the amontillado.
a faraway look	the eyes show thoughts of a distant place or friend	When I mention horses, you get a faraway look in your eyes.
a fart in a windstorm	an act that has no effect, an unimportant event	A letter to the editor of a paper is like a fart in a windstorm.
a fat lip	a hit on the lip, an injured lip	Stop bothering her or I'll give you a fat lip. I'll hit you.
a feather in your cap	an honor, a credit to you, chalk one up for	Because you are Karen's teacher, her award is a feather in your cap.

	you	
a few bricks short of a full load	not sensible or logical, not all there	When Moe began eating bugs, we knew he was a few bricks short.
a fifth wheel	a useless object, an unnecessary device	The team already had two guards, so I felt like a fifth wheel.
a fighting chance	a fair chance, a good chance	If I can get a job interview, I'll have a fighting chance.
a fill-up	a full tank of gasoline, fill her up	We got a fill-up before we left Winnipeg. The truck needed gas.
a fine line	a close relationship, not much difference	Sometimes there is a fine line between love and lust.
a fine-toothed comb	a careful search, a search for a detail	She read the file carefully - went over it with a fine-toothed comb.
a firm hand	a person who will discipline people	The students in Grade 8 need a teacher with a firm hand.
a flash in the pan	a person who does superior work at first	I'm looking for a steady worker, not a flash in the pan.
a fleeting glance	a very brief look, a quick glance	A fleeting glance from Marilyn would make his heart beat wildly.
a fly on the wall	able to hear and see what a fly would see and hear	I'd like to be a fly on the wall in the Judge's chambers.
a fool and his money are soon parted	a fool will spend all his money quickly; easy come, easy go	After he had spent his fortune, he remembered this saying: A fool and his money are soon parted.
a foregone conclusion	a certain conclusion, a predictable result	That he'll graduate is a foregone conclusion. He is a good student.
a free-for-all	a fight without rules, Donnybrook	There was a free-for-all after the dance, and Brendan got hurt.
a free hand	complete authority, freedom to control	The President gave Ms. Drake a free hand in choosing the colors.
a freeze on	a stoppage; a decision to stop spending, hiring etc.	Right now there's a freeze on hiring at the plant - no hiring.
a fresh pair of eyes	a different reader, one who has not seen the writing	A fresh pair of eyes may find many errors in this report.
a fresh start	starting again, a new life	In Canada, you will have a fresh start. You can begin a new life.
a full house (cards)	a pair plus three of a kind, e.g., 2 kings and 3 aces	In our last game of poker, you dealt me a full house.
a full plate	a busy schedule, a lot to do	Nancy has a full plate these days. She has two jobs and three kids.
a gaggle of geese	a flock of geese, a bunch of geese	A gaggle of geese met us as we drove into the farmyard.
a game one	a willing player, a rough and ready person	I can see that Bev's a game one. She plays hard and doesn't quit.
a ghost of a chance	a poor chance, not likely to happen	That car doesn't have a ghost of a chance. It's too slow!
a glow on	slightly drunk, tipsy , catch a buzz	When Myrna gets a glow on, she likes to dance real close.
a go	(See it's a go)	
a go-getter	an aggressive employee, a hard worker, gung ho	What a go-getter! He finished the course a month before the others.
a going concern,	a busy person, an active enterprise, going great guns	At three years of age she was a going concern - into everything!
a golden opportunity	a good chance to succeed, a good investment	The Royal Hotel is for sale. What a golden opportunity!

a goner	something that is lost or beyond help	I thought he was a goner, but the cat came back. He's home.
a good arm	the ability to throw a baseball or football	Doug is short, but he has a good arm. He's an excellent passer.
a good egg	a good-natured person, a good head	Everybody likes Marsha. She's a good egg.
a good head	friendly, generous person; a good egg	Sean is a good head. He'll help at the food bank.
a good sport	a person who is fair and friendly	What a good sport! You never complain, even when you lose.
a grain of salt	(See take it with a grain of salt)	
a grain of truth	a bit of truth, take it with a grain...	There's not a grain of truth in what Brian says. It's all untrue.
a handful	a child who is difficult to manage	Jason is not easy to manage. He is a real handful for his mother.
a handout	free food or money, freeload	I'm not asking for a handout. I'll pay you back when I find work.
a hard day	a day full of hard work, put in a hard day	You look tired, Dear. Did you have a hard day at the office?
a hard-on [B]	an erect penis, a hard penis	When our dog gets a hard-on, he tries to crawl up my leg.
a hard row to hoe	a difficult task, many problems	A single parent has a hard row to hoe, working day and night.
a hard time	teasing or bugging, a bad time	Ken will give you a hard time about missing that free throw.
a hassle	a problem, a bother	The tax form is a hassle this year. It's difficult to understand.
a head start	a chance to start ahead of the other runners etc.	Give the smallest runner a head start. He can't run very fast.
a heavy day	a busy day, a hard day	At the end of a heavy day he likes to sit on the patio and read.
a heavy hitter	a person who can hurt you, a heavyweight	Al is a heavy hitter. Don't try to cheat him.
a heavyweight	a person with a lot of power, a heavy hitter , a shogun , VIP	If you're promoted to vice-president, you'll be a heavyweight - a powerful person!
a hell of a time	a difficult task, an awful time, a dickens of a time	When he's drunk I have a hell of a time getting his car keys. He doesn't want to give me his keys.
a hell of a time	a great time, a wonderful event, a blast	"How was the party?" "I wish you had come - we had a hell of a time!"
a helping hand	help with a job or task, lend a hand	May was always ready with a helping hand.
a hill of beans	a small amount, very little	The money he lost doesn't amount to a hill of beans.
a hit	a popular song or movie, an idea everybody likes	Remember the song Michelle? It was quite a hit.
a hit	a drug dose, drugs from a needle	When she's depressed, she'll do anything for a hit.
a hollow leg	space for a lot of drink, room for a lot of beer	Parl drank six bottles of beer. He must have a hollow leg!
a holy pile	a lot, very much, tons	To feed 20 people, you need a holy pile of spaghetti.
a hoot	a time of laughter, a good time, a riot	Last night we went to Maude's party. It was a hoot.
a horse of a different color	a different matter, a separate issue	If he wants to buy the land, that's a horse of a different color.

a horse's ass [B]	a fool, a jerk	After three drinks he was acting like a horse's ass.
a hot hand	lucky in card games or at gambling	Walter's got a hot hand tonight. He's won four games of poker.
a hot number	a couple (or topic) that everyone is talking about	Paul and Rita are a hot number now. They're in love.
a hot ticket	a popular item, a product that people want	Anything with James Dean's picture on it is a hot ticket.
a hot topic	popular topic, the talk of the town	Sex is a hot topic. Sex will get their attention.
a hotdog	one who plays only for the crowd, a show-off	Eddie was a hotdog - always trying to excite the crowd.
a hothead	a person who gets angry easily; hot tempered	Phil, don't be such a hothead. Try to control your anger.
a hotshot	a person who displays; show-off , showboat	What a hotshot he is - showing everybody his new car.
a household name	a name everyone knows; name of a famous person	Mario Lemieux, the hockey star, soon became a household name.
a howling blizzard	a very bad snowstorm, a winter storm	A howling blizzard delayed us. It was snowing and blowing.
a humdinger	a beautiful car etc. a well-designed product	Dad, you should see this coupe. It's a humdinger!
a into g	(See ass into gear)	
a jim dandy	a fine piece of work, a beautiful object	Mom, you should just see this saddle. It's a jim dandy!
a.k.a. (aka)	also known as, alias, go by the name of	William O'Connor - a.k.a. Wil, Willie, Billy Boy - was born in Ireland.
a keeper	something you want to keep for a long time	"Do you like my leather jacket?" "Ya, man. It's a keeper!"
a kept woman	a woman who is paid to live with a man	I'm tired of being a kept woman. I want to be free of him.
a lady-killer	handsome man; a man who charms the ladies; hunk	"Liam Neeson! He's gorgeous!" she said. "What a lady-killer!"
a leg up	a start, a beginning, the first leg	If I take a night class, I'll have a leg up on my diploma.
a level playing field	a place where everyone has an equal chance, level the playing field	A level playing field includes equal pay for equal work for all men and women.
a lick and a promise	a hasty plan, a quick cleanup, give it the once-over	We don't have time to do a thorough cleaning. We'll just give it a lick and a promise.
a lift	energy, a positive feeling, a shot in the arm	When I need a lift, I watch Oprah. She makes me feel good.
a little bird told me	someone told me, one of your friends told me	"How did you know that I play chess?" "Oh, a little bird told me."
a little hair off the dog	(See hair off the dog)	
a little off	not quite sane, a bit crazy, one brick short...	When Clem started eating grass, we knew he was a little off.
a little off	not quite centered,	The picture above the table is a little off. Let's straighten it.

	not level	
a little steep	a little high in price, too much money to pay	I'd like to buy that leather coat but the price is a little steep.
a little thick	too much praise, too many nice statements, kiss the blarney stone , over the top	His praise for the governor was a little thick, a bit too much, I think.
a long shot	a poor chance of winning, a slim chance	The Leafs winning the Stanley Cup - now that's a long shot.
a loose cannon	unpredictable employee, one who may embarrass	The President is sensible, but the Vice President is a loose cannon.
a losing streak	losing several times in succession	The Leafs are on a losing streak. They've lost seven games!
a lost cause	a goal or project that is not worth working for	That video store is a lost cause. It has never made a profit.
a lot of bunk	a lot of lies, a lot of bull , a pack of lies	The President's speech was a lot of bunk. It contained no facts.
a lot of folderol	a lot of foolish talk, a lot of bunk	When you hear me speak Latin, you'll think it's a lot of folderol.
a lot on the ball	intelligent, smart	Melvin may not look intelligent, but he's got a lot on the ball.
a love tap	a gentle hit with the hand, a light push or bump	I didn't hit you very hard. It was just a love tap.
a lucky break	good luck, good fortune, stroke of good luck	Finding that money was a lucky break. It was our good fortune
a lucky streak	winning several times in succession	Whenever I wear this ring, I have a lucky streak. I win every game!
a major	a poor credit rating from a major credit card company	The bank won't approve your loan if you have a major.
a man of few words	a man who says little; who uses few words	Chung is a man of few words, but when he speaks, people listen.
a man of the cloth	a minister, a priest, a clergyman	Being a man of the cloth, he has studied the Bible.
a man's home is his castle	a man can relax and please himself in his own home	I let Ron think he's king when he comes home from work. He believes a man's home is his castle.
a marked man	a person known for political beliefs or criminal acts	When they discovered I had been a Nazi, I was a marked man.
a matter of life and death	(See it's a matter of life and death)	
a mental block	a problem with learning a subject or concept	I have a mental block when I try to do algebra. I can't think.
a month of Sundays	a very long time, many days	It will take a month of Sundays to phone all the students in our school.
a must	a necessary experience, a required item	If you like words, you need a dictionary. It's a must!
a nail-biter	exciting game or movie; having much suspense	Have you seen the movie The Fugitive? It's a nail-biter.
a necktie party	a hanging, a lynching	If the men catch the outlaw, they want to have a necktie party.
a new broom	an employee works	After my first day working for Grandfather, he said, "A new broom sweeps

sweeps clean	hard on the first day or two, make a good impression	clean."
a new lease on life	a feeling that life will be better, a fresh start	The promotion gave him a new lease on life.
a notch below	inferior, not as good	That bicycle is a notch below the Peugeot. It's not quite as good.
a nut case	a person who is crazy, crackpot	If you go to work in pajamas, people will say you're a nut case.
A-OK	fine, better than average	This restaurant is A-OK. The food and service are good.
a pack of lies	many lies, no truth to it	What Gail is saying about Julie is a pack of lies. It's not true.
a pain in the ass [B]	a bother, a lot of trouble	Fixing that car every day is a pain in the ass.
a pain in the butt	a person who causes problems, a pain in the ass	Hal keeps interrupting me. He's a pain in the butt!
a paltry sum	a small amount of money, chicken feed , peanuts	What did I pay for this painting? A paltry sum - I bought it at a garage sale.
a paper trail	a series of memos or letters that record events	A business merger leaves a long paper trail - many documents.
a party to that	a person who helps to do something bad	Jane said she didn't want to be a party to computer theft.
a pat answer	a planned or memorized answer, a canned answer	You won't get the job if you give a pat answer to every question.
a penny for your thoughts	tell me what you are thinking about	When I'm quiet, she will say, "A penny for your thoughts."
a perfect stranger	a person you have never seen, a total stranger	In New York, a perfect stranger asked her to sleep with him.
a pick-me-up	something that gives me energy or new life	On a hot afternoon, a glass of iced tea is a great pick-me-up.
a picture is worth a thousand words	a picture is easier to understand than a report or essay	Instead of more talk, I'll draw thousand words a diagram. A picture is worth a thousand words.
a piece of ass [B]	sex, intercourse, nookie	If it's just a piece of ass you want, why don't you find a prostitute?
a piece of cake	easy to do, it's a snap , no problem	Solving the puzzle was easy. It was a piece o' cake.
a piece of my mind	my criticism of what you did, a tongue-lashing	If my son stayed out all night, I'd give him a piece of my mind.
a piece of piss	an easy task, an easy thing to do, a piece of cake	Changing the oil? A piece o' piss - I'll show you how.
a piece of tail [B]	(See a piece of ass)	
a piece of the action	a share of the profit or prize or loot	Those who paid for the winning ticket get a piece of the action.
a pig in a poke	a risk, a gamble, taking a chance (see take a chance)	If you don't test drive the car, you're buying a pig in a poke.
a pinch of coon shit [B]	very little or no value, worthless	That Rambler ain't worth a pinch o' coon shit. It's a lousy car.
a pinch of salt	a bit of salt, the salt held between thumb and finger	Hector uses a pinch of salt when he makes chocolate fudge.

a pinch to grow an inch	on your birthday, guests pinch you to help you grow taller	"Happy birthday, Sal. Here's a pinch to grow an inch!" "Ouch!"
a pine float	a glass of water with a toothpick floating on the water	"What's that?" "You ordered a pine float - a toothpick floating in a glass of water!"
a play on words	a pun, a word or phrase that has two meanings	When a man says he'll give you a ring, it may be a play on words.
a pocket of resistance	a small group resisting, a few people not on side	There's a pocket of resistance in one district. A few disagree.
a poker face	a face with no expression; showing no emotion	Judge Brady has a poker face. He doesn't show his emotions.
a pop	per person, per ticket	"How much are the tickets?" "Fifty dollars a pop."
a pretty penny	a lot of money, a high price	I bet she paid a pretty penny for that coat. It looks expensive.
a question of	the important factor, the issue	For them, it's a question of faith. They believe in the Bible.
a quick study	a person who tries to learn much in a short time, a crash course	When my wife was elected to city council, I became a quick study in municipal politics.
a quickie	a quick game or visit, a short time of play	I love to play chess. Do we have time for a quickie before dinner?
a raw deal	an unfair contract, paying too much, taken in	If he's charging too much rent you're getting a raw deal.
a red-letter day	a special day, a memorable day	This is going to be a red-letter day. I found my lost keys!
a redneck	a person who is intolerant of other opinions and cultures, a bigot	If you ask a redneck he'll say, "Find a job or starve - and if you don't like it, too bad."
a regular guy	an average man, a good guy	David? Well, he's honest and easy to live with - a regular guy.
a riot	a lot of fun, a good time, a hoot	You should've gone to Maude's party. It was a riot!
a rip-off	unfair price or rule, priced too high	The price of drinks was a rip-off. A small Coke cost \$3!
a roll in the hay [B]	making love, having sex	I asked her if she wanted a roll in the hay, and she said, "Sure. Do you have a condom?"
a rolling stone gathers no moss	a person who is always moving has few possessions	"Look at me. I have nothing to keep me in one place." "Yes, but it seems you have always been a rolling stone."
a rough time	a lot of teasing, a lot of bugging	Did your friends give you a rough time about your funny haircut?
a rough time of it	a time of stress or bad luck, a tough time of it	After the divorce he had a rough time of it.
a royal pain	a feeling of irritation, a pain in the ass	When he brags about his wealthy family, he gives me a royal pain.
a run for your money	strong competition, an opponent	I should enter the election and give him a run for his money.
a sack of hammers	a dead weight, a heavy object	Don't throw me in the lake! I'll sink like a sack of hammers!
a sad sack	well-meaning, but unable to accomplish	"If you assign this task to Andy, it won't be done. He's a sad sack."
a scandal is brewing	an evil story is being told, there are rumors of a scandal	A scandal is brewing in the Pacific Ocean. A whale and a shark are living together without a marriage license!

a score to settle	an argument to finish, a bone to pick	I have a score to settle with him. He owes me a month's rent.
a screw loose	a little bit crazy, one brick short...	Sometimes I think he has a screw loose - like when he eats paper.
a send-up	a mockery or satire, a takeoff on	The speaker did a send-up of the way Canadians talk.
a shadow of his former self	much lighter than he was before, very thin and weak	After twenty years in prison, he was a shadow of his former self.
a sharp tongue	a tendency to reply sharply or sarcastically	Karly is a beautiful girl, but her sharp tongue may be a problem.
a sharp wit	an ability to say funny things at the right time	Mr. Mills is 85, but he still has a sharp wit. His mind is quick.
a shitload	a lot, a large quantity, make a bundle, tons	Ray made a shitload of money at the races - thousands of dollars!
a shogun	a powerful business person, a tycoon, a heavyweight	Mr. Fuji is a business magnate - a shogun - known for his interest in robots.
a shoo-in	the person/horse/team that is certain to win, a sure thing	Ralph's a shoo-in to win the next election. He'll win easily.
a short one	a small drink, a small amount of liquor	"Can I pour you a drink?" "Yes. A short one, please."
a shot in the arm	energy, encouragement, a lift	Billy Graham's sermon was inspiring - a shot in the arm.
a shot in the dark	a wild guess, a try, hazard a guess	His answer was incorrect. It was a shot in the dark.
a sick building	a building with polluted air or insufficient oxygen	This is a sick building. The air contains toxic fumes.
a sight for sore eyes	something or someone you are happy to see	Well, my friend, you are a sight for sore eyes. Good to see you!
a silver spoon...	(See born with a silver spoon in his mouth)	
a sitting duck	an easy target, a person who is easy to deceive	The old lady was a sitting duck for the salesman. It was an easy sale.
a slim chance	very little chance, not likely to happen	"Is it going to rain today?" "Maybe. There's a slim chance."
a slip of the tongue	a spoken error or mistake, a word that slips out	I said brew instead of blue. It was a slip of the tongue.
a slippery slope	a path that leads to problems, a risky plan	Nationalism is a slippery slope. It often leads to racism.
a slow day	not productive, not many customers	Tuesday is a slow day in the car market - very few sales.
a slug	a group, a bunch	A slug of bats hung from a rock jutting out of the cave's ceiling.
a snap	(See it's a snap)	
a snootful	a lot to smell or drink, get wind of	When the coyotes get a snootful of our campfire, they'll run.
a snow job	a false story, a phony deal, a rip-off	I knew it was a snow job. They said if I ordered some pens, I'd receive a new TV.
a snowball's chance in hell	little or no chance to succeed	If I write the test now, I won't have a snowball's chance in hell.
a soft touch	a person who will not refuse, an easy mark	Barry's a soft touch. Let's ask him for a loan.
a spot of tea	a small cup of tea, a	When I visit Mrs. Smith, we always have a spot of tea.

	drink of tea	
a state secret	(See it's not a state secret)	
a steal	a bargain; purchased for a very low price	How much did I pay for my new coat? Very little. It was a steal.
a stiff upper lip	(See keep a stiff upper lip)	
a stitch in time saves nine	a small repair may prevent a large repair	I believe in maintenance. A stitch in time saves nine.
a stitch of clothes	(See didn't have a stitch of clothes on)	
a stone's throw	a short distance, 25 metres	A deer came into the yard, just a stone's throw from our door.
a sucker for punishment	one who allows himself to be hurt or blamed	If I accept blame for a team loss, I'm a sucker for punishment.
a suicide pass (hockey)	a pass behind the player causing him to look back	Older players always stop when receiving a suicide pass.
a sure bet	certain to win, a good choice to bet on	The Lions are a sure bet in the final game. They'll win easily.
a sure thing	a predictable result, sure to happen	For them, success is a sure thing. They plan for success.
a sweet tooth	a need to eat candy, a craving for sugar	After dinner we'll serve mints. Daddy has a sweet tooth, eh.
a takeoff on	similar to, based on the same idea, a send-up	The school play was a takeoff on Shakespeare's Hamlet.
a talking to	a scolding, a personal lecture	If he has a poor attitude, Dan will give him a talking to.
a tall one	a large drink of liquor, a strong drink	After he heard the bad news, he poured himself a tall one.
a tempest in a teapot	a lot of excitement about a small problem	The argument was over quickly. It was a tempest in a teapot.
a thorn in my side	one who thwarts you, one who irritates you, bug	He's always been a thorn in my side - always critical of me.
a three-bagger (baseball)	a hit that allows the batter to run to third base	Molitor hit a three-bagger in the sixth game of the World Series.
a three-bagger	a person who needs three bags over his head because he looks so scary	"What did he look like?" "He was at least a three-bagger. He also needed a bath."
a titch	(See just a titch)	
a token gesture	a small sign of thanks or recognition	To thank us, they put our names in the paper - a token gesture.
a tongue-lashing	a scolding, a lecture, a talking to	When Sis came home drunk, Dad gave her a tongue-lashing
a total stranger	one you have never seen, a perfect stranger	"Can I give you a ride home?" "No. You're a total stranger."
a touch of	a little illness, minor symptoms	Mary's not feeling well today. She has a touch of the flu.
a tough act to follow	a performance that is not easy to equal	Gail danced very well. That is a tough act to follow.
a tough call	a difficult decision, a hard choice	Was the goal scored before the game ended? It's a tough call.
a tough row to hoe	(See a hard row to hoe)	

a tough time of it	a time of stress or bad luck, a rough time of it	When Bev left home she had a tough time of it. She had no job.
a tower of strength	a person who helps you during a crisis, a brick	When my parents were killed in an accident, Harry was a tower of strength to me.
a wake-up call	a warning, a caution, wake up and smell the coffee	"I got a D on my English test!" "Is it a wake-up call to work harder?"
a wash	not owing each other, call it square	You owe me \$20, but you gave me a CD, so it's a wash, eh.
a wash-out	a failure, a lost cause	No one attended the concert. It was a wash-out.
a way with words	natural ability to speak, the gift of the gab	Ask Viv to write the speech. She has a way with words.
a whale of a game	an exciting game, a cliff-hanger	When Canada played Sweden, it was a whale of a game.
a wild goose chase	a waste of time, a long chase without results	Oil exploration is sometimes a wild goose chase. It's uncertain.
a window of opportunity	an opportunity, a chance, a golden opportunity	Sometimes a problem is actually a window of opportunity.
a wolf in sheep's clothing	an evil person who looks innocent	The priest looked harmless, but he was a wolf in sheep's clothing.
a word to the wise is sufficient	a wise person understands when he hears a key word	I can't discuss the plan, but a word to the wise is sufficient: progress.
a wordsmith	a person who works with words, a writer or author	Ask Jan if it's colour or color. She's a wordsmith.
a yawner	a boring event, a book etc. that is not interesting	I went to the movie, but it was a yawner so I left.
about time	nearly late, high time	It's about time you got here. We've been waiting a long time.
above and beyond the call of duty	much more than expected, go the extra mile	Her extra work was above and beyond the call of duty.
above board	legal, not hidden, not under the table , not underhanded	Every action, every payment is above board. Customers respect that kind of honesty.
above the law	not required to obey laws, privileged	Just because he's rich, he thinks he's above the law.
absence makes the heart grow fonder	when friends are apart they like each other more	When she's away I'm very lonely. Absence does make the heart grow fonder.
according to Hoyle	according to the rules, if we follow the rules	According to Hoyle, it's your turn to deal the cards.
account for	explain how or why, provide reasons, call into account	How do you account for the missing money? Where did it go?
ace in the hole	a hidden strength or talent	Sam's ace in the hole is honesty, which his clients soon discover.
Achilles heel	a weakness, a vulnerable place	Jewelry is my Achilles heel. I buy too much jewelry.
acid test	(See the acid test)	
across the board	affecting all people, applies to everything	We want a salary increase across the board - for all positions.
act out	explain by movement and	Watch - I'll act out the meaning of pacifist.

	gestures	
act up	misbehave, do bad things	She said that Kim was acting up at church - making noise.
act up	not work right, give pain or problems	My stomach is acting up today. I don't feel well.
actions speak louder than words	people judge by actions more than words, practice what you preach	Parents should remember that actions speak louder than words. Kids imitate their parents.
ad lib (ad libitum)	improvise, create, at will , off the cuff	After I learn the melody I like to ad lib. I play what I hear in my head.
add fuel to the fire	cause more anger, aggravate a problem	He's angry. Telling him bad news will add fuel to the fire.
add insult to injury	add another negative, make it worse , put your foot in it	If you say his answer is wrong, and then say he can't understand, you've added insult to injury.
afraid so	sorry, but it is true; believe me, yeppers	"Did he spend all of our money?" "Yes, 'fraid so."
after all	after you consider all the facts, to be fair	Will you help me with English? After all, I helped you with math.
against all odds	not likely to happen, a slim chance	Against all odds - poor weather, student pilot - we landed safely.
against the grain	against the natural way, rub the wrong way	Some words go against the grain. Their spellings aren't natural.
age before beauty	the older person should be allowed to enter first	"Age before beauty," she said as she opened the door for me.
age of majority	the age when you can vote, come of age	Dad said that when I reach the age of majority I can buy my own car!
ahead of the curve ¹	having a higher grade, having better performance	In sales, we're a little ahead of the curve. But in service, we suck!
ahead of the game	finished your work, paid all the bills, caught up	With all these expenses, we can't seem to get ahead of the game.
ain't	isn't, is not; aren't, are not	"It ain't easy being green," said the frog.
ain't half-bad	is quite good, is not bad, is okay	Hey, this pizza ain't half-bad. I kinda like it.
air rage	angry or violent passengers on an airplane	The man struck one of the attendants. It was air rage.
air was blue	(See the air was blue)	
airhead	(See an airhead)	
airy-fairy	not real, impractical, pie in the sky	Sell flying saucers to little gray people? That's too airy-fairy for me!
a.k.a. (aka)	also known as, alias, go by the name of	William O'Connor - a.k.a. Wil, Willie, Billy Boy - was born in Ireland.
all around Robin Hood's barn	an indirect route, a roundabout way, a wild goose chase	When Celia is the driver, we go all around Robin Hood's barn!
all decked out	(See deck out)	
all ears	listening carefully, trying to hear everything	When Dad mentioned hunting, I was all ears. I loved to hunt.
all eyes	watching carefully,	When the fire truck arrived, the children were all eyes.

¹) the bell curve - a line graph of test scores

	staring	
all fired up	eager, enthused, gung ho	Ian gets all fired up when he sees Kari. There's love in his eyes.
all get-out	(See as all get-out)	
all goes well	have good luck, have no problems	I hope all goes well for you at college. I hope you succeed.
all hat and no cattle	pretending to be important and rich, all show	If a man buys things he can't pay for, he's all hat and no cattle.
all hell broke loose	people did crazy things, everybody was fighting	When the fire alarm sounded, all hell broke loose.
all his marbles	normal, sensible	Dan talks to the door. I wonder if he's got all his marbles.
all in	very tired, exhausted, dog tired , done in	After the marathon, she was all in - completely exhausted.
all in a day's work	not extra work, just part of my duties	She said, "Thanks for the help." "All in a day's work," he replied.
all in all	generally, considering everything	All in all, it was a good holiday. We enjoyed our trip to Europe.
all it's cracked up to be	as good as the ads say, live up to the reports	The new computer isn't all it's cracked up to be. It's not so hot.
all joking aside	(See joking aside)	
all-out	all your effort, go all-out	We looked day and night for the lost girl. It was an all-out effort.
all over but the shouting	(See it's all over but the shouting)	
all over hell's half acre	all over the place, everywhere	I left the gate open, and the cows are all over hell's half acre.
all set	ready, prepared to start	"All set?" he asked, as she closed her suitcase.
all she wrote	(See that's all she wrote)	
all shook up	excited, nervous	Al gets all shook up when he sees Gina. He likes her a lot.
all show	artificial, having little or no substance, put on airs	When he gets angry and yells at us, it's all show, just to scare us.
all spruced up	clean and dressed in your best clothes, dressed up	The young farmers got all spruced up for the dance.
all talk and no action	a person who talks a lot but does very little, hot air	He talks about doing everything, but doesn't accomplish anything. He's all talk and no action!
all teed up	the golf ball is on the tee, everything is ready	The parade is ready to begin. It's all teed up.
all that jazz	all related things, other similar topics	They were talking about UFO's and all that jazz.
all the bells and whistles	a lot of extra features, lots of goodies , loaded	When Horst sold his business he bought a motorhome with all the bells and whistles.
all the livelong day	all day, lasting the whole day	Our canary sings all the livelong day - from dawn to dusk.
all the marbles	all the money, the top prize	How does it feel to be playing in the final - for all the marbles?
all the tea in China	(See not for all the tea in China)	
all the way to Egery and back	a long, indirect road; the long way; all around Robin Hood's	To get to the Halsteads, we have to go all the way to Egery and back!

	barn, all over hell's half acre	
all the world's a stage	the world is a stage; we are all performers	The teacher asked Jason to explain the meaning of Shakespeare's words:
"All the world's a stage,		
And all the men and women merely players.		
They have their exits and their entrances;		
And one man in his time plays many parts,		
His acts being seven ages."		
all things being equal	if things remain the same, if no surprises occur	All things being equal, we should sell all our bicycles by October.
all things to all people	satisfy everyone, live up to	Be yourself. Stop trying to be all things to all people.
all thumbs	clumsy, unable to hold it, fingers feel like thumbs	When I try to sew a button on my shirt, I'm all thumbs.
all walks of life	all occupations and lifestyles	As a salesperson, you will meet people from all walks of life.
all washed up	failed in business or career	Barry's all washed up. His business is bankrupt.
all wet	mistaken, do not know what you are talking about	You're all wet! You can't grow bananas in Saskatchewan.
all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy	do not work too long, take time for recreation, take time to smell...	When I picked up my overtime check, Karen reminded me that All work and no play...
all your eggs in one basket	depending on one plan or one investment, hedge your bets	If you invest all your money in one hotel, you'll have all your eggs in one basket.
all's fair in love and war	there are no rules to guide you in love or war, that's life	When your girlfriend leaves you for your best friend, remember, All's fair in love and war.
all's well that ends well	a happy ending is the most important thing, the end justifies...	Although we argued and fought, we are happy with the result. All's well that ends well!
along for the ride	just a passenger, not a helper, joyride	You've met the workers. This is my nephew - he's just along for the ride.
along those lines	similar, on the same topic, in that vein	He wants a job in health care or nursing, along those lines.
American as apple pie	(See as American as apple pie)	
an ace up your sleeve	an important card to play, an important fact to reveal	To survive, one needs an ace up one's sleeve - a special talent.
an airhead	a person who talks	Sally is such an airhead. She said that chicklets are baby chickens.

	without thinking, a fool	
an apple a day keeps the doctor away	eat one apple each day for good health	Mom gave me an apple, saying, "An apple a day... ."
an attitude	a negative attitude, a poor outlook	If you don't do your work, they will think you have an attitude.
an axe to grind	a point to discuss or argue about	Jason had an axe to grind at the meeting - job security.
an earful	a lecture, a scolding, a bawling out	If Mom catches you smoking, you'll get an earful.
an easy mark	one who can easily be persuaded, a soft touch	Ask Charlie for a loan. He's an easy mark.
an even keel	good balance, stability	We need a steady manager, one who can keep an even keel.
an eye for an eye (a tooth for a tooth)	equal punishment or revenge	Canadian laws do not demand an eye for an eye.
an offer I couldn't refuse	an offer that contains a threat or force, a request that is a command	The border guards invited me to stay for further questioning - it was an offer I couldn't refuse.
an old hand at	a person with a lot of practice or experience	Tom's an old hand at cribbage. He's played since he was a boy.
an old warhorse	a veteran, an old soldier, a classic story or tune	The band played marches and overtures - the old warhorses.
an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure	prevent a problem so you don't have to solve it, a stitch in time...	Forest fires deserve an ounce of prevention: public education in campfire safety.
anal retentive	too concerned with detail, pedantic	Amy is anal retentive. She writes down everything the teacher says.
anchor you	make you feel stable or confident	When you have a crisis, your faith will anchor you.
and how	very much	The kids love pizza - and how!
and stuff	and other things or activities, et cetera	We were watchin' TV an' stuff, just hangin' out.
and that's that	that is final, that is the way it will be done	You will be home by 10 p.m., and that's that!
and then some	with lots to spare, plus a few more	We invited everybody in town - and then some!
angels fear to tread	(See where angels fear to tread)	
another nail in your coffin	another cigarette; harmful substance	Every cigarette he smoked was another nail in his coffin.
ante up	put some money in the center of the table	As the dealer shuffled the cards, he said, "Ante up, boys."
any old thing	any word, any answer	When the teacher asks him a question, he says any old thing.
any way you slice it	(See no matter how you slice it)	
any word	any phone calls or letters, any reply	Any word from Dale? He should have called us by now.
anything goes	there are no rules; expect anything to happen	Anything goes during Stampede week. People do crazy things!
apple a day...	(See an apple a day keeps the doctor)	

	away)	
apple of his eye	(See the apple of his eye)	
apple-pie order	very neat, well organized, shipshape , tickety-boo	"Is your room in apple-pie order?" "Yes, Mom. It is."
armed to the teeth	prepared to fight or defend, having lots of evidence	By the time the trial began, the lawyer was armed to the teeth.
around Robin Hood's barn	(See all around Robin Hood's barn)	
around the bend	crazy or insane, off your rocker	If I had to listen to that noise all the time, I'd go around the bend.
around the clock	twenty-four hours, 'round the clock	Julie worked around the clock to finish her sewing project.
as a matter of fact	to state a fact, in fact , to be perfectly honest	The burrowing owl is a protected species. As a matter of fact, it's an endangered species
as all get-out	very much, a lot, like crazy , to the max	Tracy is not only beautiful. She's as talented as all get-out.
as American as apple pie	very American, like an American custom	Jeans and T-shirts are American, as American as apple pie!
as busy as a beaver	very busy, working steadily	When the teacher returned, the students were as busy as beavers.
as clean as a whistle	without any dirt or marks, smooth and clean	The hen squeezed, and out popped an egg as clean as a whistle.
as drunk as a skunk	very drunk, polluted , sloshed	You don't remember the party because you were as drunk as a skunk!
as dumb as a sack of hammers	very dumb, ignorant, dumbbell	If your dog doesn't learn your tricks, who is as dumb as a sack of hammers?
as far as I know	based on my knowledge, to the best of my...	As far as I know, the company will pay your travel expenses.
as full as a tick	(See full as a tick)	
as if	unlikely, unbelievable	As if we'd leave for Banff without you. We'd never do that!
as luck would have it	as luck is sometimes good and sometimes bad	By the time we arrived, as luck would have it, the fight was over.
as new	like new, in mint condition	For Sale: 1999 Mazda Miata, red, all options, low km, as new.
as plain as day	easy to see, clearly visible, in broad daylight	I saw it, as plain as day - Bigfoot - not twenty feet away!
as plain as the nose on your face	very easy to see or understand, very clear, crystal clear	We have photos of the earth from outer space that prove the earth is round. It's as plain as the nose on your face!
as poor as a church mouse	very poor, having little, the wolf is at the door	How can they refuse to help her? She's as poor as a church mouse.
as right as rain	(See right as rain)	
as scarce as hen's teeth	rare, uncommon, not many of them	Country doctors are as scarce as hen's teeth.
as sick as a dog	very sick, very ill, as sick as a parrot , in sick bay	Barry can't come to practice. He's sick as a dog!
as sick as a parrot	very, very sick; on your deathbed , sicker than a dog	Samuel's voice sounds weird because he's as sick as a parrot.

as slow as a dead snail	unbeatable in slowness	He writes as slow as a dead snail, only a word or two per day!
as slow as molasses in January	only a dead snail is slower	The tortoise is very slow - as slow as molasses in January
as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar	very solid or stable, not movable or wobbly	"What is the foundation made of?" "Concrete - it's as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar!"
as sure as shit	certain to happen, predictable, a foregone conclusion	Robert will come, sure as shit. He comes every day.
as the crow flies	the shortest distance between two places	The farm is about ten miles northeast of town, as the crow flies.
as useless as a fifth wheel	not useful, not needed, redundant, (four wheels are sufficient)	I sat there watching the four of them play bridge, and feeling as useless as a fifth wheel.
as useless as tits on a boar	not useful, not necessary, having no function	Our toenails are useless - as useless as tits on a boar.
ask for it	invite or deserve an attack	When you called him a thief, you asked for it. You made him mad.
ask for the moon	ask for a lot, ask for more than you need or want	When we negotiate our salary let's try this strategy: Ask for the moon and hope for a 10% raise.
asking price	a starting price, a price to begin negotiations	The asking price for the lot was \$29,500. It sold for \$28,000.
asleep at the switch	not alert, not watching, not paying attention	If you're asleep at the switch, you won't learn much in class.
ass	fool, dipstick , jerk	Don't be an ass, Duddy. Stay in school and get your diploma.
ass [B]	buttocks, backside , butt	Those jeans fit you, but they're a little tight around the ass.
ass into gear	moving, working, doing	After holidays, I'll get my ass into gear and paint the house.
ass on the line	be accountable for an error or failure, take the rap	I sent the package Overnight Air Mail, because my ass is on the line if it arrives late.
ass over teakettle	falling over backwards, head over heels	The cowboy knocked him off his feet - ass over teakettle!
at a glance	with one look, a quick look	I could see at a glance that the car was unsafe. A wheel was loose.
at a good clip	fast, at a high speed	When you passed us you were going at a pretty good clip.
at a loss for words	unable to think of a reply or something to say	When he asked why I wanted the vase, I was at a loss for words.
at a moment's notice	with little warning, on short notice	We may call you at a moment's notice - whenever we need help.
at all	in any way, in the least	"Are you sleepy?" "No. Not at all."
at bay	at a distance, away from you	The smoke keeps the mosquitoes at bay. They don't like smoke.
at death's door	dying, near death, brush with death	Poor Sarah! She has lung cancer and I fear she's at death's door.
at ease	stand at ease, do not stand at attention, relax	The lieutenant said, "At ease, soldier. We're not on duty."
at face value	the value shown by the surface, what you see ...	At face value, this car appears to be in good condition.
at fault	caused the problem,	The judge will decide who's at fault - who caused the crash.

	to blame	
at first glance	when you first see it, when you notice it	At first glance, it looked like a cat - a large cat.
at first light	just before the sun rises, at the crack of dawn	At first light, the ducks would fly to the grainfields to feed.
at heart	with feeling for you, with you in mind	Believe me, she has your needs at heart. She cares about you.
at it again	doing it again, back at it	That dog is at it again - barking in the middle of the night.
at least	not very much, very little to ask	At least he could have phoned. He could have done that.
at liberty	free to speak or act, allowed to speak	Are you at liberty to tell us who won? Can you tell us?
at loggerheads	not agreeing, opposed to each other	They're at loggerheads over who owns the farm. They don't agree.
at loose ends	disorganized, unable to concentrate	I was at loose ends when the kids were fighting. I couldn't think.
at my wits' end	very tired and nervous, at the end of my rope	After a wedding and a funeral she was at her wits' end.
at odds	not in agreement, opposed, at loggerheads	Your testimony in court is at odds with the statement you gave to the police. Why are they different?
at one fell swoop	(See in one fell swoop)	
at once	at the same time, simultaneously	You can't do two things at once. You can eat or talk, but not both.
at once	now, immediately	Your mother said you should come in at once - immediately.
at one time	in the past, during a time past, once upon a time	At one time, the sun didn't seem so hot. We didn't need sunscreen when we worked or played in the sun.
at peace	feeling peaceful, without worry	After talking about his problem he was at peace with himself.
at rest	stopped, not moving	Tie these ropes while the boat is at rest - before it moves.
at sixes and sevens	not in agreement, confused, in a state of confusion, arguing, at loggerheads	Parents and teachers are at sixes and sevens over sex education.
at stake	what you could lose or gain	If you're involved in a crime, your career may be at stake.
at the crack of dawn	at the first sign of light, at first light	At the crack of dawn he would rise, wash and go for a walk.
at the drop of a hat	without hesitation, quickly	He'll argue at the drop of a hat. He likes to argue.
at the end of my rope/ at the end of my tether	losing control of myself, losing patience (see lose patience)	Babysitting five kids, I was at the end of my rope.
at the hands of	while competing against, when fighting	It was at the hands of his former student that he was defeated.
at the ripe old age	at a very old age; being unusually old	He could still play checkers at the ripe old age of ninety-eight.
at the top of her game	at her best, playing as well as she can	If Val's at the top of her game she can defeat Olga.
at the top of his voice	as loud as he can, shouting loudly	Ben called for help at the top of his voice. "Help!" he shouted.
at the wheel	driving a car, steering a car or truck	Who was at the wheel when the car went off the road?
at this point	now, at this time	At this point in time, ten cases of AIDS have been reported.

in time		
at will	freely, without restraint	He shared his feelings, speaking at will about his problems.
at your beck and call	serving you, doing everything for you	You don't have to be at his beck and call, doing whatever he asks.
at your fingertips	easy to find, ready to use	When I repair a car, I like to have all my tools at my fingertips.
attaboy (that a boy)	good work, well done, 'at a boy	Whenever I win, Don says, "Attaboy! Good game!"
attagirl (that a girl)	good work, well done, 'at a girl	When Judy gets good grades, her mom says, "Attagirl, Judy!"
away out	(See way out)	
away out of line	(See way out of line)	
away to the races	going without a problem, smooth sailing	When they approve our business loan, we'll be away to the races.
awesome	great, super, bonzer , totally awesome	We had an awesome time in Rome! It was a great trip!
axe to grind	(See an axe to grind)	

Idiom	Meaning	Example
babe	darling, honey, girlfriend	"Hi, babe. Want to sit with me?" "Sure, honey. I'd love to."
babe in arms	(See a babe in arms)	
babe in the woods	(See a babe in the woods)	
baby blues	feeling sad when you are pregnant	After seven months, Karly had the baby blues. She was feeling sad.
baby boomer	a person born during the decade after World War II	Baby boomers will retire in the first decade of the 21st century.
back at it	having returned to a past habit or occupation, at it again	"I was so glad to hear George quit drinking." "Well, he's back at it."
back at ya	I wish you the same as you wished me, ditto , same to you	"Merry Christmas, Val." "Back at ya, Joe."
back down	yield, not challenge, not stand up to	Ole won't back down from you. He's ready to fight.
back off	do not come closer, do not touch me	Back off, you animal! Don't touch me!
back on your feet	feeling better, recovered from an illness	When you're back on your feet, we want you to return to work.
back out	decide not to do it, change your mind	If you sign your name, you can't back out. You have to pay.
back teeth are floating	have to urinate, need to pee	Please watch for a rest room. My back teeth are floating.
back to square one	back to the first step, start from scratch	If you forget to do one of the steps, it's back to square one.
back to the drawing board	back to the beginning, back to square one	If this plan fails, it's back to the drawing board. We start again.
back to the grind	return to the job, go back to work	After New Year's, it's back to the grind - the old routine.
back up	go backwards, drive in reverse	I'll back up the truck so we can load it.
back you	support your decision, sign your application	His brother will back him if he needs financing.
back yourself into a corner	put yourself in a bad position, have no escape	If you buy what you can't afford you back yourself into a corner.
backpack (business)	support, be the parent company	First, GM backpacked Saab. Then they bought the company.
backroom boys	men who play poker and smoke in a room at the back of the store	When the police raided Gino's they arrested four of the backroom boys.
backside	buttocks, bum , buns	When I was learning to skate, I fell a lot. My backside was sore!
backup	saving information on a computer disk	Don't forget to make a backup disk of all your computer files.
bad apple	bad one, rotten one	He's the bad apple in that group. He's always in trouble.
bad blood	bad feelings, a negative	John and Fred are bitter enemies. There's bad blood between them.

	relationship	
bad breath	unpleasant smell from the mouth, jungle mouth	I've been eating garlic, so I may have bad breath.
bad date	a man who beats a prostitute, the john	Viki had another bad date. A guy beat her and took her clothes.
bad news	troublemaker, someone who causes problems	Don't hire him. Everybody says he's bad news.
bad taste in my mouth	(See a bad taste in my mouth)	
badmouth	criticize, say bad things about, put down	Don't badmouth employers. Don't criticize your references.
bafflegab	confusing statements, jargon, political language	There was a lot of bafflegab in the speech, a lot of nonsense.
bag and baggage	everything you own, all of one's possessions	The next day, he moved into her apartment - bag and baggage.
bag lady	a lady who looks for food and bottles in the streets	Behind the restaurant, a bag lady was digging in the garbage cans.
bag of tricks	skills, methods, plans; devices to entertain	You need a large bag of tricks to teach the Grade 8 class.
bag some rays	sit or lie in the sunshine, have a sun bath	While you're swimming, I'm going to bag some rays.
bagel	(See get bageled)	
bah	nonsense, it is not true	Bah! There is no tooth fairy!
bail me out	help me solve a problem, pay to get me out of jail	If they arrest me, will you bail me out - pay the bail money?
bail out	quit, leave a project, resign	Tom bailed out when Lan became Project Manager.
balance of power	(See the balance of power)	
balderdash	verbose nonsense	"Please switch off the talk show. It's just balderdash."
ball her [B]	have sex with her, lay her	"Hey, Ted. Did you ball her?" "No. All you think about is sex!"
ball-park figure	(See a ball-park figure)	
ball's in your court	(See the ball's in your court)	
ballistic	(See go ballistic)	
baloney	false statements, bull , bunk , hogwash	Most of what the speaker said is a lot of baloney - untrue.
bam	a word to describe a hit or collision, pow	The car rolled down the hill and into the wall - bam!
bananas	very excited, nearly crazy	When we won the cup, the crowd went bananas.
bandwidth	mental capacity, mental energy, brain cells	We need a person with bandwidth, someone who understands complex management relationships.
bang [B]	have sex with, lay	"Did you bang her, Ted?" "If I did, I wouldn't tell you."
bang for your buck	fun for your money, value for	You get more bang for your buck at garage sales. They're fun!

	your dollar	
bang on	exactly right, very true, correct, spot on	Your answer to Question 3 was bang on. It was correct.
bank on	depend on, count on	We were banking on more sales to pay for our marketing costs.
bankroll	provide the money to begin, front me	If you'll bankroll me, I'll open a bistro on Mars.
baptism by fire	harsh introduction, rigorous initiation, hit the ground running	On my first day of football camp I had to tackle a 200-pound fullback charging straight at me. It was baptism by fire!
bar fly	(See a bar fly)	
bar hop	drink at many bars in one evening, pub crawl	Our wives were out late last night. They were bar hopping.
bar none	including all products or people, no exceptions	Apex is the best detergent, bar none.
bar star	(See a bar star)	
bare bones	only the necessary things, no extras, bare bones	ACTION CLEAN is a bare-bones operation - a family business.
bare-faced lie	(See a bare-faced lie)	
bare your soul	tell the public about your private experiences	To write a good novel, you may have to bare your soul.
barf	vomit, puke, hork , throw up	If I eat another hotdog, I'll barf. I'll be sick.
bark is worse than his bite	he sounds angry but he is not; do not be afraid of him	Baxter sounds mad, but his bark is worse than his bite.
bark up the wrong tree	look in the wrong place, do not expect it	If you expect money from him, you're barking up the wrong tree.
barnburner	(See a barnburner)	
bash	a wild party, a party where people are drunk and noisy	"Did you go to Tina's party?" "Ya. It was a noisy bash."
basket case	(See a basket case)	
basta la musica	stop the music, do not play the music	"Basta la musica!" Papa shouted. "It's too loud!"
bat a thousand	hit every time at bat, win every competition	I've had two interviews and two offers. I'm batting a thousand!
bat an eye	flinch or blink, show a sign of guilt or shame	When they asked him about the crime, he didn't bat an eye. His expression didn't change.
bat five hundred	hit half the times at bat, win half the competitions	If you solve five problems out of ten, you're batting five hundred.
bat her eyes	blink the eyes, blink in a sexy way	Verna just stood there batting her eyes, trying to look sexy.
bated breath	(See with bated breath)	
battleaxe	cranky woman, a bitch [B]	Marlene - that old battleaxe - is spreading lies about me.
batty	(See drive me)	

	batty)	
bawl me out	tell me I have been bad, scold me	If I fail math, Dad will bawl me out. He'll give me a lecture.
be-all, end-all	trying to be too great, world beater	The new manager thinks he's the greatest - the be-all, end-all.
be my guest	have this chair, have that drink, help yourself	Be my guest. Sit here. I can find another chair.
be my undoing	be the cause of my failure; my Achilles heel	Credit cards may be my undoing. My VISA balance is over \$5000!
be off	leave, go, off with you	Be off, my dear, or you'll be late for work.
be there	be ready, be alert, up for it	The captain of the hockey team shouted to his mates, "Be there, guys! We have to win this game."
be there for me	help me when I need it, be supportive, stand by me	"Will you be there for me?" she asked. "I need your support."
be there or be square	if you do not come we will think you are call it square	We're having a party at 7 on Saturday. Be there or be square!
be yourself	be natural, behave normally	Don't worry about what to say at the party. Just be yourself.
bean pole	tall and thin, string bean	Carl is a bean pole - tall and skinny - just like his father.
bear down	try harder, bite the bullet	If you bear down a little, you can graduate this year.
bear the brunt	accept the most blame or responsibility	When we got in trouble, Ed bore the brunt of the blame.
beat a dead horse	continue to ask or try when there is no hope	They won't refund your money. You're beating a dead horse.
beat a hasty retreat	run away from, leave quickly	When the boys heard the siren they beat a hasty retreat.
beat around the bush	talk without telling the main point	Politicians often beat around the bush. They talk a lot but say little.
beat it	go, get lost	Beat it, kid! Get going! Leave!
beat the pants off	defeat by a large score, blow you away	Ho plays table tennis very well; she'll beat the pants off you.
beat the rap	have the charges removed or dropped, get off	Every time the burglar was caught he was able to beat the rap.
beat up	hit and injure, defeat badly	She cared for him when he got beat up, trying to ease his pain.
beat up on	hit and injure, defeat in a fight	"Why does he beat up on people?" "Because his dad beat up on him."
beat your head against a stone wall	try an impossible task, work on a futile project	Preventing war is like beating your head against a stone wall.
beat your time	take away your girlfriend or boyfriend	I can't believe that your friend would beat your time.
beater	a car that is in poor condition, clunker	Why does he drive that old beater? He could buy a new car.
beauty is in the eye of the beholder	each person has a different idea of what is beautiful, one man's garbage...	To him, the statue is elegant; to me, it's ugly. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder!

beauty is only skin deep	do not judge a person by physical features, you can't tell a book...	If you want to date a beauty queen, remember that beauty is only skin deep.
beck and call	(See at your beck and call)	
become of	happen to, end up	What became of Ko after he moved? How's he doing?
becomes you	looks good on you, is right for you, suits you	That perfume becomes you. It smells good on you.
bed down	lie down and sleep, find a place to sleep	After grazing in the valley, the deer will bed down on the hill.
beef it up	add more bulk, increase the size	"Does this doll look like Santa?" "Yes, if you beef it up a little."
beehive of activity	(See a beehive of activity)	
beeline	(See make a beeline)	
been around	experienced, not naive, wasn't born yesterday	Margo's been around; she can work with the convicts.
been had	cheated, swindled, taken in	If he paid a hundred dollars for that radio, he's been had.
before you can say Jack Robinson	very quickly, in a split second , in no time	Before you could say Jack Robinson, the ghost was gone!
beg off	ask to be excused from duty, get out of a task	Some people volunteer to work and then they beg off.
beg to differ	have a different opinion, disagree with	When I stated the cause of the loss, he said, "I beg to differ."
beg your pardon	excuse me, please do not be offended	I beg your pardon, but I am using this phone booth.
beg your pardon	what did you say? will you repeat what you said?	Beg your pardon? Did you say you are Paul Newman?
beggars can't be choosers	people who receive free things should not expect the best	When they complained about the shabby coats, he said, "Beggars can't be choosers."
begs the question	suggests this question, leaves this question unanswered	"That's a fine idea," said the Head Mouse, "but it begs the question: Which one of us will put the bell on the cat?"
behind bars	in jail, in prison, in the slammer	Behind bars, she didn't have much of a social life.
behind the curve	having lower than average test scores, having a low performance	
(the bell curve - a line graph of test scores)	I was behind the curve when I wrote that test. I'll probably get a low grade.	
behind the eight ball	in a difficult position, in a predicament, between the devil and...	I'm behind the eight ball with the Tax Department. I deducted college tuition fees from my taxable income, but I didn't pay the fees!
behind the scenes	out of sight, unnoticed, unsung	This organization has many people who work behind the scenes helping us to succeed.

	hero	
behind your back	where you cannot see, when you are not here	He says nice things to you, but criticizes you behind your back.
being there	being where good things happen, being in the right place at the right time	Caleb seems to succeed by just being there. Good things happen to him wherever he is.
believe my ears	(See can't believe my ears)	
believe my eyes	(See can't believe my eyes)	
bells and whistles	(See all the bells and whistles)	
belly up	not operating, bankrupt, tits up	Four car dealers went belly up during the recession.
belly up to the bar	sit close to the bar, find a chair at the bar	Belly up to the bar, boys. I'd like to buy you a drink.
bellyache	complain, whine	Don't bellyache about the referee. Just play your best.
below the poverty line	not earning enough to survive, very poor, as poor as a church mouse	If husband and wife are earning minimum wage, they're living below the poverty line.
belt you	hit you, punch you	I should belt you for saying that my sister looks like a dog.
bend over backwards	do anything to help, try to please, go the extra mile	They'll bend over backwards to find a room for you. They give excellent service.
bend the rules	change the rules to help, look the other way	Ed won't accept late reports. He won't bend the rules.
bend your ear	ask you to listen, buttonhole you	Carl, can I bend your ear for a minute? I have some news.
bend your elbow	drink beer or liquor, tip a few	Your eyes look red and tired. Bend your elbow last night?
benefit of the doubt	(See the benefit of the doubt)	
beside myself	very upset, very worried, at loose ends	She was beside herself with grief when her sister died.
beside the point	off topic, not related, irrelevant	The brand of cigarette is beside the point. Smoking is the issue.
best foot forward	(See put your best foot forward)	
best interests at heart	thinking of a person's needs, in mind	When I give low grades, I still have your best interests at heart.
best laid plans	(See the best-laid plans)	
best of both worlds	(See the best of both worlds)	
bet on	place a bet, gamble	I bet on the bay mare, and she won! I bet \$20 on her.
bet on a lame rooster	bet on a loser, fall for that	If you vote for that guy, you're betting on a lame rooster.
bet you dollars to donuts	I will bet dollars, you bet donuts; give you odds	Ben is the fastest runner. I'll bet you dollars to donuts he wins.
better half	spouse, wife or husband	Bring your better half when you visit us. We'd like to meet her.
better late than never	it is better to arrive late than not to	"You're an hour late," he said. "Better late than never," I replied.

	arrive	
better off	in better conditions: healthier or wealthier etc.	Are you better off renting an apartment than buying a house?
better than a kick in the ass [B]	better than punishment, not as bad as it could be, don't knock it	When I told him we had won \$10 in the Lotto, he said, "It's better than a kick in the ass."
better than sex	very good, excellent, fantastic	"Hey, James. How was skydiving?" "Great! Better than sex!"
better the devil you know...	a new devil could be worse than the old devil	"Should we fire the coach?" "No - better the devil we know than the one we don't."
better to have loved...	(See it is better to have loved and lost...)	
between a rock and a hard place	in a difficult position, making a difficult choice, Sophie's choice	If I told the truth, I would lose my friend. I was between a rock and a hard place.
between sixes and sevens	(See at sixes and sevens)	
between the devil and the deep blue sea	in a difficult position, no place to go, between a rock... , Sophie's choice	If he ran, they would shoot him; if he stayed in the shop, the gas would kill him. He was between the devil and the deep blue sea.
betwixt and between	not able to choose one or the other, ambivalent	Which should I choose - PC or Mac? I'm betwixt and between.
bevy of beauties	a group of beautiful women, a few lovelies	Mr. Gable returned to Hollywood and his bevy of beauties.
beyond help	lost, cannot be saved	Some addicts are beyond help. They don't want to be helped.
beyond me	(See it's beyond me)	
beyond repair	ruined, cannot be repaired, a lost cause	That copier is wrecked. It's beyond repair.
beyond the call of duty	(See above and beyond the call of duty)	
beyond the pale	beyond the limit, over the boundary	His comment went beyond the pale of respect. It was vulgar.
biff/biffy	washroom, bathroom, the can , the john , the loo	"Is there a biffy on the bus?" "Yes. There, at the back."
Big Apple	(See The Big Apple)	
big boys	powerful men in business, moguls, big shots	If you want to do business with the big boys, you need money.
big break	big chance, a lucky break	She got her big break when a talent scout heard her sing.
big bucks	a lot of money, a high price	You'll pay big bucks to rent an apartment near the university.
big cheese	the boss, chief cook and bottle washer , head honcho	If you've got a complaint, see the big cheese. He's our manager.
big deal	important event, major happening	A small fire is a big deal because it can cause a lot of damage.

big hairy deal	not an important matter, do not make it an issue, big deal	"The teacher's coming!" "So big hairy deal!"
big picture	(See the big picture)	
big rig	(See a big rig)	
big shot	rich or important person, VIP , big boys	Randy's a big shot in the movie industry. He owns four studios.
big-sky thinking	thinking that includes everything, from horizon to horizon; think outside the box	
(coined by Jeffery Phillips)	Yes, we need to make common-sense decisions, but first let's do some big-sky thinking.	
big time	a lot, very much, heavy duty	You've helped me so much. I owe you big time.
big wheel	(See a big wheel)	
big wigs	important persons: judges, presidents etc., VIP	We've asked the big wigs to change their decision.
Bigfoot	a large ape-man living in the forests of western N. America; Sasquatch	Gary told me he saw Bigfoot's tracks in the sand along the Kootenay River.
bigger fish to fry	more important people to meet or do business with	Don't bother fighting with him. You've got bigger fish to fry.
bigger than life	heroic: stronger, wiser, uglier; larger than life	The characters in most novels seem to be bigger than life.
bigger they are...	(See the bigger they are...)	
bigmouth	someone who talks too loud, loud mouth	Every crowd has a bigmouth - some guy who yells at the cops.
bilk	cheat, defraud, ripped off , taken	He bilked me. I gave him \$100 for the tickets and he kept the change!
bimbo	(See a bimbo)	
binner	a person who scavenges in garbage bins, Dumpster diving	Some binner work in pairs. One guy climbs into the bin and hands the stuff to his partner waiting outside.
birdbrain	a person with a tiny brain, dumbo	Hey, birdbrain. Why are you throwing money in the river?
birder	a bird watcher, one whose hobby is watching birds	Some birders were looking at an oriole in a poplar tree.
birds of a feather flock together	people with similar feelings and attitudes	Art and Don are birds of a feather. They like cars and football.
birthday suit	naked, nude, in the buff	"Do you wear pajamas in bed?" "No. Just my birthday suit."
bit by bit	doing a small amount each time, little by little	Bit by bit, they rebuilt a church that was destroyed by bombs.

bit off	(See a bit off)	
bitch	complain, grouse	He tells me I'm always bitching, but I don't complain very much.
bitch [B]	(See a bitch)	
bite me [B]	I have no respect for you, kiss off , blow me	"Bite me! Take your list of whores and live with them!"
bite off more than you can chew	begin more tasks than you can complete	When I took the night class, I bit off more than I could chew.
bite the bullet	try harder, be tougher	Bite the bullet during exam week. Don't party; just study.
bite the dust	die, quit, lose, kick the bucket	Pete was 98 when he bit the dust. He lived for nearly a century.
bite the hand that feeds you	be unkind to the one who cares for you or pays you	If you criticize your employer, you bite the hand that feeds you.
bite your tongue	do not say that, you should not have said that	When I mention Dad's temper Mom says, "Bite your tongue."
biter (curling)	a rock that is touching the twelve-foot circle	The Heidt rink is lying four - one is a biter.
bits and pieces	small pieces, odds and ends	Jack built our cabin with bits and pieces - leftover materials
bitten by the same bug	have the same interest or hobby	My cousin and I were bitten by the same bug. We collect coins.
bitter end	(See the bitter end)	
bitter pill	(See a bitter pill)	
blab	tell everybody, tell secrets	I told you I like Kevin, and you blabbed it to everybody.
blabbermouth	a person who tells everything, loud mouth	Sharon - that blabbermouth! She told the whole class I love Bill.
black eye	an eye injury that causes the skin to turn black	"How'd you get the black eye?" "Fighting - in a hockey game."
Black Friday	the day the stock market crashed (failed) in 1929	In the 1980s, there were days to remind us of Black Friday.
black-listed	excluded, not be invited, not allowed to join	Gore was black-listed because he led the demonstration.
black mark	(See a black mark)	
black out	become unconscious, faint, pass out	If I bend over for a long time, I nearly black out when I stand up.
black out	remove the nameplate and trim from a vehicle	James Dean drove a blacked-out Merc in Rebel Without A Cause.
black sheep	the bad one, the one who does bad things	He's the black sheep in that family - always in trouble.
blackout	(See a blackout)	
blank	defeat by preventing any goals, skunk	In soccer, Italy blanked Ireland 2-nil.
blast	(See a blast)	
blast you	scold you, yell at you	Ms. Zank blasted me for using her computer. She was angry.
blasted	dad-blamed , darn , doggone	Where's the blasted hammer? It's never here when I need it!

blasted	drunk, loaded , plastered	On her 40th birthday, she went to the bar and got blasted.
bleeding heart	one who begs for sympathy for victims, have a soft spot...	Hector is a bleeding heart for wolves. "Save the wolves," he tells people in his speeches.
blessing in disguise	(See a blessing in disguise)	
blind date	going out with a boy or girl you have not met	Kate met Jeff on a blind date. They got married a year later.
blind leading the blind	(See the blind leading the blind)	
blood from a stone	(See get blood from a stone)	
blood is thicker than water	blood relationships are stronger than a marriage ceremony	When my wife supported her dad in a fight with me, I said, "So blood is thicker than water."
blood is up	excited, angry, ready to fight	Kerry is friendly, but when his blood is up, he's dangerous.
blood money	money paid to the relative of a murdered person, dirty money	The widow refused to take blood money from the men who murdered her husband.
bloody well	very truly, damn well	He bloody well knows my name because I bloody well told him.
blotto	exhausted, bushed	After studying for twelve hours, she was blotto - very tired.
blow a bundle	spend a lot of money, lose a lot of money gambling	When Al went to Vegas, he blew a bundle - he lost a lot of money.
blow a kiss	kiss your hand and blow across it, throw a kiss	Taea can blow a kiss, and she's only eighteen months old!
blow chunks	puke, vomit, barf , throw chunks	Juan, my boy, if you go for a ride on that Ferris wheel right after dinner, you'll blow chunks!
blow it	cause a big mistake, ruin it, screw up	Karen won't blow it this time. She'll skate a perfect program.
blow it out of proportion	exaggerate it, make it bigger than it should be	When Gretzky was traded, the media blew it out of proportion.
blow it out your ear	throw it away, it is meaningless or worthless	When I asked Jack about the leader's latest statement, he said, "You can blow it out your ear. He's already changed it."
blow it up (photo)	enlarge it, magnify it	If you want to see details in the photo, blow it up.
blow job [B]	(See a blow job)	
blow me [B]	you are worth nothing, kiss my ass, fuck off	"You want me to support you by stealing? Blow me!"
blow me down	I am very surprised, I do not believe it	Well, blow me down, Olive. You can cook spinach, too!
blow me over	it is unbelievable; far out	He's over 50? Well, blow me over!
blow my cover	reveal my true identity, reveal my hiding place	With a false passport, I can enter Bali, if nobody blows my cover.
blow sky high	upset a lot of people, cause a scandal or riot	This government will blow sky high if people hear these tapes.

blow snakes (music)	play great jazz, improvise creatively	I went to hear jazz at the club, and Guido was blowing snakes.
blow the lid off	reveal a story, tell some news, break a story	When the defendant confessed, it blew the lid off the murder trial.
blow the whistle	tell the teacher or the police, squeal	Jimmy knows we stole the keys, but he won't blow the whistle.
blow them away	defeat them badly, kick butt	The Russians blew them away in the first game of the series.
blow this joint	leave this building, quit this place	I'm sick of playing billiards. Let's blow this joint.
blow this Popsicle stand	leave this place, quit this place	What a boring town! Let's blow this Popsicle stand!
blow to kingdom come	explode and destroy, blow up	There's enough gas in the well to blow us kingdom come!
blow up	explode using a bomb or dynamite	They plan to blow up that old building because it's unsafe.
blow up	become angry, lose your temper	If you criticize Al, he'll blow up. He's very sensitive.
blow you away	defeat you easily, beat the pants off	You're going to play chess with Boris? He'll blow you away.
blow you out of the water	defeat you, humiliate you	If you challenge his leadership, he'll blow you out of the water.
blow your lid/stack/top	become very angry, shout, lose your cool	Don't blow your stack in front of the kids. It's a bad example.
blow your mind	amaze you, astound you, shock you	Watching films of the holocaust will blow your mind.
blow your stones [B]	ejaculate, come	There's more to it than blowing your stones. Sex is an art form.
blow your wad	spend all your money, blow a bundle	He blew his wad on some handmade boots. They cost \$700!
blowout	(See a blowout)	
blue	sad, depressed, down , low	"Are you blue, Dear?" "Yes. Jack left me."
blue-collar worker	someone who works at a trade, e.g., a plumber	The blue-collar workers will vote for Ed. He's a tradesman.
blue in the face	weakened, tired after trying many times	I called that dog until I was blue in the face. He would not come in.
blue moon	rare event, unusual happening, that'll be the frosty Friday	If he ever says thank you there'll be a blue moon in the sky!
blue sky	great opportunity, easy life, smooth sailing	We made T-shirts, and people loved them and bought them. From then on, it was blue sky!
blurt out	say without thinking, reply quickly	"I did it!" the boy blurted out, and he began to cry.
boarding (hockey)	checking into the boards, chairman of the boards	Boarding causes serious injuries to hockey players.
Bob's your uncle	no problem as "Bob," a powerful friend or relative, will do it or have it done	When I asked her to give your application to the president, she said, "Bob's your uncle!"
bodacious	bold, daring,	He's bodacious alright. He rode his skateboard right through traffic!

	defying the rules, like a daredevil	
body language	body movements that show feelings	Your body language tells me that you're tense. Please relax.
boggle your mind	confuse you, make your head spin	These numbers boggle my mind. I don't understand them.
bogof	buy one get one free, marketing method, loss leader	If you shop for bogof items you get two for the price of one!
boiling mad	very angry, very upset, hopping mad	By the time the car started, Emil was boiling mad.
bolt from the blue	(See like a bolt from the blue)	
bomb around	drive around, drive your car for fun, cruise	"Where have you been?" "Bombin' around in Rod's car."
bomb out	fail, not succeed	Most engineers say the electric car is a failure. It bombed out.
bombed	drunk, hammered , sloshed to the gills	Fay was bombed before she got to the party. She was drunk.
bone dry	very dry, as dry as an old bone	Someone had drained the pool. It was bone dry.
bone of contention	point of disagreement, controversial point	Job security is the bone of contention in our discussions.
bone to pick	(See a bone to pick with you)	
bone up on	study, learn, practise	I have to bone up on my French if we're going to Paris.
bonkers	crazy, insane, nuts , wacko	If you watch professional wrestling you must be bonkers!
bonzer	good, fine, super, awesome	"Did you enjoy your holiday?" "It was bonzer, mate! We had a great time!"
booboo	(See make a booboo)	
boobs [B]	breasts, tits	Okay, she has lovely boobs. What about her personality?
boogie	go, walk, drive	Let's boogie on down to the store and rent a video.
book worm	one who reads a lot, geek	Sarah is quite a book worm. She loves to read history books.
booked/booked up	no more space or rooms, no vacancy	The Royal Hotel is booked up. Every room is reserved.
boom box	portable radio, ghetto blaster	We can have music at the beach if you bring your boom box.
boom or bust	either large profits or large losses, rich or poor, feast or famine	In the oil business, it's boom or bust. Some years it's worth more than gold; other years it isn't worth the cost of production!
boot it	drive fast, highball it , pedal to the metal	If you boot it, Betty won't ride with you. She hates going fast.
boot up	start or switch on a computer	Wait until I boot up the Mac. Then we can print your letter.
bootleg	produced illegally, not authorized, software piracy	If someone offers you bootleg software, don't accept it! You could be sued!
booze	liquor, hooch , moonshine	I think Gus has been drinking. His breath smells of booze.
boozing buddies	friends who drink liquor and party together	In those days, Billy and I were boozin' buddies - pals.
born tired	tired since birth,	My dad says I was born tired. When the doctor slapped my bum, I just yawned!

	always tired	
born with a silver spoon in his mouth	born into a rich family, accustomed to wealth	Jason won't look for a job; he was born with a silver spoon... .
bosom buddy	close friends, friends who grew up together	Don't criticize Brad, eh. He's my bosom buddy.
botch it	ruin it, do it wrong, blow it	When you bake bread for the first time, it's easy to botch it.
bottle drive	going to houses asking for pop and liquor bottles	The bottle drive was a success. The girls earned \$350.
bottle man	a man who finds bottles in garbage cans or Dumpsters	The bottle man walked down the alley pushing a cart full of junk.
bottle up	not talk about, keep in your mind	Don't keep all those feelings bottled up inside you. Talk!
bottom fell out	(See the bottom fell out)	
bottom line	the final number, the conclusion	The bottom line is this: we can't afford to expand.
bottom out	go down to the bottom, arrive at the low point	The recession will bottom out by the end of the year.
bottom rung	the first step, the lowest position	Jerry, my boy, in this company you start at the bottom rung.
bottoms up	finish your drinks, drink the remainder	"Bottoms up," said his friend. "It's time to go."
bounce back	recover from failure or sickness, try again	Lana has the flu, but she bounces back quickly.
bow out	resign so someone else can serve, step down	When Dad sees that I can manage the firm, he will bow out.
bowl me over	surprise me, blow me down	Well, bowl me over! You've done your homework!
boy, oh boy	wow, oh man, holy cow	Boy, oh boy! I'm glad to see you!
boys will be boys	all boys are the same; boys are rough and noisy, a chip off the old...	When Steve came home with his shirt torn and nose bleeding, his father said, "Boys will be boys."
bozo	a person who does unusual things, a nerd	Lenny is kind of a bozo. He laughs at the wrong time.
brain	(See what a brain)	
brain drain	emigration of intelligent people	If Canada's best professors move away, it's called a brain drain.
brain is fried	brain is very tired or ruined by drug abuse	After writing six exams, my brain was fried - too much studying!
brain storm	think of ideas together, think tank	Our family decided to brain storm the problem of wasting food.
brain traffic	thoughts and information moving through the brain	I wish I could turn off my mind when brain traffic is too heavy.
branch office	an office in another location or city	Please contact our branch office in your town or city.

branch out	open a second office/store, expand a company	Business is very good. It may be time for us to branch out.
brand new/ brand spanking new	not used at all , just off the assembly line	Imagine a brand new Mercedes in an accident. What a shame!
bravo	great, wonderful, more, encore	"Bravo! Bravo!" the audience roared. They loved Heppner's singing and were shouting for more.
bread	money, cash, dough	Hey, man, we need more bread if we're gonna buy cigarettes.
bread and butter	the main product, the source of profit	We sell a variety of parts, but the oil filter is our bread and butter.
breadbasket	stomach, belly	The ball hit him just below his chest - right in the breadbasket.
breadbasket	an area that produces grain, wheatbelt	Saskatchewan is a major wheat producer: Canada's breadbasket.
break a habit	stop doing a daily activity: drinking coffee, smoking	Laurie can't seem to break her habit of writing on her hands.
break a leg	good luck, have a good performance	"Break a leg!" she whispered as he walked on the stage.
break a promise	not do as you promised, go back on your word	Trudy never breaks a promise. She is very dependable.
break a spell	cause a spell to stop, not be under a spell	I was captivated by her until she smoked. That broke the spell.
break a story	be first to tell a story, be first to tell some news	The London Times broke the story of Charles's confessions.
break a sweat	begin to sweat or perspire, work up a sweat	For exercise to be beneficial, the athlete must break a sweat.
break and enter	break a lock or window to enter illegally, B&E	They were charged with break and enter. They stole some cash.
break away	move away, go away from, stop doing or using	She tried to break away when the cult leader asked for her savings.
break curfew	stay out later than the rules allow	If you break curfew, the coach will remind you of the rules.
break down	fail, not operate, out of order	If that copier breaks down again I'm going to give it away.
break in	operate or drive slowly when it is new	When I bought my first new car, Dad said to break it in carefully.
break into	break a door or window to enter, break and enter	I couldn't believe that my son would break into a store.
break into song	begin to sing suddenly, sing without warning	One of our teachers used to break into song when he taught poetry.
break off	tell a friend that you wish to stop seeing him	She wonders if she should break off her relationship with Liam.
break out	escape, get away, bust out	He was shot trying to break out of prison - trying to escape.
break out	happen suddenly, erupt	A riot will break out if you don't talk to the strikers.
break out in a rash	have a rash appear on your skin	When the temperature goes over 30° the baby breaks out in a rash.
break the bank	spend all savings,	One more expense this month will break the bank.

	leave no balance	
break the ice	relieve the tension, put you at ease	Andy likes to tell a joke to break the ice - to help everybody relax.
break the law/rules	not obey the law, commit a crime	If you rob a store, you are breaking the law.
break the record	do better than the previous record	The coach believes Bev can break the record in long jump.
break the silence	talk about a secret, tell people the truth	When he accused us of the crime, my brother broke the silence.
break up	not date anymore, not be lovers anymore, breakup	Lan and Chan broke up last night. They had a bad quarrel.
break your fall	prevent serious injury when you fall	He fell from the roof, but a tree helped to break his fall.
break your heart	cause you to feel very sad and lonely	Marilyn broke my heart. She left me for a younger man.
breakdown	sudden health failure, fall apart	After his breakdown, he found an occupation with less stress.
breakup	separation, divorce, not being partners anymore, break up	Since their breakup, I don't know where to send my Christmas cards.
breath of fresh air	(See a breath of fresh air)	
breath of wind	(See a breath of wind)	
breathe a sigh of relief	feel relieved after a time of worry	When we saw the children were safe, we breathed a sigh of relief.
breathe down my neck	watch everything I do, follow me as I work	It's difficult to work with him breathing down my neck.
breathe easy	relax, breathe slower, stop worrying	Mother said, "I won't breathe easy until this plane is on the ground!"
brick	(See a brick)	
bridge the gap	help people communicate, mediate	When the staff and the manager fight, I try to bridge the gap.
bright	intelligent, brainy, sharp	I left the water running. That wasn't a very bright thing to do.
bright-eyed and bushy-tailed	frisky, lively, full of life	Perry is bright-eyed and bushy-tailed tonight. He looks rested.
bring an end to	(See put an end to)	
bring home the bacon	bring home a paycheck, support a family	Stan is disabled, so Louise brings home the bacon.
bring it off	manage it successfully, carry it off	Don't worry about the project. Mr. Ho can bring it off.
bring the house down	cause a lot of cheering or applause or laughter	If Kurt skates well in Calgary he'll bring the house down.
bring to a close	conclude, finish, wrap up	Now, to bring my presentation to a close, I'll tell you a story.
bring up	introduce, begin to talk about	Please bring up that point at the meeting. We can discuss it then.
bring up	vomit, puke	Did the baby bring up his breakfast? Let me wipe it up.

bring you up short	cause you to stop and think, rebuke you	When I began to criticize Jan, Mother brought me up short.
broad	girl, chick , prostitute	"Where's Mark?" "Over there, with the broads, as usual."
broad daylight	(See in broad daylight)	
broke	(See flat broke)	
broken dreams	plans that did not work, hopes that died	Their divorce will mean broken dreams for both of them.
broken record	(See like a broken record)	
brouhaha	shouting and fighting, melee, Donnybrook	After the dance, there was a brouhaha in the schoolyard.
browbeat	force you to work, harass, hound , on my case	He browbeats his employees. He shouts, "You! Get to work!"
brown nose [B]	try to please the manager, suck up to	Some guys brown nose their way to success. But is it success?
browned off	unhappy, a little bit angry, ticked off	Tran was browned off because we were late. She didn't like that.
brownie points	points for doing extra work for the manager	Bruno earns brownie points by offering to help the manager.
brush cut	short, level haircut - like a brush on top	Your brush cut looks great - nice and flat on top.
brush it off	not let it bother you, not be concerned	When Erik criticizes my family, I just brush it off and walk away.
brush-off	(See give him the brush-off)	
brush up on	review, relearn or practise; bone up on	The teacher said I should brush up on my spelling - try to improve.
brush with death	nearly die, at death's door , on my deathbed	After a close brush with death you'll think that life is precious.
brush with the law	an illegal act, a minor crime	Judd told me about his brush with the law - a shoplifting charge.
buck	dollar, greenback , loonie	When I earn some bucks, I'm going to buy a stereo.
buck fever	nervous, unable to perform well, choke	Every time I play in a competition I get buck fever. I get so nervous.
buck stops here	(See the buck stops here)	
buck up	be strong, be positive	Buck up, my friend. You will soon be finished with exams.
buckle down	work harder, try harder, bite the bullet	Next term I'm going to buckle down and get good grades.
buckle under	quit, lose, not try, give up	We're losing, but we won't buckle under. We won't quit.
buckle up	fasten your seat belt, buckle your seat belt	Buckle up. Dad won't drive away until we fasten our seat belts.
buckstop (military)	brass marker placed on the wardroom table in a warship	When Ken wants to be served he sits nearest the buckstop.

budding genius	(See a budding genius)	
buffalo	frighten, bluff, intimidate	The director shouts a lot, but don't let him buffalo you.
bug (someone)	bother, irritate, get to me	That scraping noise bugs me. It's quite annoying.
bugger all [B]	nothing, diddly-squat , fuck all	"Hey Giulio, what did you win?" "Bugger all -nothing!"
build a better mousetrap	improve a common product	If you're not an inventor, you try to build a better mousetrap.
build up	increase, raise	Talking with Rudy will build up your confidence. He's positive.
built like a brick shithouse [B]	have a strong body, have a sturdy build	Tyronne plays football. He's built like a brick shithouse.
bull in a china shop	(See a bull in a china shop)	
bull/bullshit/BS [B]	a story that is not all true, balderdash	His explanation is a lot of bull. Don't believe it.
bully for you	you were lucky, good for you	When I beat Ed at cribbage, he says, "Bully for you!"
bum	buttocks, backside , butt , rear end	"Why did she slap your face?" "Because I pinched her bum."
bum rap	(See a bum rap)	
bum's rush	(See the bum's rush)	
bummer	(See a bummer)	
bump and grind (hockey)	bump other players and work to get the puck	To win hockey games we need players who bump and grind.
bump and grind	walk or dance in a sexy way	A seminude dancer was bumping and grinding under red lights.
bump into	meet by chance, run into	Do you know who I bumped into yesterday? Larry Mason.
bumper to bumper	a lane of vehicles with the bumpers nearly touching	Traffic on Memorial Drive was bumper to bumper at 4:30 today.
bun in the oven	(See a bun in the oven)	
bundle	(See make a bundle)	
bundle of nerves	(See a bundle of nerves)	
bundle up	dress warmly, put on winter clothes, rug up	Be sure to bundle up if you go skating on the lake. It's cold!
bunk	false statements, rumors, baloney , bull	They claim that computers can think, but that's a lot of bunk!
buns	buttocks, bum	Tony said Rita has great buns.
burbs	(See the burbs)	
burn a hole in your pocket	feel that you have to spend your money	If money burns a hole in your pocket, invest it.
burn it in	throw the ball hard to the catcher, fastball	My hand hurts when you throw so hard. Don't burn it in, eh.
burn out	use too much emotional energy, breakdown	Working too hard can cause a person to burn out.
burn the midnight oil	work or study very late at night	To become a doctor, you have to burn the midnight oil.

burn up	become angry, lose your cool	The coach was burned up when I got a penalty for holding.
burn your ass [B]	bother you, irritate you, bug you	You know what burns my ass? Doing my income tax.
burn your bridges	resign without notice, leave no way to return	He can't return to the company. He's burned his bridges.
burned	convicted or punished while involved in crime	Tony got burned when he was a drug dealer. He went to jail.
burning question	(See the burning question)	
bury the hatchet	stop arguing or fighting, throw down your arms	When will the English and the French bury the hatchet?
bush telegraph	street gossip, through the grapevine	Arne gets the news through the bush telegraph. People tell him.
bushed	very tired, worn out	After caring for five kids all day, Mom's busted. She's exhausted.
bushwhack	stop you and rob you, jump , mugged	When he stopped to camp by the stream, two guys bushwhacked him - stole his money and horse.
business as usual	everything is normal, nothing has changed	The morning after the holdup, it was business as usual at the bank
bust my butt	work very hard, work my fingers to the bone	She busts her butt to earn a good wage, and he spends it.
bust out	escape, get away, break out	Hey, man. I can bust out of here if you have a rope.
busted	charged by the police, arrested	Shane got busted for trafficking. He sold cocaine to some kids.
busy as a beaver	(See as busy as a beaver)	
but good	completely, thoroughly, and how	If somebody hurts her, she'll get revenge, but good!
butt	buttocks, backside , bum	If you tell anybody that I like her, I'll kick your butt.
butt in	intrude, interrupt	When a salesman butts in, tell him to butt out.
butt of the joke	(See the butt of the joke)	
butt out	go away, beat it , get lost	We asked him to butt out so we could have a private talk.
butter fingers	unable to catch or hold, cement hands	When Anna dropped the ball, Shelly said, "Butter fingers!"
bust my butt	work very hard, work my fingers to the bone	She busts her butt to earn a good wage, and he spends it.
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butter fingers	unable to catch or hold, cement hands	When Anna dropped the ball, Shelly said, "Butter fingers!"
butter up	be nice to, suck up to	Butter him up before you ask to borrow his car.
butter wouldn't melt in his mouth	he is very calm and clear, he has an air of innocence, cool , smooth talker	When he's talking to voters, butter wouldn't melt in his mouth.
button your lip	do not tell anyone, on the QT	Button your lip about the speeding ticket. Don't tell Dad.
buttonhole you	stop you and talk to you, corner you and bore you	At the meeting, Al buttonholed me and asked me to vote Reform.
buy a round	buy a drink for everyone at the table, this one is on me	When Gina was born, I bought a round for the team. Every player had a drink to honor our baby.
buy into	believe and support, agree to support, come onside	He will buy into our plan if the money goes to needy children.
buy out	buy a business and all the inventory	We knew his business was in debt, so we offered to buy him out.
buy that	believe that, eat that	He says he went to see his friends at the park. I can buy that.
buy the farm	die, kick the bucket , pass away	"Where's Henry?" "Oh, he bought the farm years ago - died of cancer, eh."
buy time	request time to plan, ask for extra time	If we can just buy a little time, maybe the price will go down.
buy up	buy all of a product or all the shares in a company	At closing time, Abe comes in and buys up the last shares.
buyer's market	a time when prices are low, soft	The price of gold is low. It's a buyer's market in precious metals.

	market	
buzz-kill	a person who stops the fun, party-pooper	You buzz-kill! Don't talk about air disasters when I'm flying to Rome.
buzz off	go away, beat it , get lost	Next time he asks to borrow something, tell him to buzz off.
buzzed	slightly intoxicated, tipsy	Jane got buzzed on fermented coconut juice. She was happy!
buzzword	new word or expression, the latest jargon, catch phrase	Internet, zero tolerance - these were buzzwords of the 1990s.
by a country mile	by a long distance, by a wide margin	Black Beauty won the race by a country mile. She was far ahead.
by a long shot	(See not by a long shot)	
by all means	yes, please do it	By all means, come to the Learning Skills Centre.
by and large	mostly, mainly, most of the time	By and large, chocolate is the favorite flavor.
by any means	any way or method, by doing any job	He survived by any means when he first came to Canada.
by any stretch...	(See not by any stretch of the imagination)	
by cracky	you listen to what I say, this is the truth, by gosh This is serious, by cracky! We're lost and we have no water!	
by dint of	as a result of, because of	By dint of her efforts alone, this family is happy and healthy.
by golly	I am surprised, impressed; by gosh	By golly! She did it. She made a cherry pie!
by gosh	what an experience, this is interesting, by golly	Well, by gosh! This is my first look at Niagara Falls!
by guess or by gosh	any way that is possible, by chance	How did I learn to speak French? By guess or by gosh, that's how.
by heart	memorized every word, down pat	Eva knew the speech by heart. She didn't look at her notes.
by hook or by crook	any way that is possible, by any means	He'll get that car - by hook or by crook! He'll get it somehow.
by its very nature	because of its natural habits, because it is that way	A dog, by its very nature, is dependent on humans.
by jove	it happened, it is amazing	By jove! We reached our goal. We sold 15,000 tickets!
by leaps and bounds	by large amounts, by a lot	The population of Calgary has grown by leaps and bounds.
by no means	not in any way, not by any stretch...	By no means is a car a good investment. It will depreciate.
by the by	(See by the way)	
by the same token	judging by the same rule, to be fair to both sides	By the same token, he should help with the housework.
by the seat of	with little money,	You can't operate a business by the seat of your pants.

your pants	without planning, a lick and a promise	
by the short hairs	(See got you by the short hairs)	
by the skin of their teeth	by a little, barely	He won the election by one vote, by the skin of his teeth.
by the way	in addition to what I was saying, incidentally	By the way, I heard that Ed is resigning.
by word of mouth	by one person speaking to another, person to person, through the grapevine	News of his birth traveled by word of mouth. Soon everyone knew that Mary had a baby boy.
bye	goodbye	Bye, Mom. I love you.
bye for now	goodbye but I will see you soon	Bye for now. See you tonight at choir practice.

Idiom	Meaning	Example
c'est la vie	that is fate, that's life	If you have bad luck some days, it's natural. C'est la vie!
Cabbagetown	a district in Toronto where European immigrants live	Restaurants in Cabbagetown serve European food.
cabin fever	feeling depressed because you have to stay inside	After three weeks of cold weather we all had cabin fever.
cackleberries	eggs, chicken eggs	Look! This hen laid five cackleberries!
call a spade a spade	say it in plain language; the straight goods	Kris will report the facts. She's not afraid to call a spade a spade.
call attention to	ask you to read or notice, draw attention to	I would like to call attention to the student parking problem.
call for	require, ask for	This recipe calls for bee pollen. Where can we get that?
call his bluff	challenge his story, give it to me straight , put up or shut up	When I called his bluff about low profits, he admitted that the company made 11 million.
call into account	consider, factor in, reckon with, account for	If you want to go to Ottawa on the first of July, you have to call holiday traffic into account.
call it a day	not work anymore today, call it quits	I'm feeling very tired. I think I'll call it a day.
call it quits	stop doing something, quit what you are doing	The dust is bothering all of us. I think we should call it quits.
call it square	we do not owe each other, it is a wash , we are even	I bought the pizza; you bought the beer. Let's call it square.
call off	cancel, postpone	They called off the concert because the lead singer is sick.
call off the dogs	tell your friends to stop harassing me	Okay, I'll pay what I owe you. But call off the dogs!
call on	ask, request	I may call on you to speak at the meeting. Will you speak to us?
call tabs	collect money from bar customers	If customers are drunk, you call their tabs and ask them to leave.
call the shots	make the decisions, decide what happens	Mr. Binks may be the president, but Ms. Barker calls the shots.
call up	phone, dingle you , give me a ring ,	Call her up and ask her for a date. Go ahead, phone her.
calm before the storm	(See the calm before the storm)	
calm down	not be so upset, settle down	Please calm down, Mr. Tse. Your daughter is safe.
camel toes [B]	the folds of the vagina revealed by tight jeans	When Betty wears her old jeans you can see her camel toes.
can	(See the can)	
can	dismiss, fire , let go	He was canned for drinking liquor at work. They dismissed him.
can help it	can stop it, can prevent it	Abortion won't become legal if he can help it. He's against it.
can it	stop it, knock it off	Miss Schmidt heard a boy say, "Can it! Here comes the teacher."
can of worms	a controversial issue, an old problem	Gun control - let's not open that can of worms!
can't believe my ears	cannot believe what I hear, it is unbelievable	The cat is babysitting the kids? I can't believe my ears!
can't believe my eyes	cannot believe what I see, it is	When you walked into that cafe, I couldn't believe my eyes.

	unbelievable	
can't have it both ways	you have to choose one or the other; cannot have your cake...	When children are allowed to make choices, they learn that they can't have it both ways.
can't help	cannot prevent, cannot stop	I can't help crying at weddings. They make me feel sad.
can't hold a candle	(See hold a candle)	
can't put my finger on it	cannot remember the exact words	I know the answer, but I can't put my finger on it.
can't put my hands on it	cannot remember exactly where it is	Your book is in my office, but I can't put my hands on it now.
can't see for looking	cannot see because I have been looking too long	Will you try to find my glove? I can't see for looking.
can't see the forest for the trees	I am so close that I cannot see the whole picture or the big picture	I'm so involved in teaching that I've lost my view of education. I can't see the forest for the trees.
can't stand	does not like, hate	Don can't stand love songs. He thinks the words are silly.
Canada goose	getting goosed in Canada by a Canadian	"There," he said. "Now you've had your Canada goose."
canary	a person who tells the police, a squealer	Ken - that canary! He tells the boss who comes in late.
candy-ass	a person without courage or confidence	Larry, that candy-ass! He's afraid to play me because he may lose.
canned	prepared, memorized, a pat answer	His answers sound canned, like he memorized them
Canuck	a Canadian, a citizen of Canada, Johnny Canuck	When we visited Montana, a clerk called us "Canucks."
capture the imagination	cause a person to imagine a scene or character	The story of Jacob Two-Two will capture the kids' imagination.
car buff	a person who loves to repair or restore cars	Colin has been a car buff ever since he bought his first Ford.
card	(See such a card)	
card-carrying member	a regular member, a person on the membership list	Only card-carrying members will be allowed to attend the meeting.
caribouboo	a mistake made by a caribou, make a booboo	"Why did the caribou get lost?" "He made a caribouboo! Ha ha!"
carry a tune	sing well, sing in tune, pipes	Ask June to lead the singing. She can carry a tune.
carry it off	make it happen, pull it off	This project requires planning and skill, but he can carry it off.
carry on	continue, keep on	Carry on with your game. I'll wait until you're finished.
carry on	talk or act silly, not be sensible	They were kissing in church. Imagine carrying on like that!
carry out	do, complete, execute	Now that we have the loan we can carry out our plan.
carry the can	be responsible, see that the job gets done	The manager gets a big salary, but Mario carries the can.
carry the conversation	continue the conversation,	Visiting with Sally is easy. She carries the conversation!

	continue talking to you	
carry the day	provide enough energy or support, fill the gap	We need one more volunteer. If you can come it will carry the day.
carry weight	have influence, have power	Nina is a good reference; her name carries a lot of weight.
carry your weight	do your share of the work, do enough work	If you carry your weight, you can work here for the summer.
cart before the horse	(See the cart before the horse)	
cascade (business)	allow information to flow down to the employees	Archie thinks we should control this information, not cascade it.
case in point	an example to support my point or thesis	Social democracy can succeed. Sweden is a case in point.
case of	(See a case of)	
cash and carry	pay cash and carry it out of the store (no deliveries)	The ad stated the terms of the sale: CASH & CARRY.
cash cow	a source of much money, a profitable resource	Alberta's cash cow - oil - is helping to balance the budget.
cash flow	money spent on the operation of a business	Calculate your weekly business expenses. That's your cash flow.
cash in	receive cash for bonds or poker chips; profit from	You're retired now. It may be time to cash in your bonds.
cash on the barrelhead	pay cash to the owner at the time of purchase; cold , hard cash	The old man said, "To buy my pony you'll have to pay \$300 - cash on the barrelhead."
cash on the line	pay the full price in cash to the seller	I'll pay \$200 for the bike - cash on the line.
cash up/cash out	count all the cash at the end of a business day	After you cash up, put the money in the safe and lock it.
cast a spell	use charm or spiritual power to change people	When Pavarotti sings, he casts a spell on his audience.
cast your vote	vote in an election, mark your ballot	Before you cast your vote, think carefully about the issues.
cat got your tongue	why do you not speak? lose your tongue?	Before I could reply, she said, "Cat got your tongue?"
cat's ass	(See the cat's ass)	
cat's meow	(See the cat's meow)	
cat's out of the bag	(See the cat's out of the bag)	
catcall	shouting disapproval or insults, heckling	The catcalls from the audience caused the speaker to pause.
catch 22	the cause is the effect and the effect is the cause	It was catch 22. I needed my glasses to find my glasses.
catch a buzz	begin to feel intoxicated, begin to feel natural high	This is strong beer. You catch a buzz from drinking one bottle!
catch a cold (catch cold)	be sick with a cold, come down with a	I caught a cold while we were in Vancouver.

	cold	
catch a glimpse	see for only a second, visible for a brief time	I caught a glimpse of Sue at the mall, but she didn't see me.
catch a plane/bus/train	go to the airport and get on the plane	After the meeting, you can catch the plane to Toronto.
catch a ride	ride with someone who has a vehicle, get a lift	When I go to church, I catch a ride with my neighbor Lila.
catch as catch can	no order, get what you can	The Clearance Sale was catch as catch can - each one for himself.
catch hell [B]	get a scolding or lecture, get it , get shit [B]	"Did you catch hell for cheating?" "Yes. The teacher lectured me and gave me zero on the exam."
catch it	get a scolding or lecture, catch hell [B]	Did you catch it for coming in late? Was your mom mad?
catch me by surprise	surprise me, not warn me	The snowstorm in May caught us by surprise. We didn't expect it.
catch me doing that	see me doing that, find me doing that	You won't catch me skydiving. It's too dangerous.
catch on	learn how to do, learn the ropes	We need trainees who catch on quickly - people who learn fast.
catch on	get work, get a job, hire on	Maybe you can catch on with a survey crew for the summer.
catch phrase	idiom, popular phrase, buzzword	There's a catch phrase for Newfoundland: The Rock.
catch some rays	have a sun bath, get a sun tan, bag some rays	When we get to Hawaii, you can catch some rays. It's sunny there.
catch some z's	sleep, get some rest, crash	Do you mind if I catch some z's on your couch? I'm sleepy.
catch the wave	join the trend, do what is popular	Condos are popular now. Should we buy one and catch the wave?
catch up	arrive later, join you	You go ahead. I'll catch up with you at the bus stop.
catch-up	(See play catch-up)	
catch up on	do something that you have neglected	Ali can't go to the movie. He has to catch up on his homework.
catch up with	revealed or exposed, come back to haunt you	When your lies catch up with you, it's embarrassing.
catch you at a bad time	visit or call when it is inconvenient	You look very sad. Did I catch you at a bad time?
catch you later	I will talk to you later, I will see you later	I have to leave now. Catch you later.
catch you off guard	surprise you, say what you do not expect	Did my comment about dog poop catch you off guard?
catch your death	become very ill, catch a bad cold	In this terrible weather, put on a coat or you'll catch your death.
catch your eye	cause you to look, get your attention	When I was in Paris, a Peugeot cabriolet caught my eye. Ah!
caught dead	(See wouldn't be caught dead)	
caught flatfooted	not ready to respond, mind in neutral	Esposito was caught flatfooted by Lemaire's slapshot - an easy goal!
caught in the act	caught doing a crime, caught with his pants down	Two of the boys were caught in the act of vandalism. They were breaking car windows.
caught looking	be looking when you should have	I was caught looking when he hit the ball. I just watched it.

	been acting	
caught red-handed	caught with evidence, caught in the act	The smuggler was caught red-handed with a kilo of cocaine.
caught up	busy with, involved	Maidra is caught up in church activities. She's very busy.
caught up	be finished, completed the required work	I want to get caught up on my cleaning before we have guests.
caught with his pants down	found doing a bad act, caught in the act	Percy was caught cheating - caught with his pants down.
cauliflower ear	a human ear that looks like a small cauliflower	After years of playing rugby Ron had a cauliflower ear. It had been bumped and injured too many times.
caution	(See a caution)	
cave in	quit, be unable to cope, fold	One more crisis and I'll cave in. I'm very weary.
cement hands	awkward hands, butter fingers	Joey can't type; he's got cement hands.
chain letter	a letter that is copied and sent to other people	This letter says I will have bad luck if I break the chain.
chain of command	order of those in power, line of authority	If you are a lieutenant, the chain of command goes up and down.
chain reaction	one event causing a sequence of events	Abe sold his shares, causing a chain reaction in the market.
chain smoker	a person who smokes one cigarette after another, smokes like a furnace	"Do all chain smokers die of emphysema?" "No, but most of them do."
chairman of the boards (hockey)	a player who controls play along the boards	In the 1970s Doug was chairman of the boards for the Hawks.
chalk it up to	conclude that it is..., attribute it to...	You tried and you failed. Chalk it up to experience. Learn from it.
chalk one up for you	you have earned a point, you won that point/game	Good shot! I'll chalk one up for you.
chances are	it is quite possible, it may be	Chances are they're lost, and that's why they're late.
change for the better	improve, become better	My attitude has changed for the better. I'm more positive now.
change hands	change owners, be sold or traded	That condo changed hands three times in one year - three owners!
change horses in mid stream	change plans/methods after you have begun a competition or business	We're in the furniture business, not clothing. We can't change horses in mid stream.
change of heart	change from negative to positive	Now he seems friendly toward us. Has he had a change of heart?
change your mind	choose a different plan, change your decision	Please change your mind about leaving home. Please don't go.
change your tune	change your attitude, change your mind	If the price of a barrel of oil goes down, he'll change his tune.
character assassination	saying things that ruin a person's reputation, muckrake	"What did they say about him?" "It was mainly gossip and character assassination."

character density	number of dense people, number of dummies	If I join your company, the character density will decrease.
charge it	buy or purchase on credit, put it on the bill	The clerk said, "If you don't have cash, you can charge it."
charity begins at home	first help the needy in your own community; then help others	If you want to help the poor, remember that charity begins at home.
charley horse	soreness in a muscle, cramp in a calf muscle, pull a muscle	"Did you hurt your leg playing baseball?" "Yes, I slid into third base and now I have a charley horse."
chaser	a soft drink to follow a hard drink, a weaker drink	The old man drank coffee as a chaser for the Irish whisky.
chasing rainbows	trying to achieve an impossible goal	Many young actors are chasing rainbows - hoping for fame.
chat her up	talk to her about a date, talk romantically to her	If you like Mila, chat her up. Say nice things to her.
cheap	unwilling to spend money, not generous, tight	They refuse to buy the boy a decent suit. They're too cheap.
cheap drunk	(See a cheap drunk)	
cheap like borsch ²	not expensive, as cheap as vegetable soup	I didn't pay much for this jacket. It was cheap like borsch.
cheap skate	a person who does not pay his share, a tight-ass	That cheap skate can keep his money. I'll pay for the tickets.
cheat on	break a marriage promise, be unfaithful	He cheats on his wife. Now he's sleeping with a waitress.
check it out	inquire, find out about	Check it out. It may be a great opportunity.
check out	find out about, see if it is okay	Let's check out that Subaru we saw at Chong's Used Cars.
check-out	the counter where you pay for your purchases	The shoppers were lined up at the Canadian Tire check-out.
check over	look for errors in a paper, see if there are mistakes	I've written a letter of application. Will you check it over for me?
check that	look at that, get a load of that	When Rick saw the sports car, he said, "Check that!"
check this out	look at this, eyeball this , peep this	Hey! Check this out! Carly's got a boyfriend!
check up on	see if everything is fine or safe	He went to check up on the kids because they were crying.
check up on	supervise, watch to see if it is done correctly	They don't like a manager who is always checking up on them.
check your bags	give your luggage to the ticket agent	I would like to check my bags. Will you put them on the plane?
checkered career	career with failures, history of good and bad	His checkered career may ruin his chance of being elected.
checkup	doctor's	If you aren't feeling well, go to the doctor for a checkup.

² borsch may also be spelled borsh, borscht or borshch, showing that we lack an authoritative mapping from the Russian to the English alphabet

	examination, medical examination	
cheek	sharp reply, sarcasm, lip	When I called Mom a crab, she said, "No more of your cheek!"
cheek by jowl	beside, alongside, side by side	Jack and James fought cheek by jowl in World War I.
cheeky	rude, impolite, lippy , sassy	Tara is too cheeky. She told her mom to stop flirting with men.
cheerio	goodbye, bye for now , so long , toodle-oo	"Cheerio, dear. See you at lunchtime!"
cheers	a British toast or greeting meaning good health to you or goodbye and good wishes, chimo , ciao	I raise my glass to a great leader: Sir Winston Churchill. Cheers!
cheery-bye	goodbye, bye , cheerio	I'll see you tomorrow. Cheery-bye!
cheesecake	naked flesh, bare skin	The dancer provided lots of cheesecake - lots of bare leg.
cheesed off	upset, annoyed, ticked off	They were cheesed off when I said you wouldn't pay them.
cheesy	poor quality, crappy , shabby	The acting was pretty cheesy. The actors didn't know their lines.
cherry picker (hockey)	a player who waits at center ice for a pass	Our coach told us about the cherry picker on the other team.
chestnut	old favorite song, well-known story	Moira played the piano, and we sang old songs - old chestnuts.
chew him out	lecture him, scold him, give him hell (see give you hell) [B]	My sister chewed me out for taking her car. She gave me hell.
chew the fat/ chew the rag	talk, visit, have a chin wag	I'll go and get the wine while you two relax and chew the fat.
chick	girl, woman	We were waiting for the bus, and this chick says, "Hi, boys."
chick flick	film for women, movie about a woman or women	Steel Magnolias is a chick flick about life in the southern US.
chicken	afraid, scared, yellow	When it comes to heights, I'm chicken. I'm scared.
chicken	a coward, a person who is not brave, wimp	I'm not a fighter, but I'm not a chicken. I just don't believe in violence.
chicken feed	small amount of money, a paltry sum , peanuts	Don't worry about a few dollars for books. It's chicken feed.
chicken in every pot	(See a chicken in every pot)	
chicken on a June bug	(See like a chicken on a June bug)	
chickens come home to roost	we cannot escape the consequences of our actions	We soon discover that lies return to their owner, just as chickens come home to roost.
chickenshit [B]	(See chicken)	
chief cook and bottle washer	manager, supervisor	Hal is the chief cook and bottle washer for our school supper.
chill out	pause to gain control of your emotions, cool off	I think you should chill out before you see the supervisor.
chime in	add a word or phrase to a	"I want a piece of cake, too," Izzie chimed in. "Please."

	conversation, two cents' worth	
chimo	an Inuit expression meaning "Goodbye. It was nice talking to you," bye for now , ciao	"I'm glad we finally met!" "Yes, we had a good visit. Chimo!"
chin wag	(See a chin wag)	
chintzy	unwilling to spend, cheap , tight	Don't be so chintzy with your time. Volunteer to visit seniors.
chip in	each one help to pay for, everybody pay a little	We should chip in and buy Sadie a gift when she moves away.
chip off the old block	(See a chip off the old block)	
chip on his shoulder	in a fighting mood, looking for a fight	Ron has a chip on his shoulder. He's arguing with everybody.
chips are down	(See when the chips are down)	
chock full	very full, full to the top, chockablock , plump full	The truck was chock full of paper to be recycled.
chockablock	tightly packed, crammed in one place, chock full	The square was chockablock with people - all looking at the pope.
choke	be so nervous you cannot perform or do it well	Don't even think about choking when you make your speech.
choked	angry, mad, pissed	She was really choked when you called her a bitch.
chomping at the bit	eager to go, anxious to leave	If you mention camping, the kids will be chomping at the bit.
choose sides	help one side or team, take sides	Some of the students will dislike you if you choose sides.
choose up sides	choose people to play on two or more teams	Let's choose up sides and play a game of volleyball.
chops	lips and teeth, mouth	You need big chops to play the tuba, eh.
chow	food, something to eat	I'm starved. Let's get some chow.
chow down	eat, have a meal	I'm hungry. Let's chow down before we go to the movie.
Christmas graduate	a student who leaves college at Christmas	Among the Christmas graduates last year was Gerard Kutz.
chromedome	bald person, silkhead	Chromedomes can tell you the advantages of being bald.
chuck it	put it in the garbage, junk it	We used to say chuck it, but now we say recycle it.
chunk of change	(See a chunk of change)	
ciao	goodbye, see you later	Ciao, Tony. See you in Rome.
circles around you	much better than you, no contest	Why do you play cards with her? She can play circles around you.
circular file	garbage can or wastebasket, file 13	A lot of memos go in the circular file. They're garbage.
claim to fame	what you have done to cause you to be famous	Besides passing math, what's your claim to fame?
clam	dollar, buck	He paid a hundred clams for that radio.
clam up	stop talking, become quiet	Why do you clam up when we mention Judy? Why so quiet?
claptrap	nonsense, trivia,	I heard what the psychic said. What a lot of claptrap!

	bull	
class act	a fine person, a lady, a gentleman, first class	Do you know Stephen Lewis? Now there's a class act!
claws are showing	show resentment or envy or jealousy, if looks could kill	When you talked about Carla, your claws were showing. Do you dislike her?
clean bill of health	(See a clean bill of health)	
clean bill of health	(See a clean bill of health)	
clean cut	well groomed, clean, neat	We're looking for clean-cut boys to work as waiters.
clean me out	buy all I have, steal everything I own	The thieves cleaned us out. They took everything in our house.
clean up	pick up garbage, put away clothes or toys, wash	Lorne, please clean up the mess in your bedroom.
clean up on	defeat, beat, whip you , wipe you	Little Chad cleaned up on big Clint. Chad is quite a fighter.
clean up your act	do it better, do it legally, get your act together	I've missed classes, failed tests. I need to clean up my act.
clean up your plate	finish eating all the food on your plate, eat it up	You may leave the table after you've cleaned up your plate.
clear as a bell	easy to hear or understand, clearly audible	We heard him say it. He said no, clear as a bell.
clear as mud	not understandable, confusing	Mr. Lee explained the formula. Then he said, "Clear as mud, eh?"
clear out	leave, go, get out, take off	When the gang arrived, we cleared out. We left in a hurry.
clear out	sell at a low price, sell at a discount	We're clearing out last year's stock at 20% off.
clear sailing	(See smooth sailing)	
clear the air	explain, talk about a problem openly	His statement will clear the air. It will prevent more confusion.
clear up	explain, discuss so everyone understands	Let's clear up the matter of the missing keys. Were they stolen?
clear your head/mind	relax so you can think clearly	After an argument I need time to clear my head, to become calm.
click in	become aware, realize, dawn on , hit me	It didn't click in that he was hurt until I saw the blood on his shirt.
cliff-hanger	(See a cliff-hanger)	
climb the walls	feel upset or stressed, go bonkers , go crazy	On the first day of school, the teacher was climbing the walls.
close a deal/sale	complete a sale to a customer	Vi knows how to close a sale. She's a good closer.
close call	(See a close call)	
close shave	(See a close shave)	
close to the vest	hidden, covered, not showing your cards	Walter plays close to the vest. He doesn't let me see his cards.
closer	(See wheeler-dealer)	
clotheslined (hockey)	lifted by a bodycheck,	Orr was clotheslined just as he crossed the line. What a check!

	hanging over the checker or the boards	
clouds on the horizon	a problem has appeared, something is wrong, the sky isn't blue	We have achieved our goals, but there are clouds on the horizon. The government is going to cancel our funding.
clued in	aware, in the know , with it	"How do you get clued in?" "You watch and listen, man."
clueless	not informed, ignorant, not with it	When I don't know the answer, I try not to look clueless.
clunker	a car that is in poor condition, a beater	Uncle Blair has bought another clunker - an old Pontiac.
clutch hitter (baseball)	(See a clutch hitter)	
clutz	(See klutz)	
cock and bull [B]	nonsense, bull , BS [B]	Don't believe that cock-and-bull story about Bigfoot.
cocky	proud, smartass	"Why is Len acting so cocky?" "He won the Frisbee contest."
cocoon	stay inside your home to feel comfortable and safe	We don't want to go out tonight. We feel like cocooning.
coffee talk	conversation while having coffee, water-cooler...	I don't believe Sally's pregnant. It's just coffee talk, just gossip
coin	money, loot, dough , serious coin	Wait till I get some coin. Then we can travel.
coin a phrase	(See to coin a phrase)	
cold call	a visit to an employer or customer without an appointment	Sam got a job by making cold calls - by knocking on doors and asking for work.
cold comfort	very little comfort, satisfaction in theory not reality	If Jim dies, having his money is cold comfort for his wife.
cold feet	(See get cold feet)	
cold shoulder	(See give you the cold shoulder)	
cold turkey	abruptly, completely, not gradually	Barb stopped smoking, cold turkey. No plan, no program.
cold, hard cash	actual money, dollar bills; not a check or credit card	No checks - I want cold, hard cash for that car.
coldcock	punch without warning, jump	Buddy coldcocked the pitcher - hit him when he wasn't looking.
collect my thoughts	think calmly and clearly, organize my thoughts	She was glad when the kids left so she could collect her thoughts.
collecting dust	not used for a long time, idle, gathering dust	"Where's the silver tray?" "On the shelf, collecting dust."
come [B]	have an orgasm, ejaculate	Some women fake an orgasm - they pretend to come, eh.
come across	seem to be, appear to be	You came across as being angry, not just disappointed.
come across	discover, find	I came across an antique basin in the attic. It was in a box.
come across	give, pay, pay up	They came across with \$250 - half the money they owe us.
come across [B]	consent to have sex, get laid , go all the way	You kiss me as though you're going to come across, but then you say no.

come again	what did you say? beg your pardon?	When I asked Grandpa if he liked the soup, he said, "Come again?"
come alive	become lively, cheer, applaud	As the players skated onto the ice, the crowd came alive.
come around	begin to co-operate, believe, come onside	When he reads the report, he'll come around. He'll believe us.
come back to haunt you	cause you to feel guilty or ashamed	Lies will come back to haunt you, remind you of the past.
come by	find, get, obtain	How did you come by that vase? Where did you get it?
come clean	tell the truth, admit everything, own up	The police asked him to come clean about the money - to tell them everything he knew.
come down hard	punish hard, throw the book at	The teachers come down hard on cheating. They suspend cheaters.
come down off your high horse	(See get off your high horse)	
come down on like a ton of bricks	reprove, punish harshly	Whenever I make the slightest mistake, my boss comes down on me like a ton of bricks.
come down to earth	be realistic, get your head out of the clouds	If she'd come down to earth, if she'd stop dreaming about fame, she could pass her exams.
come down with	become sick, become ill	Brenda came down with the flu. She's very sick.
come full circle	arrive at the place where you began	"Let's ask the teacher, okay?"
"If we do that, we'll have come full circle. Remember?"		
come hell or high water	no matter what happens, by any means	I'll buy that ranch, come hell or high water. I'm determined.
come home to roost	(See chickens come home to roost)	
come into	inherit, receive as a gift	When her father died, she came into a lot of money.
come into play	affect, influence, be a factor	In sales, all of your skills come into play. You use them all.
come into your own	be your natural best, find your voice , realize your potential	After five years in medicine, he came into his own. He became an excellent doctor.
come naturally	able to learn easily, have natural ability	Playing the piano seemed to come naturally to Susan.
come of	happen, result, develop	Peter liked Mia, but nothing ever came of it - no romance.
come of age	become old enough to vote or go to the bar or fight in a war	On my 18th birthday, Dad said, "Now that you've come of age, here's a set of keys to the car."
come off	happen as planned, succeed	The band wanted to produce a CD, but it didn't come off.
come off it	I do not believe it, you're kidding	You had a date with Cybill Shepherd? Come off it!
come on	cheer, encourage	Come on, Mat, you can do it! You can ride that bull!
come on	do what we ask	Come on, tell us a story. Please?
come-on	invitation to romance, give her the eye	She's giving Rex the come-on, smiling at him and stuff.
come on strong	do it with more energy, do it with enthusiasm	If you come on too strong, the customer will not buy from you.
come onside	come on our team,	We want to persuade Vi to come onside. We want her to join us.

	be on our side, buy into	
come onto	talk to in a sexual way, make advances	In the car he started coming onto her. He said he wanted her.
come out in the wash	become clear later, when the dust settles	We will soon know who did it. It will all come out in the wash.
come out with	say, tell, blurt out	Then she comes out with a dirty joke and nobody laughed.
come through	complete the task, do what is expected	We're hoping that Ron will come through with high grades.
come to	regain your senses or consciousness	A few minutes after the accident, he came to. He opened his eyes.
come to	involves, includes	When it comes to dessert, I like raisin pie.
come to a head	come to a climax, result in a fight	Things will come to a head when the family discusses the will.
come to fruition	become reality, be completed as planned, see it through	Through your donations, your hard work, and your perseverance you have seen your plans for this church come to fruition.
come to grips with	accept the truth, face facts	I am finally coming to grips with my divorce. I'm accepting it.
come to terms	agree, sign an agreement, settle it	We hope they can come to terms before the court date.
come to terms with	accept that it is true, face facts	She helped the boy come to terms with the death of his father.
come to the point	say what is important, get to the point	When you make a speech, come to the point quickly.
come to think of it	now that I remember it, a thought has just come	Come to think of it, I was the one who suggested marriage.
come true	become real, happen, come to fruition	You must believe in your dream to make it come true.
come undone	lose self-control, disorganized, at loose ends , fall to pieces	When she's near me, I come undone. I can't think or talk!
come unglued	lose control, fall apart	If Tina doesn't stop worrying, she'll come unglued.
come up	happen, occur, crop up	In this job we never know what will come up. One customer wanted to buy an ostrich.
come up with	think of, compose	Can you come up with the answer to my question?
comeback kid	an older person who tries to regain his/her former level of success	He's the comeback kid. At 60, he thinks he can skate and play the way he used to.
comeuppance	correction, what you deserve, just desert, get yours	If you've been cruel to people, you'll get your comeuppance.
coming out of our ears	having too many, having too much	Everybody brought salad. We had salad coming out of our ears!
coming out of your yin yang	having far too many, having far too much, tons	If we learn all the idioms in this book, we'll have idioms coming out of our yin yang!
coming up roses	doing very well, succeeding,	Since I met Ty, life is wonderful. Everything's coming up roses!
common sense	the ability to make logical decisions; horse sense	It is because she has common sense that we ask her opinion.
compare notes	compare what we	We haven't had a chance to compare notes on Pat's wedding.

	saw and heard	
comuppins	(See comeuppance)	
conk out	quit, not work any more, sleep, give out	The TV conked out just after the movie started.
consarned	darn, blasted , dingbusted , friggin	The consarned battery is dead. Rats!
contract out on	(See a contract out on)	
cook	play good jazz, play music with skill and inspiration	The Boss Brass was cookin' last night. What a great band!
cook your goose	finish you, ruin you, goose is cooked	If you borrow too much money, you'll cook your goose.
cool	fine, sophisticated, hip , groovy , neat , together , way cool , with it	"Do you know any cool guys?" "Yes. There's one in my class. Would you like to meet him?"
cool beans	nice, great, wonderful, awesome , cool	"Hey Dad, I got an A on my math test!" "Cool beans, Nicky! I knew you could do it!"
cool cat	(See show-off)	
cool it	stop it, be good, knock it off	The students cool it when the principal walks in.
cool off	control your emotions, chill out , calm down	I better cool off before I talk to the kids. I'm still angry.
cool under pressure	calm during a crisis, able to perform well when you must do it	Jo was very cool under pressure. When the judge asked questions, she answered clearly and calmly.
cool your heels	wait for a judgement, serve a detention	Chad is cooling his heels in the Remand Centre - the city jail.
cooler heads prevailed	sensible people spoke, violence was avoided	There was nearly a riot, but cooler heads prevailed.
coon's age	(See in a coon's age)	
cop	policeman, fuzz , pig	I know this cop on the Calgary Police Force - he's a nice guy.
cop out	an excuse, not trying, not doing your share	Instead of speaking, he showed a video. What a cop out!
copacetic	agreeable, fine, go along with , okay , OK	Don is copacetic. He agrees with our plans.
copper	(See cop)	
corked	intoxicated, drunk, plastered , sloshed	Grant got corked last night and walked home. He couldn't drive.
corner the market	become the main supplier, have a monopoly	Japanese automakers are trying to corner the luxury car market.
corner you	insist that you listen, buttonhole you	If Helmer corners you, tell him you have to go to the bathroom
corny	obvious humor, unsophisticated humor	The farmer said his cows are moody today. Now that is corny!
cost a pretty penny	cost a lot of money, had a high price	Elvis bought a new pink Cadillac. I bet that cost a pretty penny.
cost an arm and a leg	cost a lot of money, is very expensive	That fur jacket must have cost her an arm and a leg.

cost you	require much money or emotional stress or time or energy	Caring for a child will cost you - cost you a lot. But it's worth every minute, every tear.
cotton-picking	thieving, doggone , flipping , ruddy	Get your cotton-pickin' fingers off that bike! Don't touch it!
cotton to that	believe in that, do that, relate to that	City folks play cards on Sunday, but we don't cotton to that.
couch potato	a person who watches a lot of TV	If I watch four hours of TV every day, am I a couch potato?
cough up	pay your share, pay a debt, pay up	Come on, Tony. Cough up. You haven't paid anything.
could care less	(See couldn't care less)	
couldn't believe my ears	(See can't believe my ears)	
couldn't care less	could not care any less, do not care at all	"Brad is seeing Debbie." "I know. And I couldn't care less."
count on	depend on, rely on	We can count on Tanya. She always comes to choir practice.
count your chickens before they hatch	depend heavily on plans, spend money that you have not received	Politicians have learned not to "count their chickens" before the election.
course you can	you can do it, believe it, of course you can	"I don't think I can learn this." "Course you can, son."
courseware	computer program that teaches a course	We sell courseware to schools all over North America.
courtesy of	from, given by, donated by	The doughnuts are courtesy of Harry's Bakery.
cover for me	make an excuse for me, do my work	I may be late for work today. Will you cover for me?
cover up	hide it, sweep under the carpet	He can't cover up his mistake because people know about it.
cover-up	hiding something from the authorities or media	The reporter heard about the cover-up of police brutality.
cover your ass [B]	protect yourself by having documents signed etc.	If you discipline or dismiss an employee, cover your ass.
cow-pie	cow shit [B] cow dung	Watch where you step. There are cow-pies everywhere. Oops!
cowpoke	a cowboy, a man who works on a ranch	Three cowpokes were herding some cattle down the road.
Cowtown	Calgary, Alberta; a town where cows are sold	The Calgary Stampede is the pride of Cowtown. Y'all come!
crack a book	study, read a textbook	Sean passed that exam without cracking a book.
crack a joke	tell a joke, say a funny word or phrase	Please be serious. Don't crack jokes or laugh at us.
crack down on	stop, not permit, not allow	The police began to crack down on speeders in the school zones.
crack me up	make me laugh hard, split a gut	Robin Williams cracks me up when he tells a story.
crack of dawn	(See at the crack of dawn)	
crack shot/salesman etc.	a person who is highly skilled at shooting etc.	Marvin has developed into a crack salesman. He's excellent.

crack the line-up	earn a place on a team, make the team	He's a good basketball player, but can he crack the line-up?
crack this case	solve a crime, discover who is guilty	David will crack this case; he's a thorough investigator.
crack under the strain	become irrational or hysterical due to strain, around the bend	Mother was a strong person. She never cracked under the strain of raising ten children.
cracked	crazy, nuts , wacko	He must be cracked. He mailed a letter to himself.
crackers	crazy, bonkers , nuts	Don't worry about me. I've been crackers all my life.
crackpot	a person who is strange or weird, wacko	Some crackpot wrote a letter to him threatening his family.
crackup	collision, crash	Drinking and driving causes a lot of crackups.
cramp your style	cause problems for you, cause stress for you	If we can't buy a Corvette, will it cramp your style?
crank issue	a topic that causes anger, can of worms	The Premier raised a crank issue and then went on holidays.
crank it up	turn up the volume, louder please	Hey, Karen, crank up the radio. That's a great song.
crank out	make, write, manufacture	Can you crank out a few jokes for our school newspaper?
crap	lies, bull , BS	He told us that history books contain a lot of crap - BS.
crappy	poor quality, junky, shabby	What a crappy camera! Look at these terrible pictures!
crash	go to bed, go to sleep	Sometimes Don crashes on our sofa and sleeps for hours.
crash	fail to operate, not work, break down , kaput	If Netscape crashes, I'll have to use the phone instead of e-mail.
crash a party	go to a party uninvited, horn in	Bo and his friends crashed our party. They came uninvited.
crash course	(See a crash course)	
crawl on my hands and knees over broken glass just to see her photo	do anything to be closer to her, worship the ground she walks on	I'm so in love I'd crawl on my hands and knees over miles of broken glass to see her photo.
crawling with	having many of them, oodles , scads	The hotel was crawling with police. I couldn't count them.
crazy about	like a lot, mad about	Dad's crazy about sports. He really loves baseball.
crazy like a fox	crafty while appearing foolish or dumb, play the fool	In the debate, he was crazy like a fox. He praised his opponent for being clever and ruthless.
cream of the crop	best of the group, the finest ones	Only the cream of the crop will be invited to the interviews.
cream you	hit you, knock you down, knock you flat	If Jon discovers you lied to him, he'll cream you. He'll hit you.
creep	strange person, pervert, weirdo	What a creep! He looks like a stray dog!
crock	(See that's a crock)	
crocodile tears	false tears, phony sadness	Her crocodile tears don't fool me. She just wants sympathy.
crop up	happen, occur,	I'm planning to go to Montreal unless something crops up - like an airline strike.

	come up	
cross my heart and hope to die	promise sincerely, honestly , under oath	I'll pay you back on Friday, cross my heart and hope to die.
cross over Jordan	die, buy the farm , pass away	Before dad crossed over, he told us to care for our mother.
cross over to the other side	die, kick the bucket , pass away	Some people cross over to the other side - and return!
cross paths	meet, encounter	We'll cross paths again, I'm sure. Until then, good luck.
cross someone	go against someone, insult someone	People are afraid to cross Phil because he has a violent temper.
cross that bridge when I come to it	make that decision when it is necessary, do not jump the gun	If interest rates begin to drop, I can buy bonds, but I'll cross that bridge when I come to it.
cross your fingers	(See keep your fingers crossed)	
cruise	drive the streets looking for fun and friends, bomb around	It was Sunday afternoon and we were cruising the streets looking for chicks.
cruise	drive around in a car, bomb around	On summer nights we cruise the streets looking for fun.
cruising for a bruising	inviting a fight, asking for it	The new kid was cruisin' for a bruisin' - insulting everybody.
crummy	poor quality, lousy , shabby	We canceled the picnic because of the crummy weather.
crunch	(See the crunch)	
crush on	(See a crush on)	
crux of the matter	(See the crux of the matter)	
cry her heart out	cry a lot, sob, cry your eyes out	Poor girl! She's crying her heart out because he hasn't called her.
cry in your beer	be sad as you drink beer, regret as you drink beer, cry the blues	Go to college. Get your diploma. Or someday you'll be crying in your beer.
cry me a river	you can cry a lot but you will not get my sympathy, crocodile tears	When he complained about how much he had to pay his chauffeur, I said, "Cry me a river, guy."
cry over spilt milk	cry about small accidents, cry instead of doing	Children drop things and break them. Don't cry over spilt milk.
cry the blues	complain because your friend or lover has gone	Lan is crying the blues because Bing left her for another woman.
cry your eyes out	cry a lot, cry hard, cry her heart out	The little boy was lost and scared, and crying his eyes out.
crying shame	(See a crying shame)	
crystal clear	very clear, well understood, plain as day	After Mr. Tse explained the concept to me, he asked, "Is that clear?" "Crystal clear," I replied.
cup of tea	favorite activity, choice of entertainment	A holiday in the Yukon is not her cup of tea.
cup runneth over	feeling too full of love or joy or happiness	Whenever I listen to Mother Teresa, my cup runneth over.
curiosity killed the cat	a very curious person may find trouble or danger	Don't ask so many questions. Remember, curiosity killed the cat.

curl up with a good book	sit down in a comfortable place and read a book	On a cold and rainy day she likes to curl up with a good book.
curl your hair	shock you, disgust you	The man described the accident. It was enough to curl your hair!
curtains	the end, the death, the last of	If we clear-cut Canada's forests, it's curtains for the lumber industry.
cushy	soft, luxurious, comfortable	They had a cushy life in their beautiful home beside the ocean.
cuss	curse, say bad words, the air was blue	The little boy had learned to cuss. He said damn and hell a lot.
cut	defined, clearly visible	Neil's muscles are well cut. They ripple when he moves.
cut a fine figure	look very good in your clothes, look sharp	When Dee was in her twenties she cut a fine figure in this fur jacket.
cut a wide swath	do many things - party, play sports, live and love	Tim cut a wide swath in his youth. He lived a full and active life.
cut above	(See a cut above)	
cut and dried	simple, not complex, open and shut	For me, the choice was cut and dried. I chose the Peugeot.
cut corners	use less material, use less than required	If we cut corners, we'll produce a low-quality product.
cut from the same cloth	from the same family, very similar	Ty and Ed are cut from the same cloth - both are serious and quiet.
cut him off [B]	not have sex with him, not make love to him	If he doesn't buy me a car, I'll cut him off - no nookie!
cut it	do the job, satisfy, work	Red and brown just don't cut it. They look ugly together.
cut it a little fine	leave very little time, have just enough money	After paying the rent we had only \$60. This is cutting it a little fine.
cut it out	stop it, do not do that, knock it off	When the kids began throwing dirt, we told them to cut it out.
cut losses	quit the project and accept the financial losses	If the stock price goes down, sell them and cut your losses.
cut me some slack	give me more time, give me more freedom	You may be asking too much of your son. Cut him some slack.
cut me to the quick	hurt me, cause me to feel sad	I was hurt when she called me a cow. She cut me to the quick
cut my teeth on	learned as a young person, learned as I grew up	Yes, I can tie a bow knot. I cut my teeth on string and ropes.
cut off	not allowed to do it any more, stopped from doing	We have to cut off beer sales at 12 midnight. No more sales.
cut off	drive in front of, swerve into your lane	That jerk cut me off! He swerved into my lane!
cut off	interrupt, prevent from talking, shut down	The chairman cut me off in the middle of my question. "You're out of order," he said.
cut off your nose to spite your face	make your problem worse, hurt yourself because you dislike yourself	If you abuse drugs to forget a problem, you are cutting off your nose to spite your face.
cut out for	have natural ability	I guess I'm just not cut out for bull riding. I'm not good at it.

	for, be suited to	
cut rate	second class, sold for less than full price	We bought some cut-rate lumber and built a shelter for the boat.
cut the cheese [B]	let off gas, fart, pass wind	Then somebody cut the cheese, and everybody laughed.
cut the crap [B]	stop telling lies, stop doing stupid things, no more bull	Will somebody tell him to cut the crap and give us the facts!
cut the mustard	do the job properly, cut it	If I'm too old to cut the mustard, maybe I should retire, eh.
cut to the chase	tell the exciting part, get to the point	George, please, cut to the chase. We're tired of the story already.
cut-up	(See a cut-up)	
cut you down to size	make you feel smaller; not as important	The foreman cut him down to size by calling him a laborer.
cut you to ribbons	defeat you in an argument, embarrass you in a contest	That professor will cut you to ribbons if you question his facts.
cut your own throat	hurt yourself, be your own worst enemy	By overspending, you will cut your own throat.
cute as a bug's ear	petite and pretty, adorable	Have you seen her little sister? She's cute as a bug's ear.
cutting edge	the latest technology, state of the art	This picture is the cutting edge - the best in the TV industry.

Idiom	Meaning	Example
dad-blamed	damned, darn , dingbusted	The dad-blamed fishing line is tangled! It's in knots!
damaged goods	abused, in poor condition	One man described prostitutes as <i>damaged goods</i> .
damn it [B]	it is very annoying or frustrating, darn it	Damn it! That cigarette smoke is making me ill.
damn the luck [B]	that is bad luck, that was unlucky, darn my luck	When Marilyn's computer crashed, she said, "Damn the luck!"
damn you [B]	you are bad, you deserve the worst, go to hell	Damn you, dog! Get out of my house with your dirty bum!
damned if you do and damned if you don't	you are blamed if you do it and blamed if you do not, between the devil... , can't have it both ways	If you offer to help, he refuses; if you don't offer, he complains. You're damned if you do, and damned if you don't.
dampen your spirits	reduce your enthusiasm, cause you to lose interest	Losing one game didn't dampen her spirits. She's full of hope.
dance with the one who brought you	be loyal to the person who helped you, don't turn your back on your friends	Don't try to get votes from big business. Stick with the workers - dance with the ones who brought you.
dapper Dan	well-groomed man, classy man	He looks so great in his new suit - a real dapper Dan!
daredevil	(See a daredevil)	
dark horse	the competitor that could surprise us and win	The dark horse in the World Cup is Ireland. They could win it all.
dark side	bad side of a person, the evil part of our nature	Most people try to hide the dark side of their personality.
darken a church door	attend church, go to a church service	He never darkens a church door except to attend funerals.
darn	damn, ruddy	35° is hot - too darn hot!
darn it	oh no, not again, nuts , rats	Darn it! I locked my keys in the car.
darn my luck	my luck is poor, I am unlucky today	My bread is in the oven and the power goes off. Darn my luck!
darn right	that is right, yes, you betcha	"Do you believe in ghosts?" "Darn right I do! I just saw one!"
darn tooting	that is true, I agree, darn right	"They still talk about the winter of 1907, don't they, Helmer?" "Darn tootin'! It was a cold one!"
dasein	blending into a group, not distinct or unique	How to describe Anna? Dasein - she seems to disappear in a group.
dash off a note/letter	quickly write a note or letter and send it	Josi dashed off a note to her cousin in Toronto - in English.
date	boy and girl go to a movie etc., go out with , see	Tong has been dating May since they met at Christmas.
dates you	tells your age; when you were born	Knowing that song dates you. It was popular in the 1950s.
dawn on me	cause me to think of, occur to me, hit me	It didn't dawn on me that they're twins until I saw them together.
day in, day out	every day, daily	Day in, day out, she walked to work. I saw her every morning.
day of the family farm	(See the day of the family farm)	
day one	(See from day one)	
dead as a doornail	dead, showing no signs of life, stone dead	It's only a stuffed bear. It's dead as a doornail.

dead-cat bounce	very little recovery after a loss, not coming up again	The broker said, "It was a dead-cat bounce. Stocks remain low."
dead certain	very certain, very sure, positive	He's dead certain that Ming is the man who talked to him.
dead duck	not competitive, not viable, dead in the water , kaput	I don't care how much skill he has. If he can't play under pressure he's a dead duck.
dead even	having the same score, tied, a dead heat	After six events in the decathlon, the two men were dead even.
dead-eye Dick	a person who can shoot accurately	We call him Dead-eye Dick. He can shoot the dot off an i.
dead giveaway	(See a dead giveaway)	
dead heat	(See a dead heat)	
dead in the water	not competitive, not qualified to compete, haven't got a hope	When you're job hunting, if you don't have a resume you're dead in the water.
dead last	the last runner or competitor	It doesn't matter if you come in dead last. Just finish the race.
dead loss	(See a dead loss)	
dead meat	finished, terminated, done for	If you're caught driving drunk in Sweden, you're dead meat.
dead on	accurate, correct, spot on	When you said our sales would double, you were dead on.
dead ringer	(See a dead ringer)	
dead set against	strongly opposed to, down with	She's dead set against abortion as a means of birth control.
dead tired	very tired, blotto , zonked	After fighting the fire, they were dead tired - exhausted.
dead to the world	sleeping, in a deep sleep, sound asleep	I was dead to the world when the phone rang and woke me.
dead wrong	clearly wrong, mistaken	I was dead wrong about the word: it's prejudice, not prejudism.
deadbeat	a person with no desire to work, good-for-nothing	Lana, are you going to marry that deadbeat? He's no good!
deadhead	a person who has damaged his brain with drugs	It's too bad, really, but Marvin is a deadhead - too much cocaine.
deal me in	deal cards for me, please; I want to play cards	Deal me in, Walter. Deal me a winning hand.
Dear Dad, No mon, no fun, your son! Dear Son, So sad, too bad, your dad!	Letter from a son attending college, and his dad's reply. (contributed by Jes Jr. Henry)	
death row	the prisoners who are to be executed or put to death	The priest wants to visit the prisoners on death row.
death warmed over	(See look like death warmed over)	
death wish	saying you want to die, inviting death	To challenge the Mafia would be a death wish. It would be suicide.
deathbed	(See on your deathbed)	
deck him	knock him down, cream you	Tony decked him in the first round of the boxing match.
deck out	decorate; attach ornaments, lights, etc.; customize	His truck was all decked out with chrome trim and colored lights.
deep, dark secret	very private	I'll tell you about my past, but not my childhood. That's a deep, dark secret.

	information, confidential information, on the QT	
deep pockets	rich, wealthy, filthy rich , loaded	Jerry can pay your legal fees. He's got deep pockets.
deep six	in a six-foot-deep grave, pushing up daisies	If you overdose on coke, you're deep six, man.
deep sleep	sound sleep, restful sleep, sleep like a log	I was in a deep sleep when the fire started, but I woke up and phoned for help.
deke you	deceive you, fool you, sucker you	He'll try to deke you. He'll fake one way and go the other.
deked out of his jock	tricked out of position, outplay , stickhandle	Mario skated in on the goalie and deked him out of his jock.
dense	not smart, slow at thinking, stupid, not too swift	She knows the answers to these questions. She's just acting dense.
Denver boot	a wheel block that stops a car from moving	Greg was drunk, so the police put a Denver boot on his car.
deserve credit	deserve praise or thanks, give her credit	David deserves credit for finding the lost keys. Thank you, boy.
devil-may-care	carefree, wild, on a lark	Employers won't hire people with a devil-may-care attitude.
devil you say	(See the devil you say)	
dibs	(See first dibs)	
dick [B]	penis, dink , dork , hoo-haw	With all these winter clothes on, I can't find my dick.
dick	nothing, zero, nada , zilch	Don't listen to him. He knows dick about selling!
dickens of a time	(See a dickens of a time)	
dickens you say	(See the dickens you say)	
did good	did well, did a good job, done good	I watched you ride that horse - you did real good!
did yourself proud	did a good job, did well, did good , done good	That was a great dinner, Nora. You did yourself proud.
diddly-squat	nothing, not a penny, dick	For all that work, he gave me diddly-squat - not even thanks.
didn't have a stitch of clothes on	naked, nude, birthday suit , in the buff	When the kids go swimming they don't have a stitch of clothes on.
die down	gradually stop, diminish, drop off	When the laughter died down, I found my false teeth, put them in my mouth, and said, "Excuse me."
die for	want very much; in the worst way	I'm dying for a cup of coffee! I'll have an Espresso, please.
die hard	change slowly, continue to be strong, you can't teach...	Some men still want to be the head of the family. Old beliefs die hard.
die off	become extinct, all of them die	That type of horse died off before humans appeared.
different strokes for different folks	people have different preferences, to each his own	When Michael heard the story of a man who had a clone of his wife in several cities, he smiled and said, "Different strokes for different folks!"
dig a little deeper	try harder, give a little more	The coach asked the team to dig a little deeper, to give their best.
dig deep	give more money, dig a little deeper	We'll all have to dig deep if we hope to achieve our goals.
dig in	begin to eat, eat up , help yourself	Dig in, everybody. There's lots of food.

dig in their heels	hold their position, not yield or move	If we discuss money, he digs in his heels. "No raises," he says.
dig it up	dig the garden, dig to uncover a buried object	Remember where you bury the treasure, because some day you may want to dig it up.
dig me	understand, get my drift	"I don't like you to take my car. That's gonna stop, dig me!"
dig your own grave	cause your own failure, cut your own throat	When you criticize the manager, are you digging your own grave?
dig yourself in	make it worse, say or do something that aggravates	When he insulted the policeman, I said, "Don't dig yourself in."
dig/dig it	like, enjoy, relate to	Ole digs the Beatles. His favorite song is Norwegian Wood.
digs	apartment, house, pad	I'm having a party so everybody can see my new digs.
dildo	(See a dildo)	
dilly	(See it's a dilly)	
dilly-dally	go very slowly, pause too much	Sarah, you come straight home from school. Don't dilly-dally.
dime a dozen	(See a dime a dozen)	
dimwit	one who is slow to respond or catch on	I felt like a dimwit when I couldn't remember her name.
ding-a-ling	fool, an airhead , jerk	What a ding-a-ling! She expects me to pay for a phone book!
dingbat/ding-dong	strange person, nerd , weirdo	That dingbat wanted me to take off my clothes!
dingbusted	damn, blasted , consarned , darn	I couldn't reach the dingbusted switch to turn on the light.
dingle you	phone you, call you, give me a ring	I'll dingle you when I get back from Chicago.
dink [B]	penis, dork , hoo-haw	Did you wash your hands after you touched your dink?
DINKS	married couples who have Double Income No Kids	Our travel packages are purchased mainly by DINKS
dipstick	a person who seems to be stupid, dimwit	When Todd is nervous, he acts like a dipstick - like a fool.
dirt cheap	very cheap, not expensive	Cherries are dirt cheap in B.C. during the summer.
dirt file	record of failures and bad actions	Every time we have a fight, you haul out my dirt file.
dirty	(See dirty laundry)	
dirty dog/dirty rat	immoral person, liar, scum , slimebucket	You dirty rat! You stole my truck and used my credit card!
dirty laundry	personal problems, mistakes, scandals	I don't want the public to see my dirty laundry - my worst moves.
dirty money	stolen money, money obtained illegally	We believe the donation from the Mafia is dirty money.
dirty thirties	1930s, when drought caused hardship on the prairie; dirty thirties	During the dirty thirties, soil drifted into the ditches and crops wouldn't grow.
dirty work	unpleasant tasks, difficult work	I do the dirty work - fight for the puck - and he scores the goals.
dis/diss	insult, criticize, disrespect, put down	If you dis me, I won't help you with your math.
discombobulated	disturbed, bothered, upset	When my dog hears a train whistle, he becomes discombobulated. He barks and howls.
discretion is the better part of valor	be sensible when you are brave; be courageous but not reckless	In all your battles, be brave but not foolish. Discretion is the better part of valor.
dish	(See what a dish)	
dish it out	criticize, complain	Jay can dish it out, but she gets mad if you criticize her.

disk jockey (DJ)	radio announcer who plays recorded music	Clare became a disk jockey with a radio station in Moose Jaw.
ditch him	leave him, lose him , give him the slip	I tried to ditch him at the mall but he held on to my hand.
ditto	repeat it, write or say the same thing, back at ya , same to you	"You jerk!" "Ditto!" "You creep!" "Ditto!" "Ditto!" "Double ditto!" "What!"
ditz	fool, an airhead , jerk , nerd , nut	You ditz! You put ketchup on my ice cream!
do (a speed)	travel at a speed, drive at a speed of	We were only doing 50 km per hour. That's the truth.
do	(See hairdo)	
do a 180	turn around and go in the opposite direction, U-turn	When the boy on the motorcycle saw the police car, he did a 180 and sped off.
do a dime	be in prison for ten years, do time	If you shoot somebody you'll do a dime, maybe more.
do a favor	help someone who asks, do a task for someone	Ben offered to do me a favor if I ever need help.
do a gig	play music for a dance or concert	Our band is doing a gig at Bijo's tonight. We play from 10 till 2.
do a number on	deceive, fool, taken , taken in	They did a number on us when we bought this car. It's not reliable.
do away with	throw out, dispose of	We want to do away with nuclear weapons - to dispose of them.
do-dad	an object with a name you cannot remember, do-funny	A little do-dad on the back of the carburetor was sticking. That was the problem.
do drugs	use drugs, take drugs	They don't hire people who do drugs. No way.
do-funny	a thing with a funny name, thing-a-ma-bob	You put the do-funny on the lever, and you're finished!
do it the hard way	use a poor method, go against the grain	Don't start a fire with stones. That's doing it the hard way.
do lunch	have lunch together, eat lunch	We'll do lunch tomorrow, OK? Do you like salad?
do me	love me, make love to me	Paul sang, "When she really done me, she done me good!"
do me for/do me until	supply me until, last me , tide me over	"Got lots of shampoo?" "Enough to do me for a week or so."
do me in	kill me, knock me off	I hope no one wants to do me in. I want to live a few more years.
do or die	last chance to win, it's now or never	It's do or die. If we lose this game, we'll be out of the series.
do the honors	do the task for the leader, fill in for the leader	The Mayor can't speak to us, so Mr. Kelly will do the honors.
do the town	celebrate or party all over town	On July 1, we'll do the town. We'll really celebrate.
do the trick	solve the problem, help, that's the ticket	If you need a lubricant, Vaseline will do the trick.
do time	be in prison, be in a penitentiary	He's doing time for sexual assault. He's in for five years.
do unto others as you would have them do unto you	treat people the way you would like to be treated	This is The Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."
do up	lace, tighten the laces	Do up your skate laces, please. I will help you tie them.
do with	would like, want	I could do with a cold drink. I'm hot and thirsty.
do without	manage without, not have, make do	We did without meat all winter. We became vegetarians.
do you follow	do you understand? do you see how it operates?	Turn the key left to lock, right to unlock. Do you follow?
do you mind	do you care? does it matter?	Do you mind if I sit on your desk? Does it bother you?

do your own thing	do it your own way, do what you feel, let it all hang out	I like managers who let me do my own thing - who respect my way of doing things.
do your part	do your share, do your job	We did our part to help the food bank. We donated cereal.
do your utmost	do as much as you can, do whatever you can	Pat did his utmost to save her, but she fell into the pool.
do yourself proud	do something that you are proud of	You did yourself proud when you helped the refugees.
doctor it/doctor it up	improve it, edit it, spin doctor , touch up , tweak	I wrote the letter but Ted doctored it up - to make it look professional.
dodge a bullet	avoid a failure or loss or injury	Kevin dodged a bullet. He got a "D" on the final exam.
dodo	(See go the way of the dodo)	
doesn't add up	is not logical, does not make sense	One shot was fired, but three cows are dead. It doesn't add up.
doesn't mince words	does not say nice words when complaining, call a spade a spade , straight from the shoulder	When Greta is angry she doesn't mince words. She tells you what is bothering her.
doesn't wash	is not believable, is not logical, does not make sense	His explanation doesn't wash. If a millennium begins at year 1, how does he account for the first year?
dog days of summer	the hottest days of summer, midsummer	We like to watch baseball during the dog days of summer.
dog eat dog	vicious competition, everybody for himself	Will education prepare us for the dog-eat-dog world of business?
dog in the manger	a person who will not share something he does not use or need	He's a dog in the manger about his office space. He doesn't use it, but he won't let us have it.
dog it	be lazy, not work	Bill admits he's been dogging it lately. He lacks energy.
dog me	follow me, bother me	His failure in politics dogged him for the rest of his life.
dog tired	very tired, exhausted, all in , done in	Janis was dog tired after the series. She played every game.
dog's age	(See for a dog's age)	
dog's breakfast	(See a dog's breakfast)	
dog's life	(See a dog's life)	
dogan	Catholic, a member of the Roman Catholic Church	I'm a Jew, Walter's a dogan, and Peter's a Buddhist. What a mixture!
doggone	extremely annoying, god-damn, blasted	I can't find the doggone scissors again. This house must eat them!
doggy bag	(See a doggy bag)	
doggy doo	dog poop , dog feces, doo-doo	Here, I brought a plastic bag for Lassie's doggy doo.
dollars to donuts	(See bet you dollars to donuts)	
dolled up	in a party dress, with hair styled, gussied up	When Lisa gets all dolled up, Harry becomes very romantic.
don't borrow trouble	do not invite their trouble; we have enough trouble	When I said I was going to help my neighbor get a divorce, Pat said, "Don't borrow trouble."
don't count your chickens before they hatch	do not expect all plans to be successful, wait until you get the final results	"Look at the sales I'm going to make this month - over 50!" "Don't count your chickens... ."

don't eat that	do not accept that, do not believe that	After hearing the report, Ben said, "Don't eat that, guys."
don't get mad; get even	do not waste your energy on anger, do get revenge; actions speak louder...	To the victims he said, "Don't get mad. Get even. Report this to the police."
don't get me wrong	do not misunderstand; take it the wrong way	Don't get me wrong; I love literature, but I hate poetry.
don't get smart with me	show more respect, do not talk back	If you ask why, she'll say, "Don't get smart with me."
don't give a crap [B]	do not care at all, do not value it, don't give a damn	Janis doesn't care if he likes other girls. She said she doesn't give a crap.
don't give a damn [B]	do not care, am not interested, give a shit [B]	Jack's late for class every day and I don't give a damn! He's a big boy now and it's his business!
don't give me any of your lip	do not talk back , do not refuse to do what I ask	When the boy swore, she said, "Don't give me any of your lip."
don't give me that line/story etc.	do not tell me that false story	Don't give me that line about a cure for the common cold.
don't go away mad; just go away	do not be angry, but leave; you are not welcome here	He said to the heckler, "Don't go away mad; just go away."
don't go there	(See don't want to go there)	
don't hand me that	(See don't give me that)	
don't have a cow	don't become so excited or angry, chill out	"Do you want a punch in the nose?" "Now, Ralph, don't have a cow."
don't hold your breath	it is not going to happen soon, be prepared to wait	The City will repair the street but don't hold your breath.
don't knock it	don't be negative, it could be worse	"I only got a C for my report." "Don't knock it. I got a D."
don't know him from Adam	do not know who he is, have never met him	The man says he knows me, but I don't know him from Adam.
don't know the first thing about it	do not know anything about it	I can't fix a transmission. I don't know the first thing about it.
don't know the half of it	do not know all the facts, have not heard all of it	Yes, they got divorced, but you don't know the half of it.
don't know whether you're coming or going	you are confused, you do not understand, go in circles	If you believe the cult leaders, you won't know whether you're coming or going.
don't know which end is up	are confused, are mixed up	After talking to four bureaucrats, I didn't know which end was up.
don't know which side your bread is buttered on	do not know what is really important, have not learned much about life	If you refuse the assistance, you don't know which side your bread is buttered on.
don't know your ass from a hole in the ground [B]	you are ignorant, you are mistaken, mixed up	He said one member of the cult was so confused he didn't know his ass from a hole in the ground.
don't look a gift horse in the mouth	do not be critical of a gift; be grateful for a gift	Don't evaluate a gift. Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.
don't make a mountain out of a molehill	do not cause a big fuss about a small problem	So I scratched the car. Don't make a mountain out of a molehill.
don't make me	do not be ridiculous,	When I said I wrote the novel, he said, "Don't make me laugh."

laugh	don't give me that line	
don't make no nevermind	(See it don't make no nevermind)	
don't make waves	do not do anything that will cause problems	Our company has changed a lot. Don't make any more waves.
don't mention it	it was no trouble, no problem	"Thanks for the ride," I said. "Don't mention it," he replied.
don't push your luck	do not try to get too much, do not ask for more	If Mom says maybe, don't push your luck. Be patient.
don't look a gift horse in the mouth	do not complain if a gift is not perfect; take what you've been given without criticism or emphasis on its worth.	Be happy. Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.
don't put all your eggs in one basket	do not invest all the money in one company	Balance your investments. Don't put all your eggs in one basket.
don't rock the boat	do not cause a change, do not upset anybody	If the team is winning, don't rock the boat. Don't change anything.
don't sweat it	do not worry about it, you can't saw sawdust	If you did your best but didn't win a medal, don't sweat it.
don't teach your grandmother how to suck eggs	do not tell me what I know, do not say what is obvious	You, a history major, telling me, a war veteran, about war? Don't teach your grandmother how to suck eggs!
don't think so	do not believe it is so, think not	"Do you have dandruff?" "I don't think so."
don't want to go there	do not want to talk about it, it is not a pleasant topic	My divorce? We don't want to go there. It's ugly!
done for	defeated, beaten, hopeless	We were done for until Tim hit a home run and we won the game.
done good	did well, performed well, did good	After watching the race, his dad said, "You done good, Son."
done in	very tired, dead tired , all in	After the roundup, the old-timer was done in - exhausted.
done it all	had a lot of experience, done every activity	We need a manager who's done it all - done all the jobs.
done to a turn	cooked or baked until very tasty	The steaks were done to a turn - brown and juicy.
done with it	finished using it, not using it	Just leave the pen on my desk when you're done with it.
Donnybrook	a fight involving many people - especially in a game of hockey	The Flames and the Oilers had another Donnybrook last night - a bench-clearing brawl.
doo-doo	excrement, shit, doggy doo , in deep doo-doo , poop	My shoe really stinks. I must have stepped in some doo-doo!
door to door	going from one house to the next house	We went door to door asking for donations for the team.
dork [B]	penis, dick , hoo-haw	"Does your dork shrink after you've been swimming?" "Ya. That's natural."
dork [B]	foolish person, dipstick , jerk , lamebrain	What a dork! He drove off the road to pass that car!
double-cross	break a promise, cheat on someone	He promised not to tell you, but he did. He double-crossed me.
double-edged sword	(See a double-edged sword)	
double or nothing	double the first bet	After losing the first bet, I said, "Double or nothing this time?"

	and if I win, I owe nothing	
double take	look again in disbelief, can't believe my eyes	She did a double take when Clint Eastwood walked into the store.
double-talk	confusing talk, bafflegab	His explanation of the government decision was a lot of double-talk.
double whammy	two events or experiences that happen close together, synchronicity	Talk about a double whammy! My boss tells me I've lost my job, and you tell me I've won the lottery!
dough	money, dollars, moola	Did you get some dough? We need money to buy groceries.
doughhead	someone who does not think before acting	Don't ever call him a doughhead again. He's my boyfriend.
dove	a person who wants peace, pacifist	The doves complained when the US built more nuclear weapons.
down	sad, depressed, low	She's been down ever since her cat died. She misses her cat.
down a peg	(See take him down a peg)	
down and dirty	not polite, rude, vulgar	The next song is down and dirty. It's called Snake's Pad.
down and out	poor and unlucky, bumming and boozing	When he was down and out, he went to the Salvation Army.
down for the count	defeated by an opponent, out of the contest	Chad was down for the count. He couldn't get up.
down home	simple but good, old fashioned	Hey, Ma. I can't wait to taste your down-home cookin'.
down in the dumps	sad, not happy, depressed, down in the mouth	Shelly was down in the dumps until her boyfriend arrived.
down in the mouth	looking sad, having a sad face, a sad sack	You'd be down in the mouth, too, if you'd just lost your job.
down my throat	(See shove down my throat)	
down on his luck	not lucky lately, not happy or positive	With no money and no job, Ragnar was down on his luck.
down pat	memorized, just right	Flora had her speech down pat. She had practised it many times.
down the drain	lost, wasted, squandered	His fortune went down the drain when he began to gamble.
down the garden path	(See lead you down the garden path)	
down the hatch	down the throat and into the stomach	Another pickled egg went down the hatch. Yum!
down the line	in the future, later, down the road	Down the line, we'll meet again and laugh about our disagreement.
down the pike	toward us, at us, what's going down	Management keeps sending complaints down the pike, and we don't send anything back!
down the road	dismissed, fired	Disagree with the boss and you'll soon be down the road.
down the road	in the future, in a few years	We plan to have an office in both cities - but that's down the road.
down the tubes	lost or gone, ruined, up the creek	You have to advertise, or your business will go down the tubes.
down to a T	perfectly, exactly, down pat	Sharon is wonderful in the play. She has her part down to a T.
down to brass tacks	(See get down to brass tacks)	
down to earth	humble, not proud, the salt of the earth	I like Mrs. Wilson because she's so down to earth, so natural.
down to the short strokes	nearly finished a job, almost completed a task	"How's it going? Are you nearly finished?" "We're down to the short strokes - we just have to paint the doors."
down to the wire	to the last minute,	The first two games went down to the wire - very close scores.

	near the end	
down under	Australia, New Zealand, etc.	Next year I'm going down under for my holidays - New Zealand.
down with	do not support, stop that plan, not	"Down with the sales tax!" they shouted. "Down with the tax!"
downer (drug)	(See a downer)	
downer (sadness)	(See a downer)	
downhearted	sad, unhappy, down	"Are you downhearted, my dear?" "No. Just quiet, my love."
downplay	say it is not important, soft pedal	They tried to downplay the fact that smoking caused the fire.
downside	(See the downside)	
downtime	time needed to repair a machine	When you own a computer, you have to expect some downtime.
draft dodger	a person who runs away from military service	American draft dodgers came to Canada in the 1970s.
drag	(See a drag)	
drag it out	take a long time to finish, speak for a long time	When James tells a ghost story, he drags it out for an hour.
drag on	go for a long time, last for hours or days	The funeral dragged on and on - for three days!
drag queen	man dressed in women's clothing, transvestite	Don's a transvestite. They call him "the drag queen of Fag Street."
drag race	two cars racing from a stop light	"Did you see the drag race?" "Ya. The Corvette won."
drag your feet	work too slow, prevent progress	They're dragging their feet. Tell them to work faster.
dragged through a...	(See look like he was dragged through a knothole)	
drain the swamp	remove what prevents a clear view of the problem	If I were manager, my first step would be to drain the swamp.
drat	oh no, nuts , rats , scrut	Drat! I've lost the key. How can we get into the apartment?
draw a blank	be unable to think of an answer, mind go blank	For some reason, I drew a blank when the professor questioned me.
draw a sober breath	be sober, not be drunk	They say he hasn't drawn a sober breath since his son was killed.
draw attention to	ask people to notice; show or display to people	If you wear a short skirt, you draw attention to your legs.
draw first blood	attack first, be first to hit or win	The Jets drew first blood in the series, winning game one 5-4.
draw it to my attention	tell me about it, cause me to be aware of it	Spelling is a problem. Thanks for drawing it to my attention.
draw the line	stop, refuse to do it	When it comes to drugs, he draws the line. He won't touch them.
draw their fire	get attention while a friend moves or escapes	You draw their fire while I move behind them. You distract them.
draw upon	recall and use, remember	At university, I drew upon my knowledge of Russian history.
drawing card	entertainment to attract people, loss leader	The community hired a comedian as a drawing card for the fair.
dream on	you are not being realistic, get your head out...	You expect me to buy you a Corvette? Dream on!
dress clothes	good, expensive clothes	"Why don't you change your dress clothes before you repair the car?"

dress down	(See a dressing down)	
dress down	dress in casual clothes, dress informally	It's a library party, so dress down. Wear something casual.
dress rehearsal	the last rehearsal before the performance, dry run	All actors must come to the dress rehearsal - our last practice.
dress up	dress in your best clothes, put on glad rags	Everybody got dressed up for the banquet. Roy wore his new suit.
dressed fit to kill	dressed in party clothes, dolled up , dress up , gussied up	In walks Erica, dressed fit to kill. She looked terrific!
dressed to the nines	dressed in high fashion, gussied up	Here I am in jeans. Everybody else is dressed to the nines.
dribs and drabs	(See in dribs and drabs)	
drink like a fish	drink a lot of liquor every day	If Hal is coming to visit, buy lots of beer. He drinks like a fish.
drink up	drink your wine etc., bottoms up	Drink up, my friends. It's Buddy's birthday!
drink you under the table	drink more liquor than you, drink and not pass out , put you away	After three glasses of beer, you're nearly drunk. I bet I can drink you under the table!
drive a hard bargain	pay a low price, negotiate firmly	When buying land, Cal drives a hard bargain. He pays low prices.
drive around	drive a car up and down the streets, tooling around	At night we drove around town, looking for something to do.
drive it home	make a message clear, say it so they understand	When you talk about safe sex, drive it home. Stress safety.
drive me batty	cause me to be insane, drive me crazy	The noise from that motorcycle is driving me batty!
drive me crazy	cause me to feel crazy, bug me a lot	That TV commercial drives me crazy! It's on every channel!
drive me to the edge	cause me to be nearly mad or insane	When those chipmunks sing, it drives me to the edge!
drive me up the wall	cause me to feel anxious; go around the bend	I won't babysit at the Kaplans. The kids drive me up the wall.
drive standard	shift gears on a car or truck	Can you drive standard? My car has a five-speed transmission.
drive you	hit you, punch you, cream you	If you get pushy, he'll drive you. He's got a bad temper.
drive you nuts	cause you to feel crazy, drive you crazy (see drive me crazy)	Working for Harry will drive you nuts. He's a perfectionist.
drive you to distraction	cause you to lose thoughts, drive me up the wall	Her continual chatter will drive you to distraction.
drive you to drink	cause you to drink alcohol or want to be drunk	His critical attitude will drive you to drink. I had to resign.
drop	stop taking a subject, withdraw, drop out	You wouldn't drop English! It's the key to other subjects.
drop a bundle	lose money by gambling, lose your shirt	I dropped a bundle at the track last night. I lost every bet.
drop a hint	suggest, give a sign	When he was hungry, he'd drop a hint, like point at the fridge.
drop a line	write a letter, send a	Be sure to drop us a line from Paris. Tell us about your trip.

	postcard	
drop a log [B]	have a bowel movement, take a shit [B]	What a smell! Open a window after you drop a log, eh.
drop a name / drop names	pretend you know famous people, name-dropper	He was dropping names at the interview - Klein, Clinton, etc.
drop back	run slower than before, run further behind	Our horse dropped back to fourth place and lost the race.
drop behind	run further behind, lose ground	Our party has dropped behind in the polls. We're in second place.
drop charges	withdraw complaints, not press charges	I realized it was an accident, so I dropped the charges.
drop dead	you are badly mistaken, go to hell [B]	If you think I'm getting on that motorcycle, you can drop dead.
drop her/him	leave her, not date her anymore, tube her (see tube him)	She wouldn't quit smoking, so I dropped her - told her it was off.
drop him like a hot potato	leave him, not associate with him	If she finds out you're not rich, she'll drop you like a hot potato.
drop in	visit, go to see, drop over	When you come to Edmonton, be sure to drop in for a visit.
drop-in	visitor, one who drops in	He was a drop-in at the Seniors' Centre. He liked to go there.
drop in the bucket	(See a drop in the bucket)	
drop it	stop talking about it, do not say any more	When I mentioned his accident, he told me to drop it.
drop like flies	dying in great numbers, falling dead on the floor	When a pox infected the tribe, people were dropping like flies.
drop off	deliver, drive and leave a parcel	I'll drop off the parcel today. What's your address?
drop off	go to sleep, doze, fall asleep	I only dropped off for a second. I was awake for the news.
drop off	reduce, diminish, slip, slow down	Sales have dropped off recently. Maybe we should advertise.
drop out	quit, stop attending	I have decided not to drop out of school. I'm going to continue.
drop out of sight	disappear, not be seen for awhile	After the scandal, he dropped out of sight. I haven't seen him.
drop over	visit, come and talk	Our friends dropped over last night for a cup of coffee.
drop the ball	fail to do or complete a task, not follow through	Who dropped the ball? I'll tell you who! We dropped the ball - you and I. We need to take responsibility for our lives and our world!
drop the other shoe	(See wait for the other shoe to drop)	
drop your drawers	take your pants down, remove your shorts	Don't you hate it when you have to drop your drawers for a nurse?
drop your gloves (hockey)	remove your gloves to fight with your fists	Don't drop your gloves in this game. There's no fighting.
drown your sorrow	drink until the sadness goes away	Jay drowned her sorrow in wine. Then she had a headache.
drugstore cowboy	a boy or man dressed like a cowboy, a fake cowboy, dude	"Are you a drugstore cowboy?" "No sir. I got Wrangler jeans an' dung on my boots - I chew tobacco an' I c'n spit real good!"
drum up	create interest in, recruit, find some customers	We have a million widgets to sell. Let's drum up some customers.
dry out	stop using alcohol, on the wagon	She's drying out at a treatment centre. It's a four-week program.
dry run	complete rehearsal,	Let's do a dry run of our play so I can add the background music.

	walk through	
dry up	stop talking, be quiet	I wish he'd dry up. He talks too much.
dubs	everyone pays for his own food; Dutch treat	If we go to the cafe, it's dubs. We each pay for our own treat.
duck out	leave, run away, desert, skip out , jam	"Where did you go?" "I ducked out when the gang walked in."
duck soup	easy, quick, a piece of cake	If you know how to move the decimal point, calculating a percentage is easy - it's duck soup!
duck's guts	(See it's the duck's guts)	
ducks in a row (ducks in order)	organized, planned; each person knows his job	I have to get my ducks in a row before the sale on Tuesday.
ducky	great, fine, lovely	"Somebody left the gate open and the horses are gone!" "That's ducky, just ducky!"
dude	a man who dresses like a cowboy or rancher to impress people, any guy who dresses and acts cool, drugstore cowboy	Hey dude! Got your party clothes on? You look real pretty!
due north	straight north, directly north	Follow the winding road west to the junction; then go due north.
duh	how stupid, do you know anything? go figure , ignorance is bliss	I didn't know how to spell comeuppance. Duh!
duke it out	fight with your fists, punch each other	Gerry wanted to duke it out with the referee - tried to punch him.
duke's mixture	(See a duke's mixture)	
dumb as a sack of hammers	(See as dumb as a sack of hammers)	
dumbbell	one who does not think, an airhead , knucklehead	What a dumbbell I am! I locked the keys in the car.
dumbo	a person who acts stupid, a fool, a dipstick	Hey, dumbo! You're driving on the wrong side of the road!
dump her/him	leave her or him, drop her , tube her (see tube him)	Sid and Marie had a fight, so he dumped her and began seeing me.
dump on	unload the dirty jobs, give what is left over	They dump on Karen too much. They give her the large classes.
Dumpster diving	searching in the garbage to find bottles etc.	No. This college does not offer a course in Dumpster diving.
durn	(See darn)	
dust	ruined, dead, done for , toast	If you smuggle drugs into the US, you're dust. You'll go to jail.
dust bunny	ball of dust on the floor, dust that looks like fur	On Saturday morning I vacuum up the dust bunnies before I go out.
dust devil	small whirlwind, twister	Dust devils seemed to follow us as we walked across the field.
dust-up	(See a dust-up)	
Dutch treat	everyone pays for his/her own lunch etc.; dubs	When we go for eats, let's go Dutch. That's fair, eh.
duty calls	it is my duty, I must do a task	"Duty calls," he said, opening a book to begin his homework.
dyed in the wool	confirmed, certain of his beliefs, card-carrying ...	A dyed-in-the-wool democrat - that's me. I believe in democracy.

dying seconds	(See the dying seconds)	
dying to know	wants to know, is very curious	Amy is dying to know the name of the guy in the leather jacket.

Idiom	Meaning	Example
each to his own	(See to each his own)	
eager beaver	a person who wants to work	Joan is the eager beaver in this class. She likes to work.
eagle eyes	a person who can see details or errors	We call him <i>Eagle Eyes</i> because he finds so many lost golf balls.
ear candy	music that is pleasant, beautiful music	The theme music in the movie <i>Out of Africa</i> is ear candy.
ear to the ground	(See keep your ear to the ground)	
earful	(See an earful)	
early bird	(See the early bird gets the worm)	
ears are burning	the "ears" in your mind hear people talking about you	"How did you know we were talking about you?" "Because my ears were burning!"
ears lowered	(See have my ears lowered)	
ears pinned back	told to behave, disciplined	The rowdy kid needs his ears pinned back. Tell him to behave.
ease up	work or play slower, take it easy on	Ease up on the younger players, eh. Don't work them too hard.
ease up	not push as much, reduce the pressure, let up	You can ease up on the gas pedal when we reach 100 km per hour.
easy as pie	very easy to do, a piece of cake	That math problem is easy as pie. I'll show you how to do it.
easy come, easy go	if we get things free we do not worry when we lose them	As Ming was spending his lottery money, he said, "Easy come, easy go."
easy pickings	an easy task or job, a piece of cake	It was a multiple-choice test - easy pickings if you studied.
easy street	an easy life, a life with lots of money to spend	Win five million dollars and we'll be on easy street.
easy time of it	not much work to do, an easy life	While living with his wealthy aunt, he had an easy time of it.
eat crow	admit you were wrong, take back what you said (see take it back)	When I lost the bet, I had to eat crow - admit I was wrong.
eat high off the hog	(See high on the hog)	
eat humble pie	admit I did not play well, feel humble after defeat	Ben had to eat humble pie after he finished fourth in the race.
eat it up	finish eating some food, eat all of the food	That's a good boy. Eat it up and then you can go out to play.
eat it up	believe a story, eat out of the palm...	The children were eating it up - every word the teacher said.
eat like a horse	eat a lot, pig out	Barney eats like a horse. He has a monstrous appetite.
eat my hat/shirt	be very surprised or shocked if it is true	If the Vancouver Canucks win the Cup, I'll eat my hat!
eat out	eat at a restaurant, eat at a cafe	On Friday evenings we eat out, usually at a Greek restaurant.
eat out of the palm of your hand	do whatever you ask, obey you, win the hearts	If you tell the children a story, you'll have them eating out of the palm of your hand.
eat that	believe that, buy that , swallow that	After listening to the UFO scientist, my uncle said, "Are we supposed to eat that?"
eat up	begin to eat, continue to eat, dig in	Eat up, folks. We have lots of pancakes.
eat you for breakfast	defeat you easily, have you for breakfast	In a game of racquetball he'll eat you for breakfast. He's quick.
eat you out of house and home	eat all your food, pig out	Our son's team came to dinner and ate us out of house and home!
eat your fill	eat until you are satisfied, eat as much as you can	Eat your fill. You won't have another meal till we get home.
eat your heart out	envy my prize, wish that you had one	When Kurt won the Porsche, he said, "Eat your heart out, guys."
eat your words	regret what you said, admit you were wrong	He told me the answer, and I had to eat my words. I was wrong.
eating you	(See what's eating you)	

edgy	nervous, cranky, touchy	You're kind of edgy today. Did you sleep well last night?
eff 'im [B]	fuck him, tell him to fuck off , the F-word	I've had enough of his lack of responsibility! Eff 'im!
egg me on	encourage me, tell me to do it	I didn't want to steal the exam, but they egged me on.
egg on my face	embarrassed, outsmarted	I made a deal with Jake and ended up with egg on my face.
ego trip	feeling of self importance, feeling superior	If you tell him he played well, he'll go on an ego trip.
eh	you understand, you know what I am taking about	There were three boys but only two girls, eh.
eighty-six it	take it off the list, it is one too many, smithwright it	Our menu has too many entrees. Let's eighty-six the beef stroganoff.
eke out a living	earn or grow enough to survive	On the small farm we were able to eke out a living.
elbow room	room to move among people, space in a crowd	On the streets of Hong Kong there wasn't much elbow room.
electronic superhighway	a computer network, Internet	We can find more information on the electronic superhighway.
end justifies the means	(See the end justifies the means)	
end of the line	(See the end of the line)	
end up	where you stop or finish, the end of a journey	We often end up sleeping at Ty's house. His mom doesn't mind.
enough is enough	it is time to stop, enough already	"Enough is enough!" she said after my sixth piece of pie.
even	we do not owe each other, a wash , call it square	I owe you \$20, but I gave you a haircut, so we're even.
even a blind pig can find an acorn	if you keep looking and trying you may succeed	"Hey, Bill. Think you'll ever get that car started?" "Maybe. Even a blind pig can find an acorn."
even keel	(See keep an even keel)	
even so	regardless, no matter	"He doesn't need the money." "Even so, I must repay the loan."
even-steven	equal work or achievement, evenly matched	After one lap, Karim and I were even-steven. We were tied.
even up	equal parts, equal pieces for each person	They split the profits even up - 50% to each partner.
every cloud has a silver lining	every bad thing has its perks, bad luck is never entirely bad	Mark missed his bus, but when he came in late he found that the class had written a math test.
every trick in the book	every method or device, every way of doing it	If you want to find boys, Keiko knows every trick in the book.
every walk of life	every occupation, all lifestyles	People from every walk of life attend our church.
everything but the kitchen sink	almost everything, the whole works	We put everything in his truck, everything but the kitchen sink!
everything from soup to nuts	a lot of food or things, a variety of groceries	His shopping cart was full. He had everything from soup to nuts.
everything old is new again	fashions and trends are repeated or revived	Hey, if miniskirts are back, everything old is new again!
ex	former wife or husband; girlfriend or boyfriend	His ex got the Mercedes; he got the truck.
exit stage left	departure, gonzo , out of here (outa here)	When that bull got loose, I did an exit stage left!
expand your horizons	experience or discover new ideas or goals or cultures	Travel, read, discuss - expand your horizons!
eye candy	something that is nice to look at, a beautiful object	She was eye candy. I've never seen a more beautiful car!
eye for an eye	(See an eye for an eye)	
eye of a needle	(See the eye of a needle)	
eye of the storm	(See the eye of the storm)	
eye to eye	(See see eye to eye)	
eyeball this	look at this, check this out , peep this	Eyeball this, guys! My hair is curly!
eyes glaze over	eyes express disbelief or "I've heard this before"	When I told him I'd pay the rent next week, his eyes glazed over.
eyes peeled	(See keep your eyes peeled)	

Idiom	Meaning	Example
F-word	(See the F-word)	
face facts	accept the truth, deal with reality, come to grips	If we face facts, we can see that one salary is not enough.
face the music	face the results of our actions, be responsible	If you damage the car, you must face the music - pay for repairs.
face up	admit that you did it, own up	If Karl caused the problem, he'll face up. He'll admit it.
fag/faggot	gay or homosexual man	Sean is a fag; he admits it.
faint of heart	timid, not courageous, chicken , lily-livered	Sky diving is not for people who are faint of heart.
fair game	legal to hunt or shoot or criticize, open season	An elected politician is fair game for criticism.
fair-haired boy	favorite boy, favorite man	He's the fair-haired boy in this office. They think he's perfect.
fair shake	(See a fair shake)	
fair to middling	moderately good, about average, so-so	"How's the barley crop this year?" "Oh, fair to middling. Could use a good rain."
fair-weather friend	a friend who leaves when I have problems, one who does not stand by me	Simon is looking for a loyal friend, not a fair-weather friend.
fake it	create the parts you forget, fudge it , make up	If he forgets the words, he fakes it. He thinks of new words.
folderol	(See a lot of folderol)	
fall apart (at the seams)	be unable to cope or manage, come unglued	After his wife died, he fell apart. He lost interest in everything.
fall asleep	begin to sleep, drop off	Don't fall asleep while we're in church. It's embarrassing.
fall behind	be unable to run as fast, drop behind	You will fall behind in your work if you miss a week of school.
fall between the cracks	(See fall through the cracks)	
fall between two stools	not clearly one type or the other, neither fish nor fowl	This vehicle is part bike and part car. It falls between two stools.
fall flat on my face	fail completely, embarrass myself, blow it , make a mistake	If I tried to speak Polish, I would fall flat on my face! You would laugh at my poor Polish!
fall for	begin to love, fall in love with	When I was in Grade 8, I fell for Miss Kramer. She was beautiful.
fall for that	believe that, eat that	Surely you're not going to fall for that story. It's nonsense.
fall head over heels	(See head over heels)	
fall ill	to become sick or infected, come down with	Just before the concert, Wolfgang fell ill and was unable to play his last composition.
fall in line	do as others are doing, obey orders	Although Barry doesn't like the new rules, he'll fall in line.
fall in love	begin to love, feel romantic about, head over heels	Michael and Rose have fallen in love. They're very happy.
fall into a trap	be tricked, be deceived	When the lawyer asks questions, don't fall into a trap.
fall into my lap	find without looking, receive without asking	Reg got another job offer today. Things seem to fall into his lap.
fall off the wagon	become drunk again, return to a bad habit	The old man fell off the wagon. He got drunk last night.
fall on deaf ears	talk to people who will not listen, really deaf	If you talk to the workers about management's problems, your message will fall on deaf ears.
fall on your sword	quit, resign, pull the pin	I know I caused the problem, but I won't fall on my sword. They'll have to fire me.
fall-out	harmful effects,	We still feel the fall-out from his negative speech on abortion.

	continuing effects	
fall short	not able to do as well as planned	I'm falling short of my career goals because I've been ill.
fall through	not happen, not succeed, not come off , not pan out	His plans to write a novel fell through because he didn't get a government grant.
fall through the cracks	not be included, be overlooked, leave out	These children fell through the cracks. They didn't learn to read.
fall to pieces	be unable to talk or reply, be overwhelmed	When I see Mario, I just fall to pieces. He's so handsome!
fallen woman	prostitute, hooker	The priest was trying to save the fallen women in his parish.
falling in love	beginning to feel love, being in love	They say that falling in love is wonderful - marvelous!
falling out	(See a falling out)	
false move	(See a false move)	
familiarity breeds contempt	a friend may dislike you if you do not respect his or her privacy	Don't call Margaret Maggie. Remember, familiarity breeds contempt.
family jewels	(See the family jewels)	
family tree	chart of ancestors, record of parents' forefathers	Bo is helping me to research my family tree - my ancestors.
famous last words	a prediction that is false - the opposite happens, twist of fate	"We don't need a spare tire. We never have flat tires on this car." "Sure. Famous last words!"
fancy footwork	neat maneuvers, clever moves	You did some fancy footwork to answer their questions. Bravo!
far cry	(See a far cry)	
far out	unbelievable, fantastic, wow	When I wear my bikini, he says, "Far out!"
fart around [B]	play instead of work, goof off , hang out	When we were kids we used to fart around at my uncle's store.
fart in a windstorm [B]	(See a fart in a windstorm)	
fast friends	close friends, permanent friends	Sue and I became fast friends when we were in Grade 4.
fast lane	(See life in the fast lane)	
fast track	the quickest route or path, short cut	There is no fast track to success in the field of photography.
faster than a minnow can swim a dipper	very fast, faster than a speeding bullet , quicker than you can say Jack Robinson	It hovered for a minute or so, then disappeared - faster than a minnow can swim a dipper!
faster than a speeding bullet	very fast, lightning fast , greased lightning	Who changes clothes in a phone booth and flies faster than a speeding bullet?
fastball	a baseball pitched at top speed (other pitches: slider, sinker, changeup, etc.)	Judd's fastball travels at about 95 miles per hour.
fat cat	rich or wealthy person, rolling in it	They're the fat cats in our town. They've got tons of money.
fat chance	very little chance, not likely	Me? Type 100 words per minute? Fat chance!
fat lip	a hit on the lip, an injured lip	Where'd you get the fat lip? Did somebody hit you?
fate is sealed	destiny was known, fate was determined	When you said you loved me, that's when your fate was sealed.
faze me	bother me, affect me, not take it in stride	When the announcer said that Rajesh had won the lottery, it didn't faze him. He just smiled and said, "That's nice."
faze me out	confuse me, surprise me, throw me for a loop	The new expressions fazed me out. They confused me.
feast or famine	we either have too little	When we were in business we'd have years of profit followed by years

	or too much, boom or bust	of loss. It was feast or famine.
feast your eyes on	enjoy looking at, get a load of	I opened a box of diamonds and said, "Feast your eyes on these!"
feather a pass (hockey)	pass a puck accurately but softly	Nilsson could feather a pass better than the other players.
feather in your cap	(See a feather in your cap)	
feather your nest	make a comfortable place, prepare your future place, nest egg	Charles became a professor and began to feather his nest at the University of Manitoba.
fed up	tired of, disgusted with, had enough	He's fed up with their laziness. I think he's angry with them.
feedback	reply, response, reaction to a plan, splashback	"What is the feedback on our plan to cut education funds?" "Negative. People disapprove."
feel a draft	feel the air from someone who is talking too much	When Jake talks too much, Pete asks, "Does anyone feel a draft?"
feel blue	feel sad, down , low	When Mara goes away, Don feels blue. He's lonely and sad.
feel for	feel sympathy or pity for someone	I feel for kids who are homeless. I want to help them.
feel free	feel that you may do it, by all means	Feel free to use the library. You can read and study there.
feel myself	(See not feeling myself)	
feel the pinch	feel a little bit poorer, feel there is less money	Now that we have only one income, we feel the pinch.
feeling bum	feeling lazy or negative, lacking energy	I'm feeling kind of bum today. I didn't sleep well last night.
feeling good	a little bit drunk, buzzed , had a few	After drinking a few beers Pat was feeling good.
feeling his oats	feeling energetic, feeling strong	Look at that cowboy dance! He's feeling his oats tonight.
feeling no pain	half drunk, half-corked	After three drinks of rum, Alex was feeling no pain.
fence sitter	a person who supports both sides in an argument, middle ground	Many politicians become fence sitters because they want to please everyone.
fend for yourself	be independent, care for yourself	Soon you'll know the city, and you can fend for yourself.
fender bender	minor car accident, collision	I had a little fender bender with your car, Dad - just a scratch.
fever breaks	fever stops, fever begins to go down	His fever broke last night. He's going to be alright.
few and far between	very few, rare, the odd one	Canada still has timber wolves, but they are few and far between.
fib	small lie, white lie	"What's a fib, Dad?" "It's a lie. It's the same as a lie."
Fibber McGee's closet	a closet or cupboard so full of stuff that some of it falls out when the door is opened, everything but the kitchen sink	My brain is like Fibber McGee's closet. If you ask me a question, a whole bunch of stuff comes tumbling out!
fickle finger of fate	(See the fickle finger of fate)	
fiddlesticks	oh no, darn , nuts , rats , shucks	Fiddlesticks! I forgot to get the mail!
fido	effort, drive, get the lead out	I wouldn't say he's lazy, but he needs more fido!
fifth business	an unimportant player, an extra member	You are fifth business, Dunny. Anyone can play your part.
fifth column	an inside group of supporters of an outside	Our children prevented our divorce. They knew who was causing our breakup - they were like a fifth column!

	force, possibly traitors; the fifth column	
fifth wheel	See a fifth wheel)	
fight fire with fire	fight with the same weapon the enemy uses	If he uses statistics, you use statistics. Fight fire with fire!
fight tooth and nail	fight hard, fight like an animal	Canadian women fought tooth and nail for the right to vote.
fighting chance	(See a fighting chance)	
figure out	analyse and understand, discover why	Can you figure out why the car stalled? Is the gas tank empty?
figurehead	a person who calculates but does not control	Shamir is just a figurehead; if you want a decision, see Ali.
file 13	the garbage can or wastebasket	This letter goes in file 13 - in the can in the corner.
fill her up	fill the tank with gasoline, a fill-up	He drove up to the gas pumps and said, "Fill 'er up, please."
fill his shoes	do his work as well as he does	If Mia leaves, it won't be easy to fill her shoes. She does two jobs.
fill in	complete by writing, write in the spaces	Fill in the blanks, please. Then give the form to Ms. Kiraly.
fill in for me	do my job, do my work	Will you fill in for me while I'm away? Just answer my phone.
fill me in	tell me the details, tell me more	Fill me in when I get home. I'd like to hear what happened.
fill out	complete by writing, fill in	Fill out the application, sign it, and mail it to the college.
fill the bill	do the job, fill the gap , serve the purpose	If we need an extra cashier for the sale, Bert will fill the bill.
fill the gap	fill an empty space, help where there is work to do	Pam filled the gap when I got injured. She played in my place.
fill up	fill to the top	You fill up the salt shaker, okay?
fill-up	(See a fill-up)	
fill your face	eat, put a lot food in your mouth, pig out	Imagine yourself in a chocolate factory, filling your face!
filthy lucre	money, dollars	Filthy lucre - that's what people want - cash, moola, lettuce.
filthy rich	very rich, wealthy, rolling in it	She was filthy rich after she got married. She was a millionaire.
find a way around	find a way not to pay, avoid a rule, get around	If you want to find a way around a tax law, talk to Sammy
find fault	look for faults and mistakes, criticize	I don't want to be around a guy who is always finding fault.
find my tongue	think of something to say, think of a reply	When she told me she had AIDS, I couldn't find my tongue.
find out	discover, learn	We found out he was a member of a cult. His sister told us.
find your voice	discover your personal style	Write, write, write until you find your voice - your own style.
find your way	find the correct path or road	A bus driver will help you find your way. Ask for directions.
find yourself	be surprised by what happens to you	If I don't brush my teeth, I may find myself without friends.
fine-feathered friend	nice-looking friend, dear friend, old acquaintance	Now, my fine-feathered friend, tell me the story of your escape.
fine-toothed comb	(See a fine-toothed comb)	
fine-tune	cause it to work very well, cause it to run smoothly	Sandro fine-tuned my Peugeot. Now it purrs like a kitten.
finger	accuse, blame	He was fingered for the crime, but he didn't steal anything.
fingers the size of bananas	very large fingers, giant fingers, humongous	This guy was huge! He had fingers the size of bananas!
finish off	eat the remaining	The kids finished off the cake when they got home.

	amount, eat the last piece	
finish off	kill, strike the final blow	The spider finished off the fly and began to eat it.
finishing touch	the final move, the act that completes the task	As a finishing touch, the baker added a maraschino cherry.
fink	fool, jerk , nerd	You fink! You sat on my pizza!
fink	tattle, snitch , tell on	You're the only one who knows I did it. Don't fink!
fire	dismiss from a job, terminate employment	"What happened to Larry?" "He got fired for stealing funds."
fire away	ask questions, comment, criticize, shoot	After speaking in favor of gun control, he invited the men to fire away.
fired up	enthusiastic, motivated, gung ho	The boys are fired up and ready to play. They're really excited.
firm hand	(See a firm hand)	
firm market	strong market, seller's market	A firm market in the automotive industry is good for the American economy.
first and foremost	first and most important, firstly	The speaker began by saying, "First and foremost... ."
first class	high quality, excellent	Pam's meals are first class. She's an excellent cook.
first come, first served	whoever comes first gets served first	If tickets are selling on a first-come basis, let's buy ours now.
first crack at	first turn, first chance to do it	I want first crack at solving the problem. I want to try first.
first dibs	first person to use it, first chance to use it	When we get to the motel, I get first dibs on the shower.
first down/first and ten	first try to gain ten yards (in football)	The Lions have a first down on their own 35-yard line.
first hand	being there to see or hear it, in person	I want to see the Pantheon first hand. I want to see its dome.
first light	(See at first light)	
first off	first on the list, the first thing to do	First off, we should define the problem. Then we can solve it.
first pancake is always spoiled	(See the first pancake is always spoiled)	
first up	first on the list, the first thing to do	On our list of things to do, the broken copier is first up.
fish and company stink after three days	fish should be eaten while it is fresh, and guests should not stay too long	Grandfather had this sign on the wall of his garage: Fish and company stink after three days!
fish for a compliment	hint that he wants a compliment	If Al mentions cars, he's fishing for a compliment on his Jaguar.
fish or cut bait	do it instead of talking about it, less talk and more action, shit or get off the pot	You've been bragging about what a great cook you are, so you make dinner. It's time to fish or cut bait!
fishy	not right, not fair, something smells	"Why don't you like this deal?" "Because it's fishy. Nobody sells a Mercedes for such a low price."
fit as a fiddle	very fit, in good physical condition	Uncle Doug is fit as a fiddle. He does aerobic exercises.
fit to be tied	very angry, mad, see red	He was fit to be tied when you said the accident was his fault.
fits and starts	moving unevenly, stop and go	The new crew worked in fits and starts, not at a steady pace.
five o'clock shadow	visible whisker growth toward the end of the day	"If we're going out tonight I better shave my five o'clock shadow." "Don't bother, honey. You look good showing some beard."
fix you	punish you, get back at	"I'll fix you," he shouted at us. "I'll build a fence to keep you off my property!"
fix your wagon	hurt you, get back at , get revenge	If you make him angry, he'll fix your wagon. He'll get revenge.
fixing to	preparing to, getting	Andy's fixing to cut some logs for the fireplace.

	ready to	
flag a cab	wave at a cab driver to come, hail a cab	The bus was late, so we flagged a taxi that was going by.
flake	phony, not real	The salesman was a flake. What he said was phony.
flake out	lie down and sleep, conk out	Grant flaked out on the couch after lunch. He was really tired.
flap your gums	talk, speak, gab	Don't just stand there flapping your gums. Help with supper.
flash a smile	smile at someone for only a second	Andy flashed a smile at me when the teacher asked to see his work.
flash in the pan	(See a flash in the pan)	
flat	not motivated, lacking energy, not up for it	In the second game, the team was flat. They lacked energy.
flat broke	having no money, out of cash	By the end of my first term at university, I was flat broke.
flat out	as fast as possible, pedal to the metal	Scott was driving flat out most of the way - over 180 km per hour.
flatfoot	policeman, a constable who walks the streets	Ted is a flatfoot in Regina. He works for Regina City Police.
flatfooted	(See caught flatfooted)	
flatliner	a person whose emotions do not change	The doctor is a flatliner. His face shows no joy, no sorrow.
flattery will get you nowhere	saying nice things will not help you, kiss the blarney stone	When I complimented Anna on her hair, she said, "Thanks, but flattery will get you nowhere."
fleeting glance	(See a fleeting glance)	
flesh out	add information, make complete	Here's the outline, Pat. You can flesh it out later.
Fletcherize your food	chew your food many times, chew your food until it is easy to digest	"Here, Fletcherize this." "Yuk, your pancakes are as tough as leather!"
flew the coop	departed, left home	Brian flew the coop last night. He packed a suitcase and left.
flip	be surprised, freak out	Mom nearly flipped when I told her we got married.
flip-flop	change of opinion, move to the other side	We often see politicians do a flip-flop after they're elected.
flip you for it	flip a coin to decide who pays	When our food check arrived, Al said to me, "I'll flip you for it."
flip your lid	become angry, blow your stack	If you get another speeding ticket, Dad will flip his lid.
flipping	consarned , darn , friggin ,	If you don't like the flippin' rules, you don't have to play.
float your boat	arouse you, interest you, to each his own , turn you on	Personally, I'm not into athletic girls, but whatever floats your boat.
flog a dead horse	(See beat a dead horse)	
floor it	push the gas pedal down, pedal to the metal	Buddy floors it from every stoplight. He drives too fast.
floor you	surprise you, shock you, bowl you over (see bowl me over)	The odor from a turkey farm is enough to floor you.
Florida green	yellow traffic light, amber warning light	Oops! I just drove through a Florida green. Any cops around?
flunk out	fail a school program, fail a course	If you flunk out of college, you will have to find a job.
fly-by-night	bad, dishonest, not to be trusted	He put his money in a fly-by-night company and lost it all.
fly by the seat of your...	(See by the seat of your pants)	
fly in the face of	contradict, be opposite to	These errors fly in the face of our reputation for accuracy.
fly in the ointment	small problem, troublesome detail	The fly in the ointment is that a boy saw you kissing Lola.

fly low	drive a vehicle very fast, drive so fast you nearly fly	On the freeway I was flying low - going over 200 km per hour.
fly off the handle	become angry suddenly, lose your temper	After Charlie flew off the handle he apologized for his temper.
fly on the wall	(See a fly on the wall)	
foggiest	(See haven't the foggiest)	
fold	quit, stop operating	The store folded during the recession - went bankrupt.
follow me	understand what I am saying, understand my meaning, get my drift	"Do you follow me?" "Yes, except for the idioms."
follow the rules	read the rules and do what they say, toe the line	If everybody follows the rules, we'll have fewer accidents.
follow through	do what you promise, see it through	If you promise to help, try to follow through.
food for thought	ideas worth considering, interesting suggestions	Your comments on Quebec have given me food for thought.
fool and his money...	(See a fool and his money are soon parted)	
fool around	play, play around, goof off , horse around	We don't fool around in her class. She's very strict.
fool around	have sex with someone who is not your spouse, have an affair	Rita asked Jon for a divorce. She knows he's been fooling around.
fool you	trick you, deceive you	Paul was fooling you. He owns a Ford, not a Ferrari.
foot the bill	pay all of the expenses, pay the shot	It's not right for Dad to foot the bill for your trip to Vegas.
footloose and fancy free	carefree, not committed, devil-may-care	When the kids moved out, we were footloose and fancy free!
for a dog's age	a long time, 10-15 years, in a coon's age	We haven't seen Aunt Sophie for a dog's age - for years.
for a song	for a little money, for a low price	Look at this sweater. I got it for a song at a second-hand store.
for all the tea in China	(See not for all the tea in China)	
for better or worse	during good times and bad times, through thick and thin	When you marry someone for better or worse, you hope for better but prepare for worse.
for crying out loud	before I start crying, for gosh sake	For cryin' out loud will you stop playing those drums!
for dear life	to save your life, because a life is in danger	When the bear stood up on its hind legs, we ran for dear life.
for good	forever, permanently	Remember, a tattoo stays on your skin for good - forever.
for good measure	adding enough or a bit more than required	For good measure, we added a bottle of wine to the punch.
for goodness sake	for the good of everyone, please	For goodness sake, don't drive so fast! The roads are icy.
for gosh sake	for god's sake for goodness sake	For gosh sake! Where did you get that monstrous hat?
for heaven's sake	for the sake of everyone, for goodness sake	For heaven's sake, don't give her a teapot. She has four!
for kicks	for fun, for enjoyment	"What do you guys do for kicks?" "I play computer games."
for laughs	for fun, for amusement	For laughs, we watch old movies.
for long	for a long time, for many minutes or days	She wasn't in the water for very long - just a couple of minutes.
for love nor money	not for any reason,	I won't skydive for love nor money. It's too dangerous.

	never, no way	
for openers	as a first activity, to begin	For openers, let's discuss the budget. It's very important.
for Pete's sake	for the good of "Pete" and everybody, please	For Pete's sake, don't talk when your mouth is full of food!
for sure	yes, certainly, no doubt	I'll pay you back tomorrow for sure. I promise.
for the birds	poor quality, crummy , the pits	It was a beautiful wedding, but the food was for the birds.
for the fun of it	for fun, for a good time, for laughs	"Why did you take my bike?" "Just for the fun of it."
for the life of me	it is a mystery to me, why in the world	For the life of me, I don't know why she stays with him.
force of habit	from habit, because of a habit	She still cooks enough food for five people. It's force of habit.
foregone conclusion	(See a foregone conclusion)	
forever and a day	for a long time, for an eternity	This treaty will last forever - forever and a day.
forget it	do not continue, stop it, I do not want it, drop it	I'm not interested in joining the club. Forget it.
forget your manners	forget to be polite, forget to say please etc.	When I reached in front of Mac, he said, "Forget your manners?"
fork over	pay, pay up	They said, "Fork over, man. Pay your share of the bill."
found money	money found on the street, money saved by nature	Wind power is like found money. I save what I paid for electricity.
found out	discovered, caught	If you cheat on the exam, you'll be found out. They'll see you.
four-letter words	bad words, profanity: damn, hell, shit etc. [B]	He gave a good speech, but he used a lot of four-letter words.
fraidy cat	a child who is afraid to jump etc., chicken	"Fraidy cat, fraidy cat!" the boys shouted. "Ali's afraid to jump!"
frame	cause you to look guilty, set you up	He framed you. He lent you his car, then reported it as stolen.
frame of mind	mood, mental attitude, state of mind	I'm not in the right frame of mind to listen to your poem.
frazzled	having tired nerves, going in circles	I'm frazzled! Gift shopping takes all my nervous energy.
freak/freak out	show surprise or disbelief, flip , go ballistic	Mom will freak when I tell her we're married.
free-for-all	(See a free-for-all)	
freebie	a free ticket etc., a sample	Some drug companies advertise through freebies - free pills.
freeload	receive free food or rent, a handout	Do social programs encourage freeloading? It's a good question.
freeze-up	when the lakes and ground freeze (November)	We want to dig the hole for the basement before freeze-up.
freeze wages	keep wages the same, not increase wages, dig in their heels	To control spending, the board is going to freeze our wages - no salary increases for one year.
fresh	(See get fresh)	
fresh legs	players who are rested, players who are not tired	"We need fresh legs out there!" the coach yelled. "They're tired!"
fresh out	do not have any, all used up	I wish I could lend you some rice, but I'm fresh out.
fresh pair of eyes	(See a fresh pair of eyes)	
fresh start	(See a fresh start)	
freshen up	wash your hands etc., use the washroom	If you want to freshen up, you can use our bathroom.
friends with	a friend of, a good friend	"Are you friends with Carla?" "Yes. She's my best friend."

friggin	damn, cotton-picking , darn , flipping	Then the friggin string broke and the friggin marbles fell all over the friggin floor!
frightened to death	very afraid, scared spitless , scared stiff	She said she was frightened to death when she heard the shot.
from day one	from the beginning, from the first day	From day one, Carol has been a good employee.
from hand to mouth	poor, spending every cent on necessities	They lived from hand to mouth, never enjoying luxury or travel.
from hunger	poor quality, poor taste, the pits	Tanya can sing, but her hair style is strictly from hunger.
from pillar to post	from one problem to another	After getting fired, he went from pillar to post - more bad luck.
from rags to riches	from poverty to wealth, from bum to millionaire	She went from rags to riches when she gambled in Vegas.
from scratch	(See start from scratch)	
from soup to nuts	(See everything from soup to nuts)	
from square one	(See back to square one)	
from stem to stern	from top to bottom, from head to tail	The '64 250 GTO was Enzo's masterpiece: Ferrari from stem to stern!
from the bottom of my heart	sincerely, with deep feeling	For your kindness, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.
from the frying pan into the fire	from bad to worse	I went from farming to fishing - from the frying pan into the fire!
from the get-go	from the beginning, from day one	First, a dog has to learn who's boss - right from the get-go.
from the horse's mouth	(See straight from the horse's mouth)	
from the word go	from the beginning, from the start	You knew I worked for the KGB. You knew it from the word go.
from time to time	once in awhile, occasionally	They visit us from time to time - every year or two.
front man	one who performs before the star goes on stage	Mic is the front man for Dolly. He sings before she does her act.
front me	lend me money for now, put up the money	If you will front me, I can buy the car and then repay you.
front runner	leader, one of the best	With this new model, Nissan will be a front runner again.
frosty Friday	(See that'll be the frosty Friday)	
fuck all	nothing, zero, diddly , zip	You know what I get for helping him? Fuck all - that's what. I just do it because I want to.
fuck off [B]	go, get out of here, get lost , take off	When I asked him to move his truck, he told me to fuck off.
fuck that noise [B]	that is not a good idea, down with that plan	"Let's return the TVs we stole." "Fuck that noise. Let's sell 'em."
fuck up [B]	cause a mistake, make a booboo , screw up	If you fuck up, don't worry - but learn from your mistakes.
fucked by the fickle finger of fate [B]	feel that luck is against you; cheated by fate	A flood ruined my business. I was fucked by the fickle finger of fate.
fuddle duddle*	fiddlesticks , friggin , nuts , phooey	I did not use the F-word. I said, "Oh, fuddle duddle!" (* This expression is attributed to former Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau speaking in the Canadian House of Commons.)
fudge it	create, fake it , make up	If you can't remember a name, fudge it. Answer every question.
full as a tick	very full, bloated, plump full	Oh, I drank too much water! I'm full as a tick!
full blast	as loud as possible, pull out all the stops	When we got home, the kids had the stereo on full blast.
full blown	all the symptoms, every sign	It often takes years for the virus to develop into full-blown AIDS.
full Monty	fully nude, completely naked, birthday suit ,	"Should I take off all my clothes?" "Yes, we want the full Monty!"

	strip	
full of herself	impressed with her own work, too proud of herself	The actor was proud - too full of himself - during the interview.
full of it [B]	full of lies, full of shit, full of BS	You're full of it if you think I took that watch. I am not a thief.
full of piss and vinegar [B]	lively, full of energy	That little kid is full of piss and vinegar. He won't sit still.
full out	as fast as you can go, flat out , full tilt	He was skating full out, but he couldn't catch Messier.
full plate	(See a full plate)	
full steam ahead	as much power as we have, full throttle	I told the Captain about the ice, but he said, "Full steam ahead!"
full strength	not weakened or diluted, straight up	Did John Wayne drink bourbon full strength? Without water?
full throttle	gas pedal to the floor, pedal to the metal	He drove the Mercedes at full throttle on the freeway.
full tilt	as fast as possible, flat out	Were you going full tilt when you passed us - as fast as it would go?
full up	full, no more room	This bus is full up. We'll have to wait for the next one.
fun and games	a good time, a lot of fun	"How was the office party?" "Oh, fun and games!"
funny in the head	a little crazy, not rational, a little off , spinnny	Poor Mike. He's been funny in the head since his horse died.
funny money	counterfeit money, fake money	Don't accept any funny money. We can't spend it.
funny stuff	tricks, pranks, monkey business	"No more funny stuff," the principal said as we left his office.
fuss over	care for too much, pay much attention to	Bertha's always fussing over her cats. She even warms their milk.
future looks bright	future looks good, success will come to you	Vi was promoted to Department Head. Her future looks bright.
fuzz	policemen, cops , pigs	The boys ran away when the fuzz drove up in a patrol car.

Idiom	Meaning	Example
gab	talk, visit, flap your gums	Mom and Maria were gabbing as they played cribbage.
gadzooks	amazing, holy Moses , wow	"Bev had triplets!" "Gadzooks! How did that happen?"
game for anything	ready to try anything, a game one , gung ho	If you're going to the moon, I'll go. I'm game for anything.
game one	(See a game one)	
game over	finished, complete; the chance is gone	If you've signed the contract, it's game over. You can't change it.
Gang of Four	any group of four people that causes trouble or intimidates citizens	A member of the Gang of Four just phoned to complain about the English signs in our town. (Political phrase originating in China: Jiang Qing, Zhang Chunqiao, Wang Hongwen and Yao Wenyuan were prominent members of the Communist party and leading forces in the Cultural Revolution (1965-1976). After Mao's death in 1976, the Gang of Four was tried and sentenced to death. The sentence was subsequently reduced to 20 years in prison.)
gang up on	several go against one, many fight one	Three boys ganged up on Willie and knocked him down.
garage kept	in good condition, kept in a garage when not in use	This car has been garage kept. The body's excellent.
gas	a lot of fun, a great party or show, have a blast	We had a great time at Ollen's party. It was a gas!
gash	girls, broads , chicks , lovelies	We can't have a party without gash. Let's phone some girls.
gathering dust	not being used, sitting on a shelf, collecting dust	That old coffee tray has been gathering dust for years.
gear up	prepare, get ready, find equipment and supplies	After we print this manual we have to gear up for a novel.
gee	oh, well, gosh , wow	Gee! What happened to your hair? Did you cut it yourself?
gee willickers	oh, golly , gosh	"Gee willickers!" Linda said, legs crossed and eyes bulging, "Are you still in the bathroom!?"
gee whiz	golly gee , gosh darn , aw shucks	Gee whiz, Miss Julie. I'd never do anything to hurt you.
geek	strange person, scholar, book worm , nerd	Allan reads a lot and stays by himself. He's kind of a geek.
geez	darn , gee whiz , gosh	Geez, I hate mosquitoes!
geezer	old man, old person, old coot	On one street there was an old geezer begging for money.
geezer gap	the differences between people aged 60 and 80	The word senior includes everyone in the geezer gap.
Generation X	people born in the 1970s; a generation that wanted to change the work ethic	Generation X said that the jobs disappeared as they graduated from high school and university.
get a bang out of	enjoy, have fun, get a kick out of	Ms. Lau gets a bang out of playing bingo. She loves bingo.
get a charge out of	enjoy, is amused by	Ming gets a charge out of Pam's memos. They're humorous.
get a fix	use some drugs; a hit	He'll shake until he gets a fix. He's addicted to heroin.
get a fix on	calculate, determine, figure	We should get a fix on the office expenses - the total per month.

	out	
get a grip	be realistic, be serious, get serious	You expect to get A's without studying? Get a grip!
get a grip on yourself	control yourself, do not be so emotional	When he cried, she said, "Get a grip on yourself, Dear."
get a handle on	understand, find out about	We have to get a handle on the parking problem - get the facts.
get a hold of	talk to, phone	I tried to get a hold of Pierre when I was in Montreal.
get a kick out of	get some enjoyment, laugh, get a bang out of	I get a kick out of the way he skates. He's fun to watch.
get a laugh	cause people to laugh	Your jokes always get a laugh.
get a life	change your lifestyle, get it together , get with it	He never goes out - just stays at home and watches TV. I wish he would get a life!
get a lift	get a ride, catch a ride	I can get a lift with Brian. He's driving to Moncton.
get a load of that	look at that, check that out , feast your eyes	When Marilyn stepped out of the taxi, he said, "Get a load of that!"
get a move on	go quickly, vamoose	We're late! Let's get a move on!
get a rise	get an answer, get a response	Can you get a rise out of him? He doesn't answer me.
get a shot	get a needle from a doctor	You are sick. Maybe you should get a shot of penicillin.
get a shot at	shoot at, see the target you want to shoot at	The buck was partly hidden. I couldn't get a shot at it.
get a ticket	receive a note stating you parked or drove illegally	If you park your car on the sidewalk, you'll get a ticket.
get after	scold, lecture, give you hell [B]	Mom got after us for smoking. She told us it was a bad habit.
get ahead	make progress, succeed	Do you want to get ahead in this world? Do you want to succeed?
get along	co-operate, give and take	Joey gets along with everybody. He is very co-operative.
get along	cope, live, manage	I don't know how I'll get along without you. How will I manage?
get along	go, do not stay here	Get along now. Go home, please.
get around	visit friends and places, socialize	With a full-time job and three kids, I don't get around much.
get around it	avoid rules or laws, find a way around	You must obtain a business license. You can't get around it.
get around to	do, work at, complete	I haven't got around to calling him yet. I haven't had time.
get at	suggest, imply	When you said I was slow, what were you getting at?
get at it	do it, get busy , get to it	Well, this work has to be done. Let's get at it.
get away with	not obey the rules, not get caught	He gets away with speeding, but the police will soon catch him.
get axed	be fired, be dismissed	He got axed for stealing funds.
get back at	return an insult, get revenge	If you don't apologize, he'll get back at you. He's quite angry.
get bageled	lose without scoring, get skunked , be	We got bageled. They beat us 11-0!

	shutout	
get blood from a stone	do an impossible task, beat your head against...	You'll get blood from a stone before you get money from Ed.
get burned	be caught, get blamed, get into trouble	I got burned for helping Bev with her divorce. They blamed me.
get busy	begin to work, start to do, get at it	Get busy and cut the grass before your father comes home.
get by/scrape by	have just enough money, make do	I can get by on very little money, if necessary. I can be frugal.
get carried away	become too emotional, go overboard , go too far	When the kids play hockey, their parents get carried away, yelling at the referees and fighters.
get caught	found doing something, caught in the act	Did Vi get caught driving without a license? Did she get a ticket?
get caught up	do unfinished work, learn what you missed	I have to get caught up on my studies. I missed two classes.
get cold feet	cancel a plan, renege, back out , jam	They'll be married next week; that is, if Jack doesn't get cold feet.
get down to brass tacks	become serious about it, knuckle down	As soon as I'm feeling better I'll get down to brass tacks.
get down to business	work seriously, not waste time or effort	"Let's get down to business," he said. "We have much to do."
get even	do the same thing to someone, get back at	When he loses a game, he wants to get even. He wants to win.
get fingered	be accused, be blamed	He got fingered for taking the money because he had the key.
get fresh	act in a sexual way, come onto her	When he's had a few drinks, he tries to get fresh with me.
get-go	(See from the get-go)	
get going	go, start moving, get lost	When I stopped to rest, he said, "Get going. Get out of here."
get good wood on	shoot the puck hard, hit the ball squarely	Clark got good wood on that shot, but he missed the net.
get hell [B]	receive a scolding, catch hell [B] , get it	He got hell for breaking a glass. Mrs. Fisk told him he was bad.
get her way	get her choice, have her opinion rule, get your way	If she got her way as a child, she'll try to do whatever she wants as your wife.
get high	feel good, have a special feeling	I get a natural high from jogging. I feel happy and free.
get him back	get revenge, get back at	Lyle wants to get me back for seeing Betty. He's jealous.
get home	arrive at home, come home	I'm going to bed when I get home. I'm sleepy.
get in deeper	cause you more trouble, dig yourself in	Telling another lie will only get you in deeper - make it worse.
get in my face	confront me, stand in front of me	When I try to talk to Jodi, her boyfriend gets in my face.
get in on it	benefit from it, take advantage of it	Baymart is having a half-price sale, and I want to get in on it.
get in on the ground floor	be there at the start, be one of the	If I get in on the ground floor at MING'S, I'll advance quickly.

	first people to invest or be hired	
get in shape	exercise until you are physically fit, work out	If you want to play soccer this year, you better get in shape.
get in your hair	(See in your hair)	
get into her pants [B]	have sex with her, lay her[B]	He wants to get into her pants, but she won't let him.
get into trouble	do bad things, break the law	When he's with the Subway Gang he gets into trouble. He's bad.
get it	understand, know what is funny	"Get it? Do you get the joke?" "Yes. Ha ha. Ha ha ha."
get it	be scolded or punished, get hell [B]	I really got it for taking my brother's car. He was furious.
get it off your chest	talk about a problem, complain	He can get it off his chest at the meeting. He can complain there.
get it on	kiss and hug in a sexual way, make out	The phone rang just when they were getting it on.
get it over with	do it quickly, finish it before it becomes worse	"If you want a divorce," he said, "let's get it over with."
get it straight	understand it, catch on , figure out	She doesn't know the difference between boys and girls. I hope she soon gets it straight.
get it together	become organized, be effective	I'll get it together this term. I'll improve my grades.
get it together	get a well-balanced life; become happy, successful	She's getting it together. She's trying to live a meaningful life.
get laid [B]	have sex, get her/him into bed	Most guys take you out expecting to get laid, right?
get lost	go, leave, beat it	They told me to get lost, to go home to Mommy.
get mad	become angry or cross, lose your cool	When she gets mad, I leave the house. She has a bad temper.
get me down	cause me to feel negative; to feel down	What gets me down is the way government wastes our money.
get my drift	understand my meaning, dig me	I don't think of you as a sister, if you get my drift.
get my kicks	get my enjoyment, have my fun	I get my kicks from coaching kids' teams. I enjoy doing that.
get off	not have to pay, not be convicted, get out of	If he's guilty, how did he get off? Why isn't he in prison?
get off a few good ones	tell a few jokes, say a few funny lines	When Rob spoke at our wedding he got off a few good ones.
get off my back	stop criticizing me, get off my case	If he criticizes you again, tell him to get off your back.
get off my case	stop criticizing me, check up on	I told the manager to get off my case - to stop criticizing me.
get off on	like to do, enjoy	He gets off on bowling. He loves to knock over those pins.
get off the ground	succeed at first, begin successfully	For a new product to get off the ground, you need about \$5000.
get off to a good start	begin with success, start with confidence	In Math 201, it's important to get off to a good start.
get off your high horse	do not act like you are better than	Colin acts so superior! Tell him to get off his high horse.

	everyone else	
get off your soap box	stop preaching to us, don't be such a crusader	When Todd made a presentation on corporate charity, one of his co-workers said, "Get off your soap box, Todd!"
get on in years	getting older, over the hill	When Mother broke her hip, she was 77 - getting on in years.
get on it	do it now, get at it , get to it	Mr. Jarvis wants his car repaired by noon, so let's get on it.
get on my good side	(See on my good side)	
get on my nerves	bother or irritate me, bug me	Her questions get on my nerves. They're too personal.
get on with it	continue working or speaking	When I paused, he said, "Get on with it. Tell the rest of it."
get on your horse	move, get started, get a move on	Get on your horse or you'll be late for work. It's nearly 8!
get out	I do not believe it, you're kidding	Your father played hockey with Bobby Orr? Get out!
get out of	avoid doing, not have to do	You can get out of gym class if you say you have a headache.
get out of my face	go away, I am sick of you	I didn't ask for your advice. Get out of my face!
get out of the road	move, do not stand there	"Get out of the road!" he yelled as he rode his bike down the hill.
get out of town	you are mistaken, do not expect us to believe you	You saw a Martian? Get outa town! I don't believe it.
get out of your hair	leave, not bother you, get lost	Let me ask one more question; then I'll get out of your hair.
get over	move, let me sit beside you, move over	Hey, get over! I was sitting here!
get over	travel, go to visit	We hope to get over to the island when we go to Vancouver.
get over	forget, stop worrying about	We can help her get over the accident by listening to her.
get real	try to see what is really happening, get serious	He wants five million dollars to play hockey? Tell him to get real.
get reamed out	(See ream out)	
get revenge	hurt someone who hurt you, get even , pay him back	Do you want to get revenge, or do you want to discuss the problem and forgive him.
get rid of	discard, throw away, do away with	First, we have to get rid of the money. Where can we hide it?
get rolling	move, go, drive away	If you have to be home by noon, we should get rolling.
get screwed	receive unfair treatment, ripped off , taken in	I got screwed when I bought this condo. I paid too much for it.
get serious	do not joke, be serious, pay attention	When we discussed water safety he told us to get serious.
get shit [B]	get a scolding or a lecture, catch it , get hell [B]	He got shit for drinking beer in school. The principal was mad.
get something out of	learn from, benefit from	We always get something out of her class. We learn something.
get the drop on	be quicker to start, get the jump on	Stu's very quick. In faceoffs, he gets the drop on his opponents.
get the finger [B] (get the bird)	get a bad sign, see the middle finger	Bad drivers get the finger when they cut in front of Randy.
get the green light	get approval, it's a	Don't start construction until we get the green light from the City.

	go	
get the hang of	learn to do, know the first steps	I'm getting the hang of algebra. I can solve the easy problems.
get the jitters	become nervous, begin to shake	When I get up to speak, I get the jitters and I can't think clearly.
get the jump on	start faster than the others, quick on the draw	Ben got the jump on the other runners. He led by one stride.
get the lay of the land	check the conditions, size up the situation	Before I sell insurance in a town, I like to get the lay of the land.
get the lead out	move faster, hurry, move it , shake a leg	The coach told me to get the lead out - to get moving.
get the picture	understand, see the way it is	After Jack explained his plan, he said, "Get the picture?"
get the point	understand the idea or the message	Did you get the point of his talk? What was the main idea?
get the word out	tell the message, spread the word	The easiest way for us to get the word out is on the Internet.
get the wrinkles out	improve, revise	When they get the wrinkles out of the electric car, I'll buy one
get this monkey off my back	stop a bad habit, be rid of a problem or hang-up	I have to get this monkey off my back. I have to stop gambling.
get this show on the road	begin to do something, get down to business , get rolling	After a lot of talk about how to drill a well, the boss said, "Let's get this show on the road."
get this straight	understand what is said, get the picture	Let me get this straight. You say there's a moose in your bathtub?
get to first base	do the first step, complete the first stage	He was hoping for a kiss, but he didn't get to first base.
get to it	do it now, do not delay, get to the point	After listening to her babble for awhile, I said, "Please get to it."
get to me	bother me, bug me	The sound of the fan gets to me. It's too loud.
get to the bottom of	get the facts, find the cause	Did you get to the bottom of the problem? What is the cause?
get to the point	say what is important, come to the point	When answering questions, get to the point. Be direct and brief.
get to the root of the problem	find the cause, get to the bottom of	We got to the root of the problem. The children are afraid of the dog.
get together	come to visit, have you over	We should get together at Easter. Would you like to visit us?
get under my skin	bother me, bug me , get to me	Don't let Bob's teasing get under your skin. Don't let it bother you.
get-up	clothes, strange clothing, weird costume	A vest with jogging pants! Are you going out in that get-up?
get up a head of steam	generate enough power to move, get up to speed	If I get up a head of steam, I can knock down the door.
get-up-and-go	energy, vitality	I feel so lazy. I have no get-up-and-go.
get up on the wrong side of bed	be grouchy or cranky, get off to a bad start	Did you get up on the wrong side of bed? Are you in a bad mood?
get wind of	hear about, find out about	Did she get wind of our plan? Does she know about it?
get with it	become aware,	Leni, a friend at work, told me to get with it or I'd lose my job.

	learn how, in the know	
get worked up	feel upset, become angry	He gets worked up about unions. He hates protests and strikes.
get you back	(See get back at)	
get you down	cause you to feel sad, cause you to be down	Do Mondays get you down? Do you hate going back to work?
get your act together	become organized, get it together	Bill is getting his act together. He's not late anymore.
get your attention	cause you to be aware of, catch your eye	When Marylou walked by, that got your attention.
get your back up	become upset, get mad	Tim gets his back up when you criticize his work. Be careful.
get your buns over here	come here quickly, on the double	Wade, get your buns over here and sign your name.
get your dander up	annoy or bother you, bug you	Do barking dogs get your dander up? Does barking irritate you?
get your ears pinned back	(See ears pinned back)	
get your feet wet	try to do it, attempt it, try your hand at	To become a lawyer, learn the theory; then get your feet wet.
get your goat	annoy you, bug you, get to me	Don't let Jason get your goat. He teases everybody.
get your head out of the clouds	be more realistic, come down to earth , get real	You can dream at home, but please get your head out of the clouds when you come to work.
get your head together	begin to think clearly, get your act together	I need a holiday to get my head together - to think clearly again.
get your hopes up	cause you to be hopeful, pin your hopes on	Now don't get your hopes up, but I plan to appeal your conviction.
get your jollies	(See get your kicks)	
get your kicks	enjoy yourself, have fun	How do you get your kicks? Do you sing? Dance? Travel?
get your knuckles rapped	be punished, get hell , get shit [B]	If I forget to register my guns, I'll get my knuckles rapped.
get your mind around	understand, comprehend, wrap your mind around	He explained DNA, but I can't get my mind around it.
get your shirt in a knot/ get your shit in a knot [B]	want to hurry or rush, hurry up	If we asked Pop to hurry, he'd say, "Don't get your shirt in a knot!"
get your shit together [B]	become organized, make a plan and follow it	A counselor can help you get your shit together. Talk to one.
get your tits in a wringer	cause trouble for yourself, get into trouble	If there's hash in your suitcase you could get your tits in a wringer.
get your way	do what you want to do, have it your way	You used to get your way with Mom and Dad. They trusted you.
get your wires crossed	get the wrong meaning, communicate poorly	We got our wires crossed. I said someday, and you heard Sunday!
get yours	be hurt, get hit or injured	After the fight he said, "You'll get yours! Just wait!"
getting on in years	(See get on in years)	

ghetto blaster	portable radio, boom box	Loud rock music came from a ghetto blaster on the steps.
gibberish	nonsense, bafflegab , bunk	Did he say disregardless? I wish he wouldn't talk gibberish!
gift of the gab (gift of gab)	(See the gift of the gab)	
gild the lily	decorate a beautiful object, improve a work of art	Decorating that Scotch pine would be gilding the lily.
gimme a break	do not tell me to do that, that is unreasonable	You expect me to spell every word correctly. Gimme a break!
girl Friday	girl employee who does a variety of office jobs	Jan is our girl Friday. She does the important jobs in our office.
git	go, leave, get going , get lost	When our cat dug in his flower garden, he said, "Git! Go on!"
give 110%	work harder than required, do more than asked	If we want to win this game, everyone has to give 110%.
give a black eye	cause a loss of respect for a person or organization, pride goeth before a fall	When a priest is convicted of sexual assault, it gives the Catholic Church a black eye.
give a damn / give a shit / give a fuck [B]	care about, don't give a damn , give a hoot	Look at his hair. He doesn't give a damn about his appearance.
give a hoot	care; show interest, show concern	The problem with Julio is that he doesn't give a hoot about family.
give a little	be flexible, do not be so firm	When you discuss the divorce terms, try to give a little.
give a shit [B]	care, feel interest or concern, don't give a damn	Sometimes I wonder if you give a shit - about anything!
give an arm and a leg	give a lot, pay a lot, give my eye teeth	She'd give an arm and a leg to have her baby back.
give an inch	concede a little bit, compromise, let up	We asked Dad to change his rule, but he wouldn't give an inch.
give and take	win and lose, give something to get something	Marriage works on a give-and-take basis - more give than take.
give head [B]	give oral sex to a man, perform fellatio	Can you catch AIDS from giving head?
give her	use more power, give it all you've got	If the foreman wants us to work faster, he yells, "Give 'er!"
give her credit	say that she helped or contributed	Give Jane credit for staying with Tarzan all these years.
give her shit [B]	try hard, play hard, go fast, give her	Give 'er shit, guys. We can beat this team.
give her the eye	look at her with interest, come-on	At the school lunch table, Kevin would smile and give her the eye.
give him a taste of his own medicine	do to him what he does, an eye for an eye	If Jim is sarcastic, give him a taste of his own medicine.
give him an inch and he'll take a mile	give him a little freedom and he will take a lot	He lacks self-discipline. Give him an inch and he'll take a mile.

give him enough rope and he'll hang himself	allow him enough freedom and he will hurt himself or be caught	If he's bad, give him enough rope and he'll hang himself. The police will stop him.
give him the brush-off	turn away from someone, reject someone	When Don asked Jane for a date, she gave him the brush-off.
give him the evil eye	look fierce or evil, stare in a bad way	When I testified in court, the prisoner gave me the evil eye.
give him the slip	leave him, ditch him	We gave him the slip while he was in the washroom.
give in	not try anymore, yield	Emily always gives in; she won't disagree with me.
give it a rest	do not say that anymore, stop complaining	Give it a rest, eh. All you talk about is religion.
give it a whirl	try to do something, try your hand at	When I saw the others dancing, I decided to give it a whirl.
give it all you've got	try very hard, do all you can	When I say "push," give it all you've got.
give it the once-over	look at it quickly, do a hasty job, a lick and a promise	We drove by the house and gave it the once-over. It looks nice!
give it to him	lecture him or hit him, tell him off	If he touches me again, I'm really going to give it to him!
give it to me straight	give me the facts, do not beat around the bush	"I have some bad news, man." "Tell me. Give it to me straight."
give it your best shot	do the best you can, try your hardest	If you want to win, you have to give it your best shot.
give me a bad time	tease me, bug me , give me a rough time (see give you a rough time)	I wish you wouldn't give me a bad time about my low grades.
give me a break	give me a chance to win, gimme a break	When we play tennis, give me a break. Don't play your best.
give me a call	phone me, ring me	I'll give you a call when I have a minute. I have your number.
give me a dingle	phone me, call me, give me a ring	Give me a dingle sometime. My number's in the phone book.
give me a hand	help me, lend a hand	Please give me a hand with this math problem. I can't solve it.
give me a hint	tell me part of the answer, say a word to help me	I can't guess the name of your new boyfriend. Give me a hint.
give me a lift	give me a ride, pick you up	Can I give you a lift to school? Want to ride with me?
give me a lift	give me a happy feeling, cause me to feel better	Pat's jokes give me a lift. When I laugh, I feel much better.
give me a ring	phone me, call me, ring me	Give me a ring when you get home from work, eh.
give me the creeps	cause me to feel scared or uncomfortable	Damon looks like a ghost. He gives me the creeps.
give me the third degree	question me carefully, haul up on the carpet	The police ask a lot of questions. They give you the third degree.
give my eye teeth	give something valuable, give my right arm	Does he like me? I'd give my eye teeth to know if he likes me.
give my right arm	give something	What a voice! I'd give my right arm to be able to sing like that.

	valuable, give my eye teeth	
give no quarter	not co-operate or concede, drive a hard bargain	When he negotiates a contract, he gives no quarter. He's firm.
give notice	give a letter that says you are leaving or quitting	If I want to leave the position, I give them two weeks notice.
give off an odor	smell, have an odor	After sitting in the sun, the dead fish gave off a strong odor.
give out	break, stop operating, conk out	After three hours of steady use, the pump gave out. It just quit.
give them a hand	clap your hands, applaud	Let's give them a hand, folks. They sang very well.
give them what for	give them a lecture, scold them, give you hell	After the team lost a game, the coach gave 'em what for.
give up	stop trying, not try any more	I give up. I can't remember who invented the telephone.
give up the blueline (hockey)	let opponents cross the blueline before you check them	If we give up the blueline, they will get more shots on goal.
give up the ghost	stop hoping after a long time	When will she give up the ghost? Her son has been gone for years.
give you a boost	cause you to be confident, encourage you	Winning that award will give her a boost. It will encourage her.
give you a hard time	tease you, criticize you, a hassle you	Did the class give you a hard time about losing their papers?
give you a line	tell you a false story, hand you a line	Don't believe him. He's giving you a line about being wealthy.
give you a ribbing	tease you, bug you, give you a hard time	When I got stuck in the lake, my friends gave me a ribbing.
give you a rough time	tease you, hassle you (see hassle me)	The players gave me a rough time about scoring on my own goalie.
give you a run for your money	compete with you, try to defeat you	I'm not the best skier, but I'll give you a run for your money.
give you an out	give you an excuse, allow you to beg off	You don't have to work. Your sore back will give you an out.
give you flack	tell you what you did wrong, criticize you	He gave me flack for smoking in his car. The smell bothers him.
give you hell [B]	lecture you, scold you, tie into you	She'll give you hell if you come late to her class, so be on time.
give you odds	if I lose the bet, I pay you more money than you bet	I'll give you odds that Montreal will win. I'll bet \$2; you bet \$1.
give you shit [B]	lecture you, be angry with you, give you hell	If you spend too much money he'll give you shit.
give you static	criticize what you did, give you flack	He gave me static for failing the exam. He said I can do better.
give you the axe	fire you, dismiss you, get the axe (see get axed)	"Why did they give her the axe?" "For stealing company money."
give you the benefit...	(See the benefit of the doubt)	

give you the boot	fire you, dismiss you, down the road	If you drink liquor at work, they'll give you the boot.
give you the cold shoulder	be unfriendly toward you, turn away from you, stand away	If you forget her birthday she'll give you the cold shoulder.
give you the gears	fool you, tease you, josh you, pull your leg	When Dad said you would have to pay for cleaning the carpet, he was giving you the gears.
give you the runaround	(See the runaround)	
give you the shirt off his back	give you anything he owns to help you, bend over backwards	Christian is a compassionate person. He will give you the shirt off his back.
give you what for	lecture you, give you hell	If you miss hockey practice, the coach will give you what for.
give your best	(See give it your best shot)	
give your word	promise, say that you agree, count on what you say	If you gave your word, do whatever you promised. A person is only as good as his word.
glad rags	best clothes, dress clothes	I'll come to your concert. I'll do my hair and put on my glad rags.
glassy eyed	dazed, not alert	When I saw him he was glassy eyed. I think he was drunk.
glitch	fault, problem, snag	That printer is full of glitches. It isn't working right.
glom onto	grab, take	Don't leave any donuts around, or Bubba will glom onto them.
gloss over	cover faults or errors, cover up	Jill won't gloss over your errors. She'll tell you about them.
gloves are off	(See the gloves are off)	
glow on	(See a glow on)	
glowing terms	(See in glowing terms)	
glued to the set	watching TV, interested in a TV show	Jack loves sports. He's glued to the set every Saturday.
gnashing of teeth	anger, complaining	When the hospital closed, there was much gnashing of teeth.
go against the grain	oppose the natural way, do it the hard way	Moe has always been perverse - always going against the grain.
go all-out	do your best, give it all you've got	He'll go all-out at the Olympics. He wants to win a medal.
go all the way (sex)	have intercourse, make love	"When I go all the way, I want to feel loved," she said.
go all the way (sports)	win a final series, win the cup or trophy	If the Leafs beat us, they'll go all the way.
go along for the ride	(See along for the ride)	
go along with	agree to, co-operate with	If you go along with the crime, you'll be as guilty as they are.
go along with	pretend you do not know, play along	If we have a surprise party for Kay, will you go along with it?
go ape	become extremely excited, go bananas	The girls would go ape when they saw the Beatles.
go around the bend	(See around the bend)	
go around with	be friends with, hang out with	At the time, I was going around with a girl named Diane.

go at a good clip	(See at a good clip)	
go back on	reverse a decision, break a promise	Mat wouldn't go back on his word. He's very dependable.
go bad	spoil, become sour	Milk will go bad if it's left in the sun. It will taste sour.
go ballistic	become very upset, freak out	When I told Mom I was pregnant she went ballistic.
go bananas	become very excited, act crazy, go nuts	When Elvis swiveled his hips, the girls went bananas.
go berserk	become insane, go crazy	With ten kids, it's a wonder the poor woman didn't go berserk.
go bonkers	lose control of emotions, freak out , go crazy	He went bonkers because there was too much pressure at work.
go bust	go bankrupt, go under	Two of his companies went bust within a year.
go by the boards	become less important, be neglected or omitted	When he returned to school, his social life went by the boards.
go by the name of	has the name of, is called, a.k.a.	The zebra also goes by the name of "tiger horse."
go crazy	lose control, go bananas , go wild	If I don't leave this place I'll go crazy! It's boring here.
go down	lie down, go to bed, go to sleep	Our baby goes down early - and gets up early.
go down for the third time	drown, die, fail	In Calculus 101, I'm going down for the third time. I'm failing.
go down on [B]	give oral sex to a woman or a man	"Do you want to go down on me?" she whispered.
go downhill	fail and lose, down and out	It's too bad. After getting out of prison he just went downhill.
go downtown [B]	have intercourse, go all the way	If I go up to your room, it doesn't mean you can go downtown.
go easy on	do not ask him to work hard, ease up on	Go easy on Billy, please. He's not well today.
go easy on	do not take too much, use less	Go easy on the jam, please. Leave some for me.
go figure	you find the answer, the answer is no	He said he quit smoking, then he asks for a cigarette. Go figure.
go for	believe, accept	I said I was late because of a flat tire, but Dad didn't go for that.
go for	admire, desire	Burt goes for Dolly, but Dolly doesn't like Burt.
go for a spin	go for a ride in a car, take a drive	Clyde stops the car and says to Bonnie, "Want to go for a spin?"
go for broke	try your hardest, go all-out	On my last jump I'll go for broke. I'll beat my best mark.
go for it	try it, attempt it	When he asked if he should climb the tree, we yelled, "Go for it!"
go for the jugular	strike at the vital location, make the killing action, killer instinct	From the lion we have learned to go for the jugular, to defeat our opponents without mercy.
go-getter	(See a go-getter)	
go great guns	(See going great guns)	
go haywire	break, not work properly, break down	They said they fixed the car, but it went haywire again the next day.
go hog wild	have a wild celebration, go wild	When the Stampede won the Grey Cup, the fans went hog wild.

go hungry	not have enough to eat, continue to be hungry	We may be poor, but we never go hungry.
go in circles	walk around but not work, work in confusion	I'm going in circles. I have to stop and plan my work.
go into detail	give details in a story or report	Don't go into detail right now. Just tell us how much it costs.
go jump in the lake	go away and do not return, take off	If he expects us to write a 50-page report, he can go jump in the lake.
go like crazy	work fast and hard, be very busy, like crazy	We've been going like crazy trying to feed fifty people!
go like stink	go fast, accelerate quickly	That Mustang goes like stink. It's a fast car.
go mad	become insane, go crazy , go nuts	If he doesn't stop playing those drums, I'll go mad.
go nowhere fast	be unable to advance, be stuck where you are	Without a diploma, you'll be going nowhere fast.
go nuts	become insane, go bonkers , go crazy	If another mosquito bites me, I'll go nuts!
go off half-cocked	speak without thinking, rush into action	Dad is sensible, but he goes off half-cocked when he plays ball.
go off the deep end	do something strange, go overboard	Now don't go off the deep end and hit somebody.
go on	happen, occur, what's going down	What's going on here? Why is your bike in the bathtub?
go on	it cannot be true, you're kidding	"Ted drove the car into the lake!" "Go on! Ted wouldn't do that!"
go on about	talk steadily, ramble, run off at the mouth	"What was he saying?" "Oh, he was going on about taxes and the price of wheat."
go one better	do more, hit harder, outdo yourself	If he gives her candy, I'll go one better and give her flowers.
go out of your mind	(See out of your mind)	
go out of your way	do special things to help, put yourself out	Hilda went out of her way to help us when Dad was sick.
go out on a limb	promise too much, risk, take a chance	Don't go out on a limb. Don't say the company will pay for it.
go out with	be a boyfriend/girlfriend, date , see	Jerry asked me to go out with him. I think he likes me.
go over	read, practise	Did you go over your notes? Are you ready for the quiz?
go over	be liked, be accepted	Free drinks will go over with the students. They'll like that idea.
go overboard	do it too much, go off the deep end	He goes overboard if he likes a girl - buys her flowers every day.
go places	succeed, do well, make it big	When Percy got his degree, we knew he was going places.
go pound salt	leave, go away, go tell your mother she wants you	We don't allow babies in our gang. Go pound salt!
go public	tell the public, tell a reporter	If he goes public, everybody will know that we had an affair.
go-round	a turn, a try, a cowboy's ride	In the second go-round, he scored a 79, better than his first try.
go soft	be gentle, be considerate	I've learned to go soft when I return papers with low grades.

go steady	date only one person, go out with only one	Tony and Pearl are going steady. They're faithful to each other.
go straight	change from a criminal to a law-abiding citizen	When he's released from prison he plans to go straight.
go strong	(See going strong)	
go tell your mother she wants you	go away, you're not welcome here, get lost	Mikey, you always cry when you don't win. Please go home - go tell your mother she wants you!
go the distance	finish the race, complete the course	If Mat begins a project, he'll go the distance - he'll complete it.
go the extra mile	work longer or harder than expected, give 110%	If you are willing to go the extra mile, you can be the top student.
go the way of the dodo	become extinct like the dodo bird, die off	If we don't protect our language, it will go the way of the dodo.
go through	say, read, run through	Could you go through the steps one more time, please.
go through the roof	become very angry, blow your stack	Mr. Tse will go through the roof when he sees all these mistakes.
go to any trouble	work to make us welcome, put yourself out	Please don't go to any trouble for us. Don't change your plans.
go to bat for	help someone by talking to managers or authorities, put in a good word for	Uncle Bob works for the City. If your tax bill is too high, maybe he'll go to bat for you.
go to great lengths/ go to any lengths	do whatever is necessary, never give up	Cynthia will go to any lengths to find a dress designed by Voz.
go to hell [B]	leave, go, drop dead , take off	When I asked him to move his car, he told me to go to hell.
go to hell in a handbasket	go to hell feeling peaceful or unconcerned, ignorance is bliss	We don't get involved in issues. We're wasting our lives and going to hell in a handbasket!
go to pieces	(See fall to pieces)	
go to pot	(See gone to pot)	
go to town	(See going to town)	
go to trouble	(See go to any trouble)	
go to your head	(See let it go to your head)	
go too far	become too excited, get carried away	Some soccer fans go too far. They fight and cause damage.
go under	fail, be unable to continue, go bankrupt	Companies that can't make loan payments will go under.
go up in smoke	burn, be destroyed in a fire	You need fire insurance. What if your condo goes up in smoke?
go wild	act wild, run and squeal etc.	When the teacher leaves the room, the kids go wild.
go with the flow	do what others do, do what helps everybody	Don't always try to be different. Go with the flow sometimes.
go without	not have any, not	When Dad lost his job, we had go without steak.

	have money, do without	
go wrong	choose wrong answers, make a mistake	Where did we go wrong with our budget? Did we miscalculate?
god awful	ugly, shabby	I won't wear that god-awful suit! It looks like a garbage bag!
God bless the Duke of Argyle	something to say when scratching your back	Oh, that feels good! God bless the Duke of Argyle!
God rest his soul	(See rest his soul)	
gofer	the employee who must go for supplies, mail, coffee, etc.,	"Are you the gofer in this office?" "Ya, I gofer this and I gofer that, and soon I'm gonna gofer a holiday! Ha ha!"
going concern	(See a going concern)	
going down	(See what's going down)	
going gets rough	(See the going gets rough)	
going great guns	working very well, going strong	We were going great guns till our goalie got hurt. Then they scored.
going rate	(See the going rate)	
going strong	doing well, succeeding	The party was going strong - lots of dancing and laughter.
going to the mountains	going home, returning to the place you call home	"Where did John go when he left here?" "He said he was going to the mountains - going home."
going to town	working or talking hard, protesting, sounding off	One man was really going to town, speaking against taxes.
gol dang/gol darn	frustrating, dad-blamed , darn	The gol dang cord is tangled. It's full of knots.
golden age	best years, time of most prosperity	He said the decade after World War II was Canada's golden age.
golden opportunity	(See a golden opportunity)	
golden rule	(See The Golden Rule)	
golden years	65 years of age or older, sunset years	Dad is retired now, enjoying his golden years.
golly	oh, gee , gosh	Golly! I've never seen so much snow.
golly gee	oh, gee whiz , wow	Golly gee! Nobody ever did that to me before.
gone to pot	in poor condition, neglected, run down	The farmyard had gone to pot. There was junk everywhere.
gone to the dogs	not well maintained, in very poor condition	My garden has gone to the dogs. It's full of dandelions and weeds.
goner	(See a goner)	
gonzo	gone, not here, out of here	On June 30, school's over and I'm gonzo!
good afternoon	hello, hi , good day	Answer the phone this way: "Good afternoon, Ko speaking."
good and dead/mad/sick	very dead or mad or sick etc.	That rodeo bull was good and mad. He tried to gore the rider.
good arm	(See a good arm)	
good bet	good team or horse or person to bet on	The Leafs look like a good bet to win the series. They should win.
good day	hello, good morning , good	"Good day, Mrs. Hardy." "How do you do, Mr. Lane."

	afternoon	
good egg	(See a good egg)	
good for a loan	willing to lend money, able to lend money	Let's ask Mike for some money. He's usually good for a loan.
good-for-nothing	not useful, useless	I'll be glad when we sell that good-for-nothing truck.
good for you	good work, 'at a boy, good on you	When Dad saw my high marks, he said, "Good for you, Nick."
good going	good work, 'at a girl, way to go	Good going, Judy! You passed the exam!
good golly	oh, gosh, wow	Good golly, Miss Molly. You are the prettiest girl in the county!
good gravy	oh, how surprising, gosh	Good gravy! I've got BINGO! I won!
good grief	what a shame, oh no, too bad	Good grief! You're injured! Your hand is bleeding!
good hands	skillful hands; ability to pass, catch, shoot; feather a pass	He's not a fast runner, but he's got good hands.
good head	(See a good head)	
good morning	hello, hi, good day	We said, "Good morning, Miss Keele," as we entered the room.
good on you	that is good, you did good work, good for you	If you can tie a kangaroo down, good on ya, mate!
good riddance	good that someone or something goes away	When the manager resigned, we all said, "Good riddance!"
good show	that is good, you performed well	Good show, I say. Jolly good show! Let's see another trick.
good sport	(See a good sport)	
good time	a good experience; an enjoyable party, visit, etc.	There were lots of people at the wedding and everybody had a good time!
good to go	ready to go, ready to leave	You have the saddle and I have the horse. We're good to go!
good wood on it	(See get good wood on it)	
goodies	cookies, candy, cake, etc.	Grandma always had a plate of goodies on the table for us.
goodies	accessories: air, cruise, sun roof, etc.; loaded	He likes the Buick because it has a lot of goodies - a lot of extras.
goodness gracious	oh my, oh dear, gosh	Goodness gracious! That sauce is hot!
goof off	play, fool around, horse around	We were goofing off in the hall before class - joking and stuff.
goof up	do it poorly, screw up	If I goof up again, I'm going to use a different typewriter.
goose egg	zero, no score, skunked	They got three goals. We got the goose egg.
goose is cooked	chance is gone, plan has failed, game over	If we don't win this game, our goose is cooked.
goose it	press the gas pedal down, pedal to the metal	When a car tries to pass us, don't goose it. Slow down.
goosed	(See Canada goose)	
gosh	oh, gee, golly, wow	Gosh! I didn't know you had a twin sister!
gosh darn (gol darn)	frustrating, darn, friggin	Where is that gosh-darn pen? Who took my pen?

gospel truth	(See the gospel truth)	
got a corner on	got most of the business, corner the market	Bata's got a corner on the shoe business in Ontario.
got a crush on	feel romantic about, sweet on	Wayne's got a crush on Miss Kramer. He loves Miss Kramer!
got a light	got a match, have a cigarette lighter	I lost my matches. Have you got a light?
got guts	have courage, have nerves of steel	She's got guts to try skydiving. It's a dangerous sport.
got him covered	point a gun at him, prevent him from going	"I've got you covered!" the boy said, pointing a toy gun at me.
got it bad	feels it very much, has a case of	Poor Jenny. She loves Stuart. She's got it bad for him.
got it coming	deserve to get hurt, should get hell [B]	If you drive drunk, you should be punished - you've got it coming.
got it in for	dislike, is unkind to, is on my case	I think Mr. Yee's got it in for me. He's very critical of my work.
got it made	be happy and successful and rich	Brandy's got it made: she has a career, wealth and a loving family
got my eye on	am interested in, want to know him/her, want to buy it	A Corvette? No. I've got my eye on a Fiat Spyder.
got my hands full	am very busy, plate is full	I'd like to help with your project but I've got my hands full.
got no business	do not have the right, have no claim	Charlie's got no business telling us how to manage our farm.
got rocks in your head	have no sense, make bad decisions	If he swims with sharks, he's got rocks in his head.
got the balls [B]	got the courage, got what it takes	He wants to enforce gun control, and he's got the balls to do it.
got the blues	feel sad, feel blue	Zora's got the blues because her lover was untrue.
got the hots for	desire, feel passion for	She's got the hots for Tony. See how she touches him.
got the rags on [B]	menstruate, have your period	Lana doesn't feel like going out tonight. She's got the rags on.
got what it takes	got what is needed, got the balls [B]	We need a person to manage the office. Ko's got what it takes.
got you by the balls [B]	got you so you can't move or quit or back out	If you signed the contract, they've got you by the balls.
got you by the short hairs	has a painful hold on you, has an advantage, gotcha	"What can I do about a bad credit rating?" "Not much. They've got you by the short hairs."
got you cornered	make it difficult to move or answer	"I've got you cornered," he said, pointing at the checker board.
got your number	know how to manage you; how to get her way	She's got your number, Bill. She knows you'll do anything she asks.
gotcha (got you)	tricked you, defeated you	When I don't know the answer, he says, "Gotcha!"
gotches	men's shorts, men's underwear	Uh oh, no clean gotches. It's time to do my laundry.
grab a bite to eat	eat a lunch or meal, have a bite	We were so busy we didn't have time to grab a bite to eat.
grab a chair	sit down, have a	After I introduced everybody, I said, "Grab a chair and sit down."

	seat , take a load off your feet	
grain belt	a region or area that produces cereal crops	The grain belt got very little rain this year. The land is dry.
grain of salt	(See take it with a grain of salt)	
grand slam	a home run with runners on all bases, a major score	It was 5-1. Then Carter hit a grand slam and tied the game, 5-5.
grandfather	to exempt from new rules, to keep it the same, grandfather clause	This new law prohibits restaurants from serving french fries, but restaurants that now serve fries have been grandfathered.
grandfather clause	a written statement that protects an employee, a right, a privilege, etc.	They can't demote him or delete his position because he has a grandfather clause.
granola	a person who believes in less government and a natural way of living	Pat is mostly granola. She wants to join a commune, grow gardens and protect the environment.
grapevine	(See through the grapevine)	
grass is greener...	(See the grass is greener on the other side of the fence)	
gravy train	a profitable product, the rest is gravy	In 1928, coal was Alberta's gravy train.
grease my palm	pay me, give me money	If you want good service, grease his palm. Give him a tip, eh.
greased lightning	very, very fast; faster than a speeding bullet	Oh, I've slowed down a bit over the years. When I was a teenager they used to call me Jimmy "greased lightning" Fraser.
greaser	a young man with greasy hair, a hoodlum, a hood	Two greasers were hanging out behind the school.
greasy kid's stuff	heavy hair dressing, thick hair oil	None of that greasy kid's stuff on my hair. I use a natural product.
greasy spoon	small cafe that serves greasy food	I eat at the greasy spoon. The food ain't great, but it's cheap.
great guns	(See going great guns)	
Great One	(See The Great One)	
great Scot	good gravy , gosh , heavens	When Dale gets excited, he says, "Great Scot!"
great shakes	(See no great shakes)	
Great White Hope	(See The Great White Hope)	
Great White North	(See The Great White North)	
Greek to me	(See it was Greek to me)	
green stuff	dollars, money, lettuce , moola	In those days we had plenty of green stuff, so I bought a Lexus.
green thumb	good gardener, naturally good with	Willie is the green thumb in our group. He's the gardener.

	plants	
green with envy	envious, wishing to have someone else's property	How I wish I owned your Acura. I'm green with envy.
greenback	American dollar, money, buck	If we're going to Vegas, we need our pockets full of greenbacks.
grey area	unclear topic, vague statement	There are many grey areas in the legal system - many vague laws.
grey matter	brains, brain capacity, intelligence, smarts	"Sometimes I wonder if he has any grey matter." "Oh, he has it, but maybe he doesn't use it."
grey power	the large numbers of seniors or older people	An increase in life span causes an increase in grey power.
grill you	ask you a lot of questions, pointed questions , the third degree	Do your parents grill you when you come home late?
grim reaper	(See The Grim Reaper)	
grind to a halt	stop with regret and problems	If he quits, the project will grind to a halt. It depends on him.
grinding halt	unplanned stop, forced stop	When Andy lost his job, their marriage came to a grinding halt.
grinning like a bushel basketful of possum heads	grinning widely, having a broad grin	Them boys was grinning like a bushel basketful of possum heads - they done outwitted the sheriff again!
groaty to the max	very nice, way cool , totally awesome	That bike is groaty to the max. I love those wide tires!
groovy	stylish, cool , neat , with it	That's a groovy T-shirt, man. I like the purple parrot.
ground me	keep me at home, not allow me to go out	If I don't pass all my subjects, my parents will ground me.
grounded	not allowed to go out, forced to stay in	Pam was grounded for a week because she stayed out all night.
Group of Five	(See The Group of Five)	
Group of Seven	(See The Group of Seven)	
grouse	complain, a bitch [B]	The mayor said everybody's grouseing about high taxes.
grow a tail	need to defecate, drop a log	Have you seen a washroom? I'm growing a tail.
grow on you	you like it more each day, gradually like it more	In time, you will appreciate Lang's poetry. It grows on you.
grow up	live during childhood, become a young adult	He grew up on a farm in Alberta. He was a farm boy
grow up	become mature, accept responsibility	Grow up, Jerry. Put away that water pistol and act like an adult.
grunge (fashion)	youth clothing designed for grunge music fans	The kids go to parties dressed in grunge. That's cool.
grunge (music)	alternative rock music, distorted sound of rock	When we visited Seattle, every radio station was playing grunge.
grunge	dirt and grease,	Let's remove the grunge from the motor. It's really dirty.

	grime	
guard is down	not ready for a fight, not protecting yourself	I wasn't ready for her criticism. My guard was down.
gun down	shoot, kill with guns	He was gunned down as he left his apartment - shot in the back.
gun it	step on the accelerator, floor it , goose it	When a car tried to pass him, he gunned it. He sped away!
gung ho	very enthusiastic, very interested	Barb's gung ho about our trip to Greece. She's excited about it.
gussied up	groomed and dressed for a party	Sally was all gussied up when he arrived for their date.

Idiom	Meaning	Example
hack/hacker	writer, journalist, computer guru	Some hack wrote a story about the mayor's son being on drugs.
had a bellyful	had too much, do not want to receive any more	I've had a bellyful of the Reborn Party. What a bunch of bigots!
had a belt	had a drink of alcohol, had a couple	Ragnar had a belt or two at the tavern in town.
had a couple	had two or more drinks of alcohol, tipsy	She was laughing a lot - like she'd had a couple.
had a few	a little drunk, buzzed	He staggered a bit when he walked - like he'd had a few.
had better	should, ought to	I'd better call and explain why we didn't attend the reception.
had enough	endured, fed up , put up with a lot	After ten minutes of his talk, she's had enough. She leaves.
had his bell rung	hit hard, bodychecked, knocked out	Pat had his bell rung by No. 4. He was unconscious for awhile.
had it	had too much of, frustrated with, fed up	I've had it with politicians who waste our money. It's sickening.
had it	worn beyond use, shabby , wear out	My bike's had it: the frame's broken and the gears slip.
had it up to here	upset too many times, had enough	I've had it up to here with his smoking! Yuk!
had the bird	worn or broken, wear out	These shoes are full of holes. They've had the bird.
hail a cab	wave your hand to stop a cab, flag a cab	We missed the bus, so we hailed a cab.
hail-fellow-well-met	friendly man, a good head , jolly good fellow	"Bert is a social person." "Yes, he's hail-fellow-well-met, I say."
hair off the dog that bit you	remedy that uses the cause, fight fire with fire	The theory of penicillin is to use the hair off the dog that bit you.
hair stand on end	be very scared, very frightened, scared stiff	Adriana, your hair is standing on end! Have you seen a ghost?
hairbrain	not sensible, irrational, crazy, kooky	Eric is talking about a hairbrain plan to train ants as employees.
hairdo	hairstyle, coiffure	Did you see Eileen's hairdo? She looks lovely in tight curls.
hale and hearty	healthy and enthusiastic, in the pink , in your prime	"Bob looks hale and hearty these days." "Yes, he's healthy and active."
half-assed [B]	incomplete, half missing	There's a guy at the door with a half-assed invention for sale.
half-bad	quite good, okay, ain't half-bad	Here, have one of these chocolates. They aren't half-bad.
half-baked	not well planned, not developed	Satellite schools? Sounds like a half-baked idea to me.
half-cocked	(See go off half-cocked)	
half-corked	half drunk, buzzed , feeling no pain	Andy was at the bar for awhile. He's half-corked.
half-cut	(See half-corked)	
half-hearted	using half your ability, not giving enough effort	He made a half-hearted attempt to find our luggage: one phone call.
half-lit	(See half-corked)	

half-pint	a child, a person who is half the size of an adult	When you were a boy - just a half-pint - your hair was yellow.
half-shot	(See half-corked)	
half-snapped	(See half-corked)	
half the battle	half of the task completed, half of the job done	You've done the research for the report. That's half the battle.
half-there	idiotic, stupid, nitwit	I couldn't think. My words sounded like grunts. People must have thought I was only half-there.
ham	humorous person, comedian, joker	When you imitate John Candy, you're quite a ham.
ham hands	large hands, huge hands	When the coach saw my big hands he called me Ham Hands.
ham it up	act funny and tell jokes, play the ham	Robbie likes to ham it up when he talks to a group - he tells jokes.
hammer and tongs	angrily, furiously, fight tooth and nail	The two men were arguing - going at it hammer and tongs.
hammered	very drunk, pissed , sloshed	You were hammered, so I took your keys and drove you home.
hand down	told by the elders to the children	The story about the loon was handed down for generations.
hand in	give to the teacher or manager, turn in	If we hand in an essay before it's due, teacher gives us a 5% bonus.
hand in hand	related, together	Math and science go hand in hand. They're related subjects
hand me down	clothes that belonged to an older family member	Bobby said he's tired of wearing hand-me-down clothes.
hand out	give to the class or audience, pass around	Cory, please hand out the song books - one to each member.
hand over	give them to me, fork over	Hand over the keys to the safe - give them to me now!
hand over fist	as fast as possible, one after the other	The T-shirts are selling hand over fist. Everybody wants one.
hand to mouth	(See from hand to mouth)	
hand you a line	tell you a false story, give you a line	Some politicians try to hand you a line about how busy they are.
handful	(See a handful)	
handle herself	protect herself, been around	Dolly has worked with men before. She can handle herself.
handout	page of information for students	If you want to know more about Brazil, read the handout.
handout	(See a handout)	
hands are tied	be unable to act because others are in control, out of our hands	I'm in favor of public health care but my hands are tied. I have to wait for a government decision.
hands down	easily, no contest	The captain of the team said, "We won hands down - 6 to 1."
hands on	practice doing a task by working with your hands	In shop class, we get hands-on experience in car maintenance.
hands up	put your hands above your head, reach for the sky	"Hands up, everybody!" the thief shouted as he entered the bank.
hang around	stay near, be with, hang out	Don't hang around with that gang. They steal cars.
hang in there	continue, persevere, be patient, keep on	Hang in there until the doctor comes. He'll relieve your pain.
hang loose	be calm, relax, do not be uptight	In Hawaii, they tell the tourists to hang loose - to relax.
hang on	wait, hold on	Hang on a second. I have one more question to do.

hang on every word	listen carefully to every word that is said	When Mr. Frye spoke, we would hang on every word. We listened.
hang on like grim death	be determined or resolute, not quit	In the presidential election, Gore was hanging on like grim death.
hang out	play with, be with, spend time with	Cal hangs out with Aaron. They go to the gym every day.
hang ten (surfing)	let your toes hang over the edge of the surf board	When you get tired of standing on the board, just hang ten.
hang tough	continue to try, be strong and determined	As we returned to the field, the coach said, "Hang tough, guys."
hang-up	a fear or phobia, a personal problem	For me, marriage is a hang-up. I can't commit to one person.
hang you out to dry	defeat you, convict you, throw the book at	If you're caught shoplifting, they'll hang you out to dry.
hang your hat	live here, live with us	You can hang your hat here for awhile - until you rent a room.
hangover	feeling ill or nausea the day after you are drunk	Is it true that vodka doesn't cause a hangover?
hanky-panky	unfair deal, cheating, underhanded plan	There is no hanky-panky in the contract we signed. It's okay.
happy as a box of birds	joyful, very happy	When we go to the lake, the kids are as happy as a box of birds.
happy as a clam/lark	very happy, carefree	When Tim is working on his car, he's happy as a clam.
happy as a peacock	very happy, very pleased	If you tell Alice she's beautiful, she'll be happy as a peacock!
happy as a pig in shit [B]	very happy, contented	"Does Caleb like farm life?" "He's happy as a pig in shit."
happy camper	a person who is happy most of the time	Jack's a happy camper today. He's smiling and whistling.
happy hour	an hour (or hours) when bar drinks are cheaper	Adam has invited me to the lounge for happy hour.
happy motoring	have a good trip in your car	The slogan of the auto club is Happy Motoring!
hard as nails	tough, not sympathetic	The lawyer was as hard as nails. He felt no pity for anyone.
hard at it	working hard, as busy as a beaver	When the foreman returned, the workers were hard at it.
hard copy	printed page(s), paper with printed words or pictures	You can check your work on the computer screen, but it's easier to find errors on hard copy.
hard day	(See a hard day)	
hard done by	overworked, asked to do too much	With all the help Bonnie gets, she's not hard done by.
hard feelings	unfriendly feelings, resentment	After the argument, Bill said, "I hope there are no hard feelings."
hard line	statement or policy that a person refuses to change	The principal takes a hard line on school attendance. I must attend.
hard liquor	strong liquor (rum etc.) with 40 % alcohol	The bar was serving beer, wine and several kinds of hard liquor.
hard nosed	firm, tough; refusing to lower his price or standard	Ms. Bond is hard nosed. If you plagiarize, you fail the course.
hard of hearing	not able to hear very	Now that Grandpa's in his 80s, he's quite hard of hearing.

	well, partly deaf	
hard-on [B]	(See a hard-on)	
hard on me	makes me work hard, tough on me	That job was hard on me. My back is sore from the lifting.
hard pressed	challenged, faced with a hard task	They'll be hard pressed to find a person who doesn't drink coffee.
hard put	unable to answer easily, stump me	He was hard put to answer the questions on cold fission.
hard row to hoe	(See a hard row to hoe)	
hard sell	using much pressure to sell, trying hard to convince the customer to buy, soft sell	He was giving us the hard sell. He almost forced us to sign the contract.
hard skill	skill that can be measured, track record	I think we should offer the position to Linda. Look at the hard skills listed on her resume!
hard stuff	(See hard liquor)	
hard times	a time of poverty and drought and famine	We endured hard times in the 1930s. We were all poor.
hard to believe	not easy to believe, difficult to believe	It's hard to believe that you're a grandfather. You look so young.
hard to get	(See play hard to get)	
hard to swallow	hard to accept, hard to take	She said, "He has custody of the children. It's hard to swallow."
hard to take	difficult to tolerate, hard to swallow	Her cruel words hurt me. Her sarcasm is hard to take.
hard up	poor, unable to pay, in the poorhouse	After the war, our family was so hard up we couldn't buy meat.
hardware	computer machines and accessories	The printer is an important part of your computer hardware
harum-scarum	careless, disorganized, pell-mell	Tag is a harum-scarum kind of game - no rules or referee.
has a mind of his own	(See mind of his own)	
has-been	someone who has been skilled or famous	Bobby now plays on a team of has-beens: The Old Timers.
has the cat got your...	(See cat got your tongue)	
has the makings	has the potential, has the ingredients	Darcy has the makings of a good teacher. He explains things well.
hash it over	talk about it, discuss it, talk it over	If I mention the lawsuit, he says, "We can hash it over later."
hassle	(See a hassle)	
hassle me	bother me, bug me , give me a bad time	If you hassle me about my kinky hair, I'll cut it all off.
hat in hand	humble, almost begging	If he doesn't find a job in town, he'll return to us, hat in hand.
hat trick	one player scoring three goals in one hockey game	Brad scored a hat trick in the game against the Blades
hatchet man	the man who does the bad jobs: firing, layoffs, etc.	Uh oh, there's Jake, the hatchet man. Who's getting fired now?
hats off	a tribute or honor; praise and thanks	And hats off to Mr. Singh for coordinating the volunteers.
haul ass [B]	do it, hurry, get	If you want a magazine, haul ass. You can buy one at the drugstore.

	going	
haul up on the carpet	questioned, disciplined, give me the third degree	If you don't obey every rule, you will be hauled up on the carpet.
have a ball	enjoy the activity, have a blast , have fun	We had a ball at Yolanda's party. It was lots of fun.
have a bird	be overcome with excitement or grief, beside myself , have a fit	When you told her the boys had been rescued I thought she was going to have a bird! She was almost hysterical.
have a bite	eat lunch, eat some food	We can have a bite at a restaurant after we finish shopping.
have a blast	have a great party; enjoy the dance etc.	"How was the dance?" "Super! We had a blast!"
have a boo	go to the bathroom, go to the can	Let's stop at the next service station so Cory can have a boo.
have a boo	have a look, have a peek	Have a boo with my binoculars. You can see one of the planets.
have a case of	be sick from, have a disease	I was in bed. I had a bad case of the flu.
have a chair	please sit down on a chair, have a seat	"Please have a chair," my aunt said, and the man sat down.
have a clue	know about the answer, know about the topic	I didn't have a clue about the answer to Question 2.
have a conniption	become very upset, have a fit	Stop playing your violin, or Mom will have a conniption!
have a crush on	(See got a crush on)	
have a cow	(See don't have a cow)	
have a drag	draw smoke through a cigarette, have a drag	I'm out of cigarettes. Can I have a drag of yours?
have a fit	become very excited, have a conniption	Promise me you won't have a fit if I fail math.
have a fix	take some drugs, get a fix , shoot up	After he's had a fix, he's happy. The heroin satisfies his need.
have a flat	have a hole in a tire, have a flat tire	If you have a flat, phone a service station for help.
have a fling	live a wild life as a young person	Dad, did you have a fling when you were young?
have a go	try to do, attempt	You have a go at this puzzle. See if you can solve it.
have a good time	be happy, enjoy yourself, have a blast	You should come to the party. We'll have a good time.
have a heart	do not be cruel, have some feeling	Have a heart when you coach the kids. Be gentle with them.
have a hitch in your getalong	limp, walk with a limp	Since he broke his ankle, he's had a little hitch in his getalong.
have a laugh	laugh, chuckle	Phan and Lo had a laugh about their early birthday parties.
have a leak [B]	urinate, take a pee [B]	When you go camping, it's okay to have a leak in the woods, eh.
have a looksee	look at something, look for something	Pete thinks he can find the cow. He went to have a looksee.
have a mind to	am considering, may do this	I have a good mind to tell his wife he's been with a prostitute.
have a puff	(See have a drag)	
have a say	be allowed to state a view, help to make the decision	Only the investors will have a say in the price of the product.
have a seat	sit down, please be	The farmer pointed to a chair and said, "Have a seat."

	seated, have a chair	
have a shot at	have a chance or a try, qualify to compete	If Scotty wins this fight, he'll have a shot at the boxing title.
have a sip	have a small taste, drink through a straw	Can I have a sip of your cherry drink? Just a little sip?
have a smash	have a drink of liquor, have a sip	Here, Jon. Have a smash of the brandy before it's all gone.
have a soft spot for	have a caring feeling for, have sympathy for, feel for	I've always had a soft spot in my heart for Martha. She was so kind to me as a child.
have a whiz	go to the toilet, visit the john	We were so busy we didn't even stop to have a whiz!
have a word with you	talk to you, discuss with you	As I left the room, Mr. Lee said, "May I have a word with you?"
have an affair	see a lover who is not your spouse, fool around	"Liz is having another affair." "Who is she seeing? Bart?"
have an attack	feel sudden pain from a disease or illness	She can hardly breathe. I think she's having an asthma attack
have an inkling	know, be aware of, have a clue	I didn't have an inkling that you loved him. I didn't know.
have at me	criticize me, scold me, give you hell [B]	Every time I come home late, my parents have at me.
have deep pockets	have lots of money, be wealthy or well off	Some people say the government has deep pockets, but we are the government. Do we have deep pockets?
have designs on	want to take away from, envy, covet	I have no designs on your job. Believe me. I don't want it.
have fun	enjoy an activity or event, have a good time	Did you have fun at the party? Did you enjoy it?
have half a mind to	(See have a mind to)	
have it both ways	let it go and still have it, have your cake...	You can't be married and single. You can't have it both ways.
have it coming	deserve it, ask for it	If you get fined for driving too fast, you have it coming.
have it in for	(See got it in for)	
have it in hand	be able to control it, have it under control	A fire started in the kitchen, but it's okay. We have it in hand.
have it made	have achieved success, have everything you want	Viv has a new home, two cars and a career. She has it made.
have it out	argue, fight, settle it	Jake and Dan had it out. They argued for more than an hour.
have it your way	do what you want to do, get your way	Have it your way. Choose the movie you want to see.
have my ears lowered	get a haircut, have my hair cut	When my hair is long, I go and have my ears lowered!
have my eye on	(See got my eye on)	
have my work cut out	have a difficult task to do; a problem I must solve	Our goal is to win the cup, so we have our work cut out for us.
have nookie	have sexual intercourse, have sex , make love	All he wants to do is have nookie - all the time!
have one on me	have a drink and I will pay for it, this one is on me	Put your money away, please. Have one on me.
have sex	have sexual intercourse, make	She said that it's dangerous to have sex with several partners.

	love	
have the balls [B]	(See got the balls)	
have the final say	make the final decision, call the shots	The children want a pony, but John has the final say.
have the floor	it is your turn to speak to the group	You have the floor, Mai. Please tell us about your idea.
have the makings of	(See the makings of)	
have things in hand	(See have it in hand)	
have to	must, cannot avoid	Jill has to go to the meeting. She's the president.
have to go	need to visit a washroom, have to whiz	Can we find a washroom? I have to go.
have to go some	must try harder, have to improve	You'll have to go some to get an A. It's a difficult course.
have to hand it to you	must admit that you can do it, give you credit (see give her credit)	I have to hand it to you. You did every problem correctly.
have what it takes	(See got what it takes)	
have you for breakfast	defeat you easily, cut you to ribbons	Don't try to beat the gangsters. They'll have you for breakfast.
have you over	invite you to visit us, drop over	When we move into our new home we want to have you over.
have your cake and eat it, too	have something after you have eaten or spent it, have it both ways	You want to spend your money and still have it. You can't have your cake and eat it, too!
have your period [B]	menstruate, got the rags on	I get stomach pains when I have my period. Do you?
haven't got a hope	do not have a good chance of succeeding	If you don't study for exams, you haven't got a hope.
haven't got a hope in hell	have no chance to win or succeed or survive etc.	If the parachute doesn't open, I haven't got a hope in hell.
haven't got the stomach for it	dislike it, do not enjoy it	She likes to dissect frogs, but I haven't got the stomach for it.
haven't seen hide nor hair	have not seen a person, have seen no sign of him	We haven't seen hide nor hair of Jack since he borrowed \$1000.
haven't the foggiest	have no idea what the answer is, do not know the answer, have a clue	"What's a googol?" "A googol! I don't know. I haven't the foggiest!"
havoc strikes	problems happen, crises occur suddenly	Farmers plant their crops, and havoc strikes in hailstones.
hawk	a person who likes war; wants to make war	The hawks were pleased when the US declared war on Iraq.
haywire	(See go haywire)	
hazard a guess	guess at the answer, take a a shot in the dark	How many beans are in the jar? Do you want to hazard a guess?
he who hesitates is lost	if you hesitate you may not get another chance	If you want to marry Ko, ask her. He who hesitates is lost.
head (headbanger)	a person who uses drugs, junkie	That school has no heads. Not one student is using drugs.

head	(See skids)	
head and shoulders	superior, better, a cut above	Her work is superior - head and shoulders above the others.
head down there	go there, travel south, head up there	Have you been to Chile? I'm going to head down there for the winter.
head honcho	boss, foreman, manager	Who's the head honcho here? I have a package for him - or her.
head in the clouds	dreaming, wondering, not practical	Shelly is a daydreamer. She's got her head in the clouds.
head in the sand	unable to see, unwilling to look	The minister hasn't noticed their poverty. His head is in the sand
head is spinning	mind is confused, boggle your mind	The lawyer asked me so many questions my head was spinning.
head on	directly, without hesitation	Lynn meets her challenges head on, but Vera tries to avoid them.
head out	leave, depart	We should head out soon. We have a long way to go.
head over heels	in love with, crazy about	Lan's head over heels for Chan. She's crazy about him.
head up	lead, manage	Rod will head up the project. He can get the job done.
head up there	go there, travel north, head down there	I've always wanted to go to Alaska. Let's head up there.
headhunter	a person who looks for professional employees	The headhunters are looking for good computer programmers.
heads or tails	choose one or the other, which side of the coin?	"Heads or tails?" the gambler asked as he flipped the coin.
heads will roll	people will be dismissed, people will be fired	When the manager hears about the damage, heads will roll.
health nut	a person who eats health foods and does exercises to become healthy	Gary is a health nut. He eats fruit and granola, and jogs five to ten kilometres every day.
hear me out	listen to all that I have to say, do not interrupt me	Please, hear me out. Wait until I finish before you comment.
heart is in the right place	people who encourage you even if they cannot help	Max is too old to help us now, but his heart's in the right place.
heat is on	(See the heat is on)	
heaven forbid	we should not do it, we are not permitted	Grandma said, "Heaven forbid! Don't play hockey on Sunday!"
heaven help us	we are facing a crisis, we need a lot of help	Heaven help us if we have an accident with Dad's Mercedes.
heavens	goodness, oh dear, gosh	Heavens! You weren't supposed to arrive until Friday!
heavens to Betsy	oh no, heavens	Heavens to Betsy! I can't find my purse!
heavy	very serious, not fun	War is a heavy topic because it involves death and destruction.
heavy day	(See a heavy day)	
heavy duty	very difficult, demanding	I have to work hard at math. It's a heavy-duty course
heavy foot	driving fast, pedal to the metal	Your heavy foot is causing a financial problem for us. Speeding fines are costly!
heavy going	difficult part, hard work, heavy going	I'm glad we have Al on our team. He likes the heavy going.
heavy heart	sad, sorrowful	It was with a heavy heart that he attended his father's funeral.
heavy hitter	(See a heavy hitter)	

heavy metal types	(See skids)	
heck	hell, shucks	She asked me to come in, but heck, her boyfriend was there.
hedge your bets	bet safely, bet on two or more horses etc.	If you hedge your bets, you have a better chance of winning.
hell bent for election	going fast, determined to get somewhere	There goes Joe, driving hell bent for election - always in a hurry.
hell in a handbasket	(See go to hell in a handbasket)	
hell of a time	(See a hell of a time , one hell of a time)	
hell to pay [B]	angry people to face, questions to answer	When I come in at 4 a.m. there's hell to pay.
hell's bells	I can't believe it, good grief , jumping Jehoshaphat	Hell's bells! Where have you been? We've been looking all over for you!
hell's half acre [B]	(See all over hell's half acre)	
hellish [B]	bad, awful, unfair	If we have to pay our medical bills, it's a hellish arrangement!
help out	help someone, lend a hand	The Wongs are good neighbors - always willing to help out.
help yourself	please take some, dig in , eat up	Help yourself to hamburgers. Don't wait to be served.
helping hand	(See a helping hand)	
hemming and hahing	saying "ahem...ah" while thinking what to say, beat around the bush	When we asked him about the missing money, there was a lot of hemming and hahing.
here's mud in your eye	here is a toast to you, drink up	It's good to have a drink with you. Here's mud in your eye.
here's to	I salute, we recognize, we praise, cheers	Here's to Tim Ko on his 75th birthday! Congratulations, Tim!
hey	listen, I am calling you	Hey, Ron. Where are you going?
heyday	best years, in your prime	In his heyday, Pele was the best soccer player in the world.
hi	hello, howdy	Hi, Kelly. How are you?
hi there	hello, hi	Hi there. Do you know the way to Monterey?
hick	rural person, local yokel , rube	Wearing overalls and a straw hat, he looked like a hick.
hidden agenda	secret plan to control the meeting or decisions	The board has a hidden agenda. We don't know their real plans.
hidden talent	a talent or skill you do not show very often	Oh, you play the harmonica! Got any more hidden talents?
hide nor hair	(See haven't seen hide nor hair)	
high	drunk, feeling happy after using a drug, stoned	Look into his eyes to see if he's high. Are his eyes clear?
high	(See natural high)	
high and mighty	better than other people, snobbish, upper crust	After she married the judge, she acted kind of high and mighty.
high five	celebrating by slapping each other's raised hand	After scoring a goal, the players exchanged high fives.

high handed	superior, above other people	We don't like managers who are high handed - high and mighty.
high-hat	proud, snobbish, pompous	Cynthia looks high-hat, but she's really very friendly.
high hopes	expecting the best, hoping for success	Todd has high hopes for his son, including a college education.
high on the hog	having expensive things, in luxury	If I win the lotto, we'll live high on the hog - in a mansion!
high roller	a person who spends a lot on gambling and betting	This is a game for high rollers. You need a hundred grand to play.
high strung	nervous and sensitive, easily upset	Jacqueline won't speak in public because she's very high strung.
high time	late, past due, about time	It's high time you got a job, Ty. What kind of work do you like?
highball it	drive fast, boot it	The big truck was highballin' it, speeding down the freeway.
higher than a kite	drunk, natural high , sloshed	Don't let him drive - he's higher than a kite.
highfalutin	proud, pretentious	We need a musician, not some highfalutin rock star!
hightail it	leave in a hurry, run away	If the bull gets loose, you hightail it for the house.
hill of beans	not very much, very little	What I lose in the poker games doesn't amount to a hill of beans.
hip	sophisticated, fashionable, cool , groovy , with it	It ain't hip to say doll. You got to say chick now.
hip hop (generation)	young adults in the rap-music era with their own slang and subculture	I'm hip hop and if you don't like rap you're wack!
hire on	get work, get a job, catch on	Norm was hired on as a roughneck with an oil company.
his nibs	a man who acts high class, His Royal Highness	We were having fun till his nibs walked in and told us to be quiet.
his own man	independent man, one who makes his own decisions	Ken will do his job, but he does it his way. He's his own man.
His Royal Highness	the king, His Majesty	His Royal Highness would like you to play your lute for him.
history	fired, dismissed, gone, down the road	If you refuse to do a job, you're history, pal.
hit	(See a hit)	
hit and miss	some right and some wrong, trial and error	Hiring good help is still a hit-and-miss procedure.
hit and run (baseball)	a play in which the batter tries to hit as the base runner runs	On the next pitch, the Mets tried a hit and run, but the batter missed the ball.
hit and run (traffic)	an accident in which the driver leaves the scene of the collision	Was your car involved in a hit-and-run accident? Did you fail to stop after hitting someone?
hit home	become very meaningful, affect you personally, touch you	When they see hungry Canadian children on TV, the message about poverty will hit home.
hit it off	relate well, be friends immediately	Gus and Bert seem to hit it off. They've been talking for hours.
hit man	hired killer, a person who is paid to	The hit man who killed the president is a terrorist.

	commit murder	
hit me (card games)	give me another card; yes, I'll have another one	The old man looked at his cards carefully, then said, "Hit me."
hit me	the meaning becomes clear to me, I understand	It hit me later that she was a teacher, not a student.
hit me	tell me, say it now, give it to me straight	When I said it was bad news, he said, "Hit me. Let's have it."
hit me for a loan	ask to borrow money, ask me for a loan	Hit me for a loan on payday. Then I'll have some money.
hit me with your best shot	shoot or hit as hard as you can, sock it to me	Hit me with your best shot. Serve the ball as hard as you can.
hit my funny bone	cause me to laugh, crack me up	The word pollywog always hits my funny bone. Ha ha ha, ha ha.
hit on	think of, come up with	Ko was a nurse until she hit on the idea of selling jewelry.
hit on	talk to in a sexual manner, come onto	When he hit on a waitress, we asked him to stop.
hit on all cylinders	running smoothly, operating well, hit it off	At first our company wasn't running very smoothly, but now we're hitting on all cylinders.
hit paydirt	become rich, win money, make a lot of money	When Helen began selling chocolate, she hit paydirt. She's rich!
hit rock bottom	feel very unfortunate, feel very depressed	After his farm was seized, he hit rock bottom - lost all hope.
hit speeds of	travel at speeds of, do (a speed)	The stolen car was hitting speeds of 120 km per hour in the city.
hit the bar	go to the bar to buy some drinks	Every night after work he hit the bar and stayed for hours.
hit the books	begin to study, crack a book	Exams begin next week. It's time to hit the books.
hit the bottle	drink liquor, get drunk to forget problems	When Laura left him, he hit the bottle, drinking to forget her.
hit the brakes	step on the brakes in a car or vehicle, try to stop	When I saw that the other car couldn't stop, I hit the brakes.
hit the bricks	go to jail, be sentenced to a jail term, in the tank	That was the last time he hit the bricks. He never went to jail again.
hit the ceiling	become very angry, lose your cool	The third time we were late for class, she hit the ceiling.
hit the ground running	be able to work effectively when you begin a new job, self-starter	We need someone who can hit the ground running, a person who needs no training.
hit the hay	go to bed, crash	After supper he hit the hay. He was exhausted.
hit the high notes	sing high notes, play high notes	Can you hit the high notes on your trumpet? High C?
hit the nail on the head	say the right word, suggest a good idea	Your comment hit the nail on the head. You spoke the truth.
hit the road/trail	travel, leave	Let's hit the road early. We have many miles to go.
hit the skids	begin to fail, go downhill	After losing his job and his wife he hit the skids - became a bum.
hit the spot	taste right, is satisfying	Sometimes tea hits the spot. It satisfies me.
hit town	arrive in town	It was 2 a.m. when we hit town.
hitch in your getalong	(See have a hitch in your getalong)	

hobnob	associate with, be a friend of	Per likes to hobnob with artists because he likes to draw.
Hobson's choice	accept what is offered or you get nothing; tight spot	If I don't agree to accept half the money, it will all go to charity. It's a Hobson's choice.
hogwash	false statements, bull , bunk , hot air	He told you I have a pet python? That's a lot of hogwash!
hoity-toity	a bit snobbish, high and mighty	Pamela is a classy lady, but she is not snobbish or hoity-toity.
hokey Dinah	gosh , holy cow , wow	Every time you hit the ball Wendy says, "Hokey Dinah!"
hold a candle	do as well, compare with, measure up	The Buick is nice, but it can't hold a candle to the Cadillac.
hold a grudge	stay angry for a long time, bad blood	He gets mad, but he never holds a grudge. He forgives easily.
hold a meeting	organize and conduct a meeting	The club will hold a meeting on Monday at 7:30 p.m.
hold down	keep, stay at	He has shown that he can hold down a job. He's reliable.
hold forth	talk at length about one subject, lecture	"If you mention his favorite topic--ants--he'll hold forth for hours!"
hold her liquor	drink but not get drunk, hold your drinks	Thelma can hold her liquor. She looks sober after five drinks.
hold it	stop, this is important, hold on , wait a minute	"You and I will swim over to - " "Hold it! I can't swim. I didn't agree to swim anywhere!"
hold me responsible	say that I am responsible, carry the can , lay the blame	Because I'm the cashier, the manager holds me responsible for missing cash.
hold on	wait, do not begin, we are not ready	Hold on! We haven't fastened our seat belts.
hold-out	a person who does not agree	There are two hold-outs, but both people are willing to negotiate.
hold out for	wait to get full price, drive a hard bargain	He'll hold out for the full price of his car. He'll wait.
hold that over my head	remind me of my mistake, judge me by a failure	My parking ticket - is he going to hold that over my head?
hold the fort	manage until we return, look after things	The manager asked me to hold the fort while he was gone.
hold the phone	wait a minute, let me think about it	"Dad, I'm going to quit school." "Hold the phone! Let's talk."
hold the purse strings	control how much is spent, decide when to spend	He does the talking, but she holds the purse strings.
hold up	stall, be unable to go, be unable to continue	The plane was held up because of a snowstorm - delayed an hour.
hold up	use a gun in a robbery, mugged	A robber held up the store and took the money from the till.
hold up	cope, not cry, not lose control of your grief	Teri has endured a lot of pain. How's she holding up?
hold water	be logical, be sensible	He can't be in two places at once. His story doesn't hold water.
hold you up	delay you, cause you to be late	Did the traffic hold you up? Is that why you were late?
hold your drinks	drink liquor but not be rude or foolish	You may be able to hold your drinks, but you can't drive my car.
hold your hand	help you when you are afraid, baby-sit you	When you go to college, who's going to hold your hand?

hold your horses	wait a minute, hold on , hold the phone	When I said the accident was his fault, he said, "Hold your horses!"
hold your mouth the right way	if you shape your mouth the right way you can do it, the way you hold...	"I can't tie a reef knot." "Sure you can - if you hold your mouth the right way."
hold your nose	accept it but not like it, look the other way	This plan is better than no plan, so hold your nose and vote for it.
hold your own	be equal to the others, keep pace	She can hold her own with the best skiers. She's excellent.
hold your temper	control your temper, do not lose your temper	Try to hold your temper when you work with the children. Don't get angry because they learn from watching you.
hold your tongue	be polite, do not talk back	When your father is talking, you hold your tongue. You be quiet.
holding the bag	left alone to finish the work or be responsible	Mom says we leave her holding the bag - to finish jobs alone.
hole in one (golf)	hit the ball from the tee into the cup in one stroke	There's a \$50 prize for a hole in one at the Pines Golf Course.
hole up	hide and wait, find a place to stay until it is safe	The robbers were holed up in a motel on Hastings Street.
hollow leg	(See a hollow leg)	
holy cow	that is exciting, geez , gosh , wow	Holy cow! That car just about crashed into us!
holy Moses	that is amazing, gosh , holy Toledo , wow	Holy Moses! What a lot of birds! There must be a million!
holy pile	(See a holy pile)	
holy smoke	what a sight, holy cow , wow	Holy smoke, he was weird! He had purple hair!
holy Toledo	how exciting, holy Moses , wow	Holy Toledo, he has big muscles! They're huge!
home free	finished a job, free to go home or away	Two more newspapers to deliver and we're home free - finished.
home run (baseball)	the batter scores a run on one hit (See grand slam)	I remember the game when Rusty hit three home runs.
home stretch	the last part of the journey or race	On the home stretch we drove slower. We wanted to feel relaxed when we got home.
honest-to-goodness	genuine, real, the real McCoy	It's not a fake! It's an honest-to-goodness Van Gogh painting!
honestly	truthfully, in fact , upon my word	Honestly, I don't understand you. I really don't.
honesty is the best policy	telling the truth is the best plan, honesty pays off	Above the teacher's desk is this sign: Honesty is the best policy.
honey	dear, darling, sweetie pie	Honey, where are the tomatoes? Do we have any tomatoes?
honky	white person, Caucasian	Then this honky gave us a ride. Some whites are nice, eh.
hoo-haw [B]	penis, dork , prick	"Yes, I've seen a hoo-haw," she said. "I have three brothers."
hooch	liquor, booze , homebrew, screech	Arne brought a bottle of hooch to the dance.
hood	teenage boy involved in crime, hoodlum	Ron looks like a hood, but he's a good boy - and a good student.
hook up with	join, travel together	In Calgary, I hooked up with a guy from Montreal.
hook, line and sinker	completely, fully, without hesitation, fall for that	Martina believes my story - hook, line and sinker! She believes everything I tell her.

hooker	prostitute, fallen woman	As I walked along 3rd Avenue, a hooker asked me if I was lonely.
hoosegow	(See in the slammer)	
hoot	laugh, laugh your head off , split a gut	When I said I live in Moose Jaw, he hooted. He laughed at me.
hop up	increase the power, supercharge , tweak	"What are you driving?" "A hopped-up Ford. It flies!"
hopes dashed	plans ruined, dreams lost	Her hopes were dashed when she failed the entrance exam.
hopping mad	very angry, hot	She was hopping mad when you laughed at her wig.
hork	vomit, puke, barf , throw up	Somebody horked on the floor of my car! Yuk!
horn in	interfere, intrude, butt in	We were playing a game of tag, and the big guys tried to horn in.
horny [B]	ready for sex, wanting to have sex, aroused	How come you're never horny when I am?
horse around	play, joke, fool around , goof off	Don't horse around in the lab. You could spill some acid.
horse feathers	lies, false stories, bull , a bunch of malarkey	When she told her dad she saw a ghost, he said, "Horse feathers!"
horse of a different color	(See a horse of a different color)	
horse sense	being sensible, logical; common sense	He's got horse sense to rent a condo before he buys one.
horse shoes up his ass [B]	very lucky, always winning	He's got horseshoes up his ass! He won six games of bingo!
horse's ass [B]	(See a horse's ass)	
horseplay	just having fun, fooling around	Don't worry. The boys aren't fighting. It's just horseplay.
hose it down/hose it off	spray with water from the hose, wash down	If the rubber mat is muddy, lay it on the sidewalk and hose it off.
hoser	Canadian guy, neighbor	Hey, hoser. What're you doin' in my garden?
hot	angry, mad, pissed [B]	She was really hot when you said her wig was crooked.
hot air	false talk, bragging, bull , hogwash	Steve brags about winning the marathon, but he's full of hot air.
hot and bothered	upset, getting angry, ready to speak angrily	You know that Dad gets hot and bothered when you stay out late.
hot goods	stolen products, items obtained illegally	I won't buy a watch from him because he sells hot goods.
hot hand	(See a hot hand)	
hot off the press	paper that has just been printed	As the boy handed me the paper he said, "Hot off the press!"
hot on the trail	following the trail, looking for evidence	The police are hot on the trail of the bank robbers.
hot on your heels	following close behind, not far behind	If you begin to run, the bear will be hot on your heels.
hot potato	(See drop him like a hot potato)	
hot stuff	very popular person, very sexy person	When Arlana was in high school she was hot stuff - very sexy!
hot tempered	quick to become angry, lose your temper	He's hot tempered - very impatient and often angry.

hot ticket	(See a hot ticket)	
hot topic	(See a hot topic)	
hot under the collar	upset, becoming angry, hot and bothered	It's only a joke. Don't get hot under the collar.
hotdog	cooked wiener inside a long bun	Two hotdogs with mustard, please. And two coffees - black.
hotdog	(See a hotdog)	
hothead	(See a hothead)	
hotshot	(See a hotshot)	
hound	keep asking or demanding, harass, browbeat	If you'll stop hounding me, I'll go to the doctor!
household name	(See a household name)	
how about that	that is interesting, you don't say	How about that! We ran ten kilometres!
how are you doing	are you feeling fine? is life good to you?	How are you doing, Chan? I haven't seen you for awhile.
how are you fixed for	do you have enough? how many do you have?	How are you fixed for diapers? May I borrow one?
how are you getting along	are you able to do it? are you okay ? how are you doing	"How are you getting along at the new school, Gail?" "Fine. I like my subjects."
how are you making out	are you able to do the job? have you made progress? how are you doing	The manager came to my office and said, "How are you making out? Finished the report?"
how come	why? how do you explain it?	How come you're going home? Don't you want to play?
how do you do	hello, nice to meet you, good day , howdy	"Mr. Grant, I'm Ken Blair, the new bank manager." "How do you do, Mr. Blair."
how do you like them apples	do you like this better? do you like that choice? tough bananas	If you don't like the bed, you can sleep on the floor. How do you like them apples?
how does that grab you	how do you feel about that?	A holiday in Greece - how does that grab you?
how goes it	is your life good? how are you doing	"How goes it?" said my friend. "Not bad," I replied.
how goes the battle	are you winning the battle of life? are you okay ?	"How goes the battle?" Jo asked. "I win and I lose," Pat replied.
how it plays out	how it happens, how it ends how it pans out	The new policy is supposed to improve sales, but we'll see how it plays out.
how so	explain how, how come	When I told him the game was canceled, he said, "How so?"
how time flies	how quickly time passes, how short the time seems	How time flies when I visit you. The hours pass too quickly.
how you hold your...	(See the way you hold your mouth)	
how's that again	what did you say? come again	When Grandpa doesn't hear me, he says, "How's that again?"
how's tricks	is life okay? are you learning new skills?	When Andy sees me, he always says, "How's tricks?"
howdy	hello, good day, how do you do	The old cowboy says, "Howdy, ma'am," when he meets a lady.
huh	what did you say? pardon?	"Did you wash your ears?" "Huh?"

humdinger	(See a humdinger)	
humongous	huge, very large	My uncle has this humongous dog. It's as big as a calf!
hump day	Wednesday, the middle of the work week, over the hump	Brian says if you can get through hump day, the rest of the week is easy
hangover	having a headache after drinking liquor, hangover	The next day he was hungover, so he rested and drank coffee.
hungry thirties	(See dirty thirties)	
hunk	a gorgeous man, a very attractive male	Matty thinks Robert Redford is a hunk. She dreams about him.
hunker down	get ready to lift or work, prepare to make an effort	To achieve our sales goals, we all have to hunker down.
hurl	vomit, puke, barf , hork , woof your cookies	After eating two raw eggs, she hurled - all over my sheepskin!
hurry up	do it quickly, make it snappy	Hurry up with the dishes. We want you to play cards with us.
hurt my feelings	make me feel sad, offend me	You hurt my feelings when you said I waddle like a duck.
hush up	do not talk, be quiet, keep quiet	"Mommy, there's the man who kissed you!" "Hush up, child."
hushed up	not talked about, keep a secret	In the 1950s, if a teen-age girl got pregnant, it was hushed up.
hyah	hello, hi , hi there	Hyah, Bill. What's new with you?

I smell where you're stepping	I understand the direction of your thought, follow me, get my drift	"Do you understand?" "Yes, please continue. I smell where you're steppin'"
I'll be a monkey's uncle	I cannot believe it, I must be dreaming	When Farley won the new car, he said, "I'll be a monkey's uncle!"
I'm afraid so	(See afraid so)	
icing on the cake	a bonus, extra benefit, the rest is gravy	We've sold enough tickets to pay for the trip. This money from the Elks Club is icing on the cake!
idiot lights	warning lights on the instrument panel of a car	Kim wants a car with gauges, not idiot lights.
if a mussel doesn't open don't eat it	if you force things to happen you may regret it, leave well enough alone	If you force a child to talk, you may regret it. As they say, <i>If a mussel doesn't open, don't eat it.</i>
if looks could kill	the look on your face was evil or hateful	If looks could kill, I'd be dead. Are you mad at me or something?
if my memory serves me correctly	if I can remember well, if I have a good memory	Your name is Jose - if my memory serves me correctly.
if only	I wish, we wish	If only we'd phoned before we came. There's nobody home!
if that doesn't beat all	that is the best/biggest/worst I have ever seen	Fifty people in a phone booth - if that doesn't beat all!
if the shoe fits, wear it	if there is a lesson for you, learn it	When I listen to you preach, I wonder if the shoe fits me.
if you can't cut it, you can't stay	if you cannot do the work you will have to leave; shape up or ship out	When I complained about long days, the foreman said, "If you can't cut it, you can't stay."
if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen	if you do not like the pressure you can leave; if you can't cut it, you can't stay	In the boardroom someone had written on the flip chart If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen!
if you're born to hang, you won't drown	fate controls how we die; we do not control the time and cause of our death	After rescuing the swimmer, he said to me, "If you're born to hang, you won't drown."
if you're not with us you're against us	if you do not support us you are against us; can't have it both ways	War divides us into allies and enemies. If you're not with us, you're against us.
ignorance is bliss	ignorant people have nothing to worry about	The teacher said, "Ignorance is bliss - until you write exams."
in a bad way	feeling sad or downhearted	After the accident, Val was in a bad way. She was very depressed.
in a big way	with a lot of style and expense	Pam does things in a big way. She hired a band for her party.
in a big way	very much, a lot	My son likes to play computer games - in a big way!
in a bit	in a minute, within a short time	"Can we go?" asked the girl. "In a bit," her mother replied.
in a blue moon	(See once in a blue moon)	
in a cold sweat	very nervous or scared, scared spitless	As Doug waited to speak to the audience he felt breathless and shaky. His hands felt cold and damp. He was in a cold sweat!
in a coon's age	in many years, for a long time, for a dog's age	Hello, Uncle Henry! I haven't seen you in a coon's age!
in a family way	pregnant, a bun in the oven	Carey's in a family way. She's due to have her baby soon.
in a fix	in a bad situation, in a jam	Without matches or food, the lost boys were in quite a fix.
in a flap	worried or upset, in a hurry	Kate is in a flap again. Her dog is sick.
in a flash	very quickly, in no time	If you're in trouble, Superman will be there in a flash.
in a flutter	(See in a tizzy)	
in a funk	in a bad mood, frustrated, in a snit	Rick is in a funk today because Muriel hasn't called him.
in a jam	in a difficult position, in trouble	I was in a jam. I had no money to pay the rent.

in a jiffy	in a minute, very soon, in a sec	When Dad says he'll be there in a jiffy, he means 20 minutes.
in a long time	for months or years, for a dog's age	I haven't seen you in a long time. Where have you been hiding?
in a pickle	in a difficult situation, in a jam	When the motor on our boat quit, I knew we were in a pickle.
in a pig's ass [B]	not true, unbelievable, bull, full of it	You wrote War and Peace? In a pig's ass!
in a pinch	in a difficult situation, in a jam	I was in a pinch because I had no money to pay for the meal.
in a rut	always doing it the same way, never changing the method or style	After ten years in the same job with the same manager in the same building, he was in a rut.
in a sec	in a second, very soon, in a jiffy	Wait. I'll be there in a sec.
in a slump	not performing well for several days	Wayne's in a slump. He hasn't scored a point in four games.
in a snit	upset, worried, in a stew	Ms. Mak is in a snit because she lost her cat.
in a split second	in less than a second, in a flash	In a split second, the cat twisted and landed on its feet.
in a stew	concerned and upset, in a tizzy	Dad gets in such a stew when Mom is sick. He really worries.
in a tight spot	in a difficult position, in a pinch	Mom told me to go, and Dad told me to stay. I was in a tight spot.
in a tizzy	upset, flustered, in a flap	Aunt Lottie gets in a tizzy when she can't find her wig.
in agreement	believing or feeling the same things	When we discuss Canadian unity, we're in agreement.
in any way, shape or form	in any way, at all, in the least	Winning the award didn't affect her in any way, shape or form. She hasn't changed at all.
in bad faith	not sincere, not really trying to agree	The workers accused management of bargaining in bad faith.
in bad shape	not feeling well, out of it	The day after the party I was in bad shape. How my head ached!
in black and white	written and signed, in writing	If they say the car is guaranteed, get it down in black and white.
in brief	briefly, without giving details	In brief, all flights have been canceled.
in broad daylight	easy to see, not trying to hide	The man undressed right there on the street - in broad daylight.
in cahoots	like partners, helping each other	I think the judge and lawyer are in cahoots - working together.
in charge	responsible for, in control	Who's in charge here? Who is the manager or supervisor?
in clover	becoming wealthy, receiving lots of money	We were in clover! We bought a ranch, a car, and a house in town.
in cold blood	without feeling, without mercy	He's accused of killing a Mountie in cold blood.
in control	able to manage, in charge	Mr. Blum is not in control of his pets. They run all over town.
in-crowd	(See the in-crowd)	
in deep doo-doo [B]	in serious difficulties, in deep shit, in deep trouble	He's a member of parliament and has been caught twice for tax fraud. Now he's in deep doo-doo.
in deep shit [B]	in bad trouble, likely to be punished	If you shoot a bear in a national park, you are in deep shit, man.
in deep trouble	in serious trouble, sure to catch hell	Driving without a license could get you in deep trouble.
in dire straits	in debt, having no money	If we don't get a good crop this year, we'll be in dire straits.
in dribs and drabs	a few at a time, little by little	Many came to the sale, but they arrived in dribs and drabs.
in fact	to state a fact, as a matter of fact, to be perfectly honest	When some people hear the word gravity, they think of falling bodies; in fact, gravity keeps us from falling.
in full flight	going full speed, flat out	The cyclist was in full flight when he passed the cars.
in glowing terms	with much praise, praise you to the skies (see	Your manager spoke of you in glowing terms. He praised you.

	praise him to the skies)	
in good faith	sincerely, hoping to reach a fair agreement	The union president said that he always bargained in good faith.
in good hands	cared for by a friend, with a trusted person	If Darlene is caring for your dad, he's in good hands.
in hand	able to control, under control	Some fans began fighting, but the police have things in hand.
in heaven's name	if we think of heaven, for heaven's sake	Why in heaven's name did we come to Canada? It's cold here!
in her good graces	being liked by her, doing what she likes	If you are in her good graces, you will be invited to her tea party.
in his blood	an important part of him, in his personality	The prairie is his blood. He's a prairie boy
in his good books	among those he likes, on his list of good people	She's in his good books because she praised his painting.
in hock	in debt, owing money, having a large mortgage	We were in hock after buying the property. We had a large debt.
in hot water	needing discipline or correction, in deep shit	My son took his pet snake to school, and now he's in hot water. He could be suspended from classes.
in keeping with	following the rules or customs	Refunds are not in keeping with company policy. No refunds.
in leaf	having new leaves, growing leaves	Poplar trees were in leaf, wild roses in bloom.
in love	feeling romantic love, fall in love	Peter's in love with Wendy, but Wendy's in love with Tom.
in mind	thinking of, remembering, keep you in mind	When she wrote the story about the lawyer, she had you in mind.
in mint condition	in new condition, as new	The Nash was in mint condition. It looked like a new car.
in my care	for me to protect, under my wing	The children were in my care when the dog chased us.
in my good books	among the people I like, on my good side	To get in my good books, you can help me with my homework
in no time	very soon, in a sec	We'll be there in no time. We have less than a kilometer to go.
in no uncertain terms	definitely, clearly, call a spade a spade	They told us about sex and drugs in no uncertain terms.
in one ear and out the other	not listening, hearing but not paying attention	The kids don't listen to me; it's in one ear and out the other!
in one fell swoop	in one action, in one attack, at once	Our TV ad is effective. In one fell swoop we create doubts about the other products and sell our own.
in order	to make it possible, to help it happen	In order to win, we have to work as a team.
in over your head	unable to win, competing against better players	If you play chess against Boris, you'll be in over your head.
in person	being there yourself, first hand	Dad saw the wall come down. He was there in person.
in place	in the correct position or location, available	Be sure to have the money in place before you buy a house.
in plain view	easy to see, where all can see, in broad daylight	In Daqing, some of the men urinated in plain view - very close to the street.
in point of fact	(See in fact)	
in seventh heaven	in a very good mood, feeling very happy	When Smitty asked me to marry him, I was in seventh heaven.
in sick bay	very sick, very ill, as sick as a parrot , as sick as a dog	"Where's Mel?" "In sick bay after last night's pub crawl."
in step	doing things in a similar way, together	Are you in step with our youth? Do you understand how they feel?
in stir	(See in the tank)	
in stitches	laughing hard, crack me up	I was in stitches before she finished telling the joke.
in store for	in the future, going to happen	Carlos didn't know what was in store for him in Canada.
in stride	(See take it in stride)	

in that vein	similar, on the same topic, along those lines	The prime minister talked about the sacrifices we had to bring in the present economic situation. Even the opposition went on in that vein.
in the back of my mind	in my memory, in your mind's eye	In the back of my mind I could see our dog - asleep by the fire.
in the bag	drunk, loaded , sloshed	Two drinks and she'll be in the bag. She gets drunk easily
in the bag	already won or decided, a sure thing	Don't worry. The game is in the bag - we'll win easily.
in the ball park	close, near the total	My offer wasn't even in the ball park. He wanted \$500, not \$300.
in the black	showing a profit, in a sound financial position	After one year our company was in the black - showing a profit.
in the boonies	out of town, out in the country	Lan lives in the boonies - fifty kilometres from Calgary.
in the buff	naked, nude	At our house, we walk around in the buff. Nude is natural, eh.
in the clink	in prison, in jail, behind bars	If you get drunk you may be thrown in the clink overnight.
in the dark	unaware, not informed	I was in the dark about the trip to Ireland. No one told me.
in the doghouse	having your friend or spouse angry at you	I'm in the doghouse. I forgot her birthday and she's mad at me.
in the drink	in the sewer, lost	If you leave your ring on the sink it will soon be in the drink.
in the drink	failing, bankrupt, up the creek	In the drink - that's where I'd be without you. A total failure.
in the driver's seat	controlling events or decisions, in charge	Money and talent will put you in the driver's seat - in control.
in the fast lane	(See life in the fast lane)	
in the flesh	the person (not a photo or recording of the person)	Julia was there - in the flesh, standing right in front of me!
in the gutter	having dirty thoughts or ideas	Pornography puts his mind in the gutter - lusting after flesh.
in the hole	having lost money when gambling or investing	By the time he left the poker game he was \$500 in the hole.
in the hole	in solitary confinement, in a dark jail cell	If a prisoner tries to escape they put him in the hole.
in the hoosegow	(See in the slammer)	
in the jug	(See in the slammer)	
in the know	informed, knowledgeable, (compare) in the dark	Ask Joan about global warming. She's in the know.
in the lap of luxury	living in comfort, living high on the hog	If I win the lottery, we'll be rich. We'll live in the lap of luxury.
in the least	in any way, at all	Oil prices went up, but the price of gas didn't change in the least.
in the long haul	after several years, for the long term	In the long haul, you'll earn more money if you have a degree.
in the long run	planning for the future, looking many years ahead	In the long run, real estate is a good investment.
in the loop	on the list of people who receive information, the in-crowd	I hope you'll keep me in the loop. I want to hear the latest news.
in the lurch	facing a problem alone, holding the bag	True friends won't leave you in the lurch, will they?
in the making	developing, growing	Raj is a talented pianist. Is he a Glenn Gould in the making?
in the meantime	for now, meanwhile	Someday I want to own a yacht. In the meantime, I have a canoe.
in the money	wealthy, rich, loaded	If my lottery number is drawn, I'll be in the money.
in the Monford lane	driving fast, in the passing lane, pedal to the metal	We got a rush order, so we was in de Monford lane all de way.
in the mood	feeling that you want to do something	I'm in the mood for pizza. Let's order a large one - loaded!
in the nick of time	nearly too late, just in time , under the wire	They jumped from the burning boat in the nick of time - just before it sank.
in the nude	naked, in the buff	Sleeping in the nude has advantages and disadvantages.
in the offing	ready to happen, soon to be	A great event was in the offing: the discovery of penicillin.

in the picture	part of the scene, a factor	As Mr. Martin lost the election, he's not in the picture.
in the pink	looking and feeling healthy and happy	Last time I saw Barb, she was in the pink. She looked great.
in the pipe five by five	in the chamber and ready to fire, missiles in firing position	"Check missiles!" "In the pipe five by five, sir!"
in the poorhouse	poor, having little money, as poor as a church mouse	In 1936, they were in the poorhouse. They couldn't grow crops, and nobody had a job.
in the red	showing a financial loss, losing money	Last year our business was still in the red - still showing a loss.
in the road	blocking the way, preventing movement	We'll have to move the table. It's in the road.
in the running	competitive, could win, give you a run for...	With ten games remaining, the Expos are still in the running. They have a chance to win.
in the slammer	in jail, in prison	Marv's been in the slammer four times. He knows prison life.
in the tank	in jail, in prison, in the slammer	While he was in the tank, he studied science and history.
in the throes	in the middle of some work, caught up in a process	We're in the throes of repairing an old house. What a job!
in the wink of an eye	very quickly, in a split second	In the wink of an eye, the coin disappeared from the man's hand.
in the works	in the plans, to be built	I've heard there's a housing project in the works.
in the worst way	very much, a lot	Hal wants a Porsche in the worst way. He loves sports cars.
in these parts	in this part of the country; neck of the woods	We haven't seen a bear in these parts for years.
in time	before the deadline, within the time limit	The check arrived just in time. We flew to Hawaii the next day.
in touch	phone or write a letter, keep in touch	Have you been in touch with your family in China?
in tough	in a difficult battle, against a tough opponent	If you play Ivan in the tennis tournament, you'll be in tough.
in trouble	accused, arrested, punished	If you steal, you'll be in trouble. You'll be arrested.
in tune (music)	at the correct pitch, not sharp or flat	It was an excellent concert. Even the children sang in tune.
in tune	believing the same, on the same wavelength	He's in tune with our religious beliefs. He believes in God.
in two shakes (of a lamb's tail)	very soon, in a couple of seconds, in a sec	I'll be with you in two shakes. I just have to turn off the lights.
in writing	written and signed, in black and white	The company guarantees this pen for life. I have it in writing.
in your bad books	one of the people you do not like	If I don't agree with you, I'll be in your bad books, right?
in your corner	hoping you will win, on your side	Hey, man, I'm in your corner. I'll help you get your diploma.
in your face	placed in front of you, right in front of you	Every time I turn on the TV, that ad is in my face. I'm sick of it.
in your hair	bothering you, bugging you	If you have too many kids in a class, they get in your hair.
in your mind's eye	in a picture in your mind, in your memory	In my mind's eye, I can see her face - clearer than a photo
in your prime	during your best years, when you are strongest	When he was in his prime, he played professional soccer.
in's and out's	(See the in's and out's)	
information leak	(See have a leak [B])	
inhale	eat quickly, wolf down	I rushed home, inhaled my lunch and drove to the airport.
inside information	facts available to those inside an organization	I can get inside information. My friend works for the FBI.
inside joke	a joke that is understood by only those who work or play together, inside	"Would you like to buy some of our liveware?" I asked. She frowned. "Never mind," I said. "It's an inside joke. Ha ha."

	joke	
inside out	(See know inside out)	
inside story	(See the inside story)	
inside track	(See the inside track)	
Internet	a system of computers, World Wide Web	If you want to know more about any topic, get on the Internet.
into fitness/dancing etc.	involved in fitness etc., enjoying a hobby	They're really into fitness. They exercise and jog a lot.
into hock	(See in hock)	
into the sauce	drinking alcohol, off the wagon	Uncle has been into the sauce. I can smell liquor on his breath.
into the tank	into business failure, into bankruptcy	Two companies went into the tank because of free trade.
into thin air	disappearing like a ghost, vanishing like steam	When I moved closer, the flying saucer vanished into thin air.
invite you over	(See have you over)	
iron out	solve, work it out	She ironed out the problem with the school. Jeff is back in class.
irons in the fire	very busy, plate is full	I can't help with your project. I have too many irons in the fire.
is that so	is that true? no kidding	Every time I tell Mr. Pratt some news, he says, "Is that so?"
is you is, or is you ain't my baby	are you my love? I want to know if you love me	Pearl is singing to Toby: "Is you is, or is you ain't my baby?"
it ain't over till it's over	a game is not finished until time has expired, never say die	A few fans stayed to watch the end of the game. "It ain't over till it's over," one man said.
it ain't over till the fat lady sings	an event is not finished until the final bell, don't give up	The tying goal was scored in the final second. It ain't over till the fat lady sings!
it appears to me	this is what I see, I believe this happened	It appears to me that this car swerved to avoid a collision.
it don't make no nevermind	it does not matter, it is not important, never mind	"He done took your shirt, boy! Why you do nothin'?" "It don't make no nevermind. He's kin."
it figures	it is logical, it appears so, it makes sense	"The owner must have started the fire," said Sherlock. "It figures," said Watson.
it goes with the territory	some problems are natural in some jobs or places	There's more crime in the cities. It goes with the territory.
it goes without saying	it is obvious, needless to say	It goes without saying: we want equal pay for equal work.
it has your name on it	we saved this one for you, it is yours	There's a steak on the grill, and it has your name on it.
it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all	you are a better person if you have loved someone - even for a short time	Old and alone, the woman often thought of a saying: It is better to have loved and lost... .
it makes no difference	it does not matter, either way is okay	"Should we have tea or coffee?" "It makes no difference to me."
it never fails	it always happens, time and again	It never fails - when I get in the shower, the phone rings.
it never rains but it pours	when it comes we get too much, feast or famine	"Tonight we don't have enough chairs for everybody." "It never rains but it pours!"
it occurs to me	this thought comes to my mind	It occurs to me that we won't meet again until Christmas.
it phased me out	it caused me to feel uneasy, throw you	I was nervous when you did the bungee jump. It phased me out.
it seems to me	it is my opinion, it is my view	It seems to me that Don expects us to phone him every week.
it strikes me	this is clear to me, this is my impression	It strikes me that we share many interests and activities.
it takes one to know one	one type of personality recognizes the same type	"Elizabeth is such a fool!" "Takes one to know one."
it takes two to tango	some things you cannot do alone; you need a friend to experience life;	Life is a dance. It takes two to tango!

	two can share, fight, dance, love...; it is better to have loved and lost...	
it was a lark	it was easy, it was fun, a piece of cake	I learned to shift gears on a Peugeot. It was a lark!
it was Greek to me	I could not understand the subject; it was like a foreign language	When he asked me what I had learned about DNA, I replied, "I don't know. It was Greek to me."
it works	it is right, it looks nice, it is a good style	If you place the vase over there and the statue here, it works.
itsy-bitsy / itty-bitty	very tiny, mini, teeny-weeny	An itsy-bitsy halter held her hefty breasts.
it's a case of	it is an example of, it is a case of	With Bud, it's a case of too much love. His wife smothers him.
it's a crock	(See that's a crock)	
it's a dilly	it is beautiful, it is special, I really like it	Have you seen Tom's new bike? It's a dilly!
it's a Duesey	it's as beautiful as a Duesenberg roadster, it's special	You should see Karl's baseball glove. It's a Duesey!
it's a go	it is approved, we can begin	After Ty read the fax, he said, "It's a go! Our proposal won!"
it's a jungle out there	the world is dangerous, the world is cruel	"Why can't I walk home alone?" "Because it's a jungle out there."
it's a matter of life and death	it must be done to save a life, they will die if we do nothing	We must stop the bleeding. It's a matter of life and death.
it's a snap	it is easy to do, it is a piece of cake	You should try making a paper plane. It's a snap.
it's a toss-up	they are equal, toss a coin to decide	It's a toss-up. It's difficult to choose. Both ideas are good.
it's a whole nother world out there	it is very different in that place, it is strange over there	When the kids got back from the virtual space trip, Jamie said, "It's a whole nother world out there!"
it's a whole other world out there	it is very different in that place, it is strange over there	I just came from the rave. It's a whole other world in there!
it's a zoo in there	it is a crazy place, it is a wild party, it's a jungle out there	They're having a marathon dance. It's a zoo in there!
it's all over but the crying	the contest is finished but the losers will cry for awhile	"The Expos lost," he said. "It's all over but the crying."
it's all over but the shouting	the contest is finished but the cheering continues	"The Blue Jays won," he said. "It's all over but the shouting."
it's as plain as the nose on your face	very easy to see or understand, very clear, crystal clear	We have photos of the earth from outer space that prove the earth is round. It's as plain as the nose on your face!
it's been a slice (of life)	it has been an experience, it has been interesting	On the last day of work, Pam said, "It's been a slice, Mag."
it's beyond me	I do not understand why, it does not make sense	It's beyond me why they don't get married. They're in love.
it's cold / it's hot	the weather is cold/hot, it's raining	In January it's cold in Edmonton but hot in Chile.
it's in the bag	(See in the bag)	
it's not a question of	it is not a factor, it is not important	It's not a question of money. We can afford to buy a TV.
it's not a state secret	it is not a special secret, it is not private information, top secret	You can talk about your first marriage. It's not a state secret.
it's not what you know, it's who you know	references are important, Bob's your uncle	In politics, it's not what you know, it's who you know.

it's now or never	do it now or not at all, he who hesitates is lost	If we're going to have a family, it's now or never. We can't wait.
it's over/ it's over with	it is finished, it is done	When the trial ended, she said, "I'm glad it's over with."
it's raining/snowing	the weather is rainy or snowy	Whenever we visit Vancouver, it's raining.
it's the duck's guts	it is great, it is wonderful, the cat's ass	"Have you seen the new Cadillac?" "No, I haven't. Is it nice?" "Yes, I'll say. It's the duck's guts!"
it's up to you	it is your decision, you choose	I can't tell you which program to choose. It's up to you.
it's your move	now you move or speak, it's your turn	She jumps three of my checkers and says, "It's your move, Bud."
it's your turn	now you play, it's your move	Now it's your turn, Willie. Hit the ball to Daddy.
itchy feet	ready to go, anxious to leave	As we talked about the trip, I could see that Dad was getting itchy feet.

Idiom	Meaning	Example
jack me around	tell me lies, play games	Don't jack me around, man. I need to know who took my car.
jack of all trades	a person who has many skills	She's a carpenter, plumber and cook - a jack of all trades.
jam	play jazz, practise music in a small group	After the concert, a few musicians started to jam.
jam session	informal practice session for musicians, jam	After the symphony rehearsal, a few of us had a jam session.
jam tart	a phony person, a pretender	That jam tart! He teaches writing but he hasn't written anything.
jam/jam out	not come to the party etc., back out	Kai jammed last night because her cousin came to visit her.
jazz up	add color or interest, add an accessory	It's a nice coat, but I'm going to jazz it up with a red scarf.
je ne sais quoi	I do not know what it is, it is a special something	She has a special quality, this lady, a certain je ne sais quoi.
jeepers	oh, gee whiz , gosh	Jeepers! I don't know what to say.
jerk	fool, dipstick , fink	Stop acting like a jerk! Stop squeezing mustard on me!
jerk me around	not be honest with me, jack me around	Don't jerk me around. I want to know if you've seen my child.
jerk off [B]	masturbate, pull your wire [B]	"If jerking off is a sin, I know a lot of sinners," said the old man.
jewels	(See the family jewels)	
jig is up	(See the jig's up)	
jim dandy	(See a jim dandy)	
jimmy crickets	geez , gosh , holy cow	Jimmy crickets, it was hot! It was 39 degrees Celsius!
jive ass [B]	one who tries to look cool, show-off , show-off	What a jive ass! Give him a mic, and he thinks he's Elvis.
jock	athlete, student who plays on school teams	Doug is a jock - he plays golf and baseball.
joe-job	a routine task, a chore that nobody wants to do, gofer	If you're the junior employee, you'll have to do the joe-jobs.
Joe Who	Joe Clark - a Canadian politician	When was Joe Who the Prime Minister of Canada? 1979?
jog your memory	do or say something to help you remember	This photo of your dog may jog your memories of the old days.
john	(See the john)	
John Hancock	signature, signed name	Now, Michael, all we need is your John Hancock right here, on the dotted line.
John Henry	signature, signed name	To give you a refund, we need your John Henry on this form.
Johnny Canuck	Canadian soldier, Canuck	We'll send Johnny Canuck in first, then our tanks.
Johnny-come-lately	a man who has not lived or worked there very long	"Who is she going with now?" "Oh, some Johnny-come-lately."
Johnny on the spot	being ready to help, being there when needed	When I need a ride, you're always here - Johnny on the spot.
join up	enrol, enlist, sign up	The Army needed volunteers, so Milo joined up.
join you	meet you, catch up with you	You go to the game directly from work. I'll join you at the arena.
joke around	play and tell jokes, fool around	They were joking around after class - rapping and laughing.
joke is on you	(See the joke is on you)	
joker	a person who tells jokes and likes to laugh	Jerry is some joker! He makes everybody laugh.
joker	a stranger, a person who does something unusual	Some joker stopped and asked me if I knew the way to heaven.
joking aside	to stop joking and be serious, without joking, get serious	Joking aside, we need to find Willie. His bride is waiting in the church!
jolly good fellow	a good person, a person being honored	At Jim's farewell party we sang For He's A Jolly Good Fellow.
josh	fool, tease, kid	Quit joshin' me. Tell the truth.
joyride	fun-filled experience, have fun , what a rush	Shooting the rapids is no joyride. You need to know how to paddle a canoe.

juice	electricity, electrical power	This heater uses a lot of juice - 1500 watts.
jump	surprise and overpower, attack without warning	The gang attacked him in the alley. They jumped him.
jump [B]	have sex with, bang , screw [B]	"Did you jump her, Ted?" "Is that all you think of - sex?"
jump at the chance	be ready to try if you have the opportunity	If I was asked to play with their band, I'd jump at the chance.
jump for joy	jump up and down because you are happy	When their horse won the race, they jumped for joy.
jump in the lake	(See go jump in the lake)	
jump in with both feet	become totally involved, go whole hog	Ken gets involved in his work. He jumps in with both feet.
jump out of your skin	jump with fright, become very scared, scared stiff	Keith, if you had seen that ghost, you would have jumped right out of your skin!
jump queue	go to the front of a line of people waiting for service, horn in	If somebody jumps queue in front of Dad, he tells them to go to the back of the line.
jump ship	go to work for the other team - the competition	The company asked me to sign a form saying I wouldn't jump ship.
jump start	use cables to start a car, kick start	One cold morning my dad helped me to jump start my car.
jump the gun	act too soon, leave early	A good chef waits until the food is cooked. Don't jump the gun.
jump through hoops	do all the required steps, red tape	To get a student loan, I had to jump through a lot of hoops.
jump to conclusions	form conclusions before you have all the facts, jump the gun	If you see a wrecked car and say that the driver was drunk, you are jumping to conclusions.
jumping Jehoshaphat	holy cow , jimminy crickets , wow	"Your VISA balance is \$63,756." "Jumping Jehoshaphat! Is it?"
jungle mouth	smelly breath, unpleasant odor on the breath	Most people have jungle mouth when they wake up in the morning, but not me!
junk	illegal drugs: dope, acid etc.	He tried to smuggle junk into Canada. He hid drugs in his shoes.
junk food	snack food, food with little nutritional value	They eat junk food for lunch - chips, candy and pop.
junk it	throw it away, put it in the garbage	If a pen is leaking, junk it. Throw it away.
junk mail	advertisements and commercial letters	On her mail box she wrote a sign: NO JUNK MAIL!
junkie	a person who does junk or drugs; skids	"What is a junkie?" "A person who uses bad drugs."
jury-rig	make a substitute, improvise	When we don't have a fuse, Dad jury-rigs one with silver paper.
just a smidgeon	just a little, just a small amount	"Would you like more cream?" "Just a smidge, please."
just a titch	just a tiny amount, just a smidgeon	"Is that piano too heavy?" "Just a titch."
just about	nearly, almost	We just about fell into the lake. Our canoe nearly tipped over.
just as soon	would prefer to, wish	I'd just as soon forget the fight with Dwen, eh.
just ducky	just fine, wonderful, peachy	"Bill, my mother is coming to live with us." "That's ducky, just ducky!"
just in time	not quite late, in the nick of time	Superman arrived just in time to save the girl from burning.
just-in-time	when the manufacturer is ready, not before	T-Max has requested just-in-time delivery of the engine parts.
just like that	without a pause or explanation, before you can say Jack Robinson	First you say yes, then you say no - just like that!
just passing through	(See pass through)	

Idiom	Meaning	Example
kaput	broken, ruined	We have a car, but it won't go. The motor is kaput.
keep a lid on it	not tell others, keep it quiet	The judges know who won, but they have to keep a lid on it.
keep a low profile	not go out much, lay low	He plans to keep a low profile until the trial is over.
keep a promise	do what you promise to do	You can depend on Vern to keep a promise. He's reliable.
keep a secret	not tell anyone, keep it to yourself	Children can keep a secret better than adults.
keep a stiff upper lip	do not cry, do not be afraid	When Arthur left Tag, Dad said, "Keep a stiff upper lip, Dear."
keep a straight face	not smile or laugh, have a poker face	When you said I was your uncle, I couldn't keep a straight face.
keep an even keel	be steady, be calm and sensible	Customer Service needs people who can keep an even keel.
keep an eye on	watch to prevent harm, watch out for	Fred, will you keep an eye on the children? I'm going to the store.
keep an eye open	(See keep an eye out)	

lady-killer	(See a lady-killer)	
laid back	relaxed, casual	<i>Lenny's Place</i> is a laid-back kind of restaurant - casual.
laid bare	exposed, open for everyone to see	During the trial, details of his personal life were laid bare.
laid off	to be told by the manager that your job is canceled	Billy was laid off because there's not enough work at the plant.
laid up	sick, injured, not able to work	Kelly was laid up for two weeks with a very bad cold.
lame duck	a person who is powerless or ineffectual because he or she will soon be replaced	We haven't seen a promising negotiation for peace in the Middle East since Bill Clinton was a lame-duck president.
lamebrain	foolish person, slow thinker, dipstick , jerk , dork	Don't wait for his suggestion. He's a lamebrain.
land on your feet	be ready to work, be ready for action, hit the ground running	We're looking for employees who land on their feet after facing a problem or challenge.
land up	come to rest at, stop at, end up	If you take this boat you'll land up in Norway!
landlubber	a person who does not go to sea, a landlocked human, not salty	You landlubber, Jack! I bet you've never been in a boat!
lap of luxury	(See the lap of luxury)	
lap up	welcome, appreciate	She laps up their compliments. She loves their praise.
lard butt/lard ass [B]	a person with fat buttocks, a person with a big bum	When I was young and chubby, my brother called me lard butt.
larger than life	larger or prettier than people we know; bigger than life	In American movies, everything seems larger than life. Buildings are taller, women are sexier.
lark	(See it was a lark)	
last but not least	the last one on the list but not the least important	Last but not least is Carla, winner of the spelling contest.
last call	last chance to buy a drink or come in for supper	Dad stood on the back porch and shouted, "Last call for supper!"
last-ditch	last try, desperate attempt, last resort	In a last-ditch attempt to save the marriage, he bought her a BMW.
last hurrah	last big event for an old person	Frank is planning one more TV concert - his last hurrah.
last legs	(See on his last legs)	
last me	be sufficient, provide enough, do me for , tide me over	I have a ton of tooth paste - enough to last me for ten years!

last resort	last hope for assistance, last chance to succeed	I will call the police only as a last resort - only when I'm desperate.
last straw	(See the last straw)	
last word	(See the last word)	
late bloomer	a person who is slow to mature or succeed	Kelly is not doing well in math, but she may be a late bloomer.
laugh it off	laugh about an insult, be cool when you are cheated	The crowd booed him when he scored, but he just laughed it off.
laugh up your sleeve	laugh secretly at someone, behind your back	He tried to please her, unaware she was laughing up her sleeve.
laugh your head off	laugh loud and long, crack me up , hoot	When Jerry tells a joke, I laugh my head off. He is so funny!
laugh yourself sick	laugh until you ache, split a gut	When I listen to Mandy's jokes, I laugh myself sick.
laugh yourself silly	laugh and laugh, laugh your head off	One girl said something funny, and we laughed ourselves silly.
laughing	fortunate, lucky, rich etc.	He has a full scholarship to go to university. He's laughing.
laughing stock	(See the laughing stock)	
laundered money	stolen money that has been invested or donated	Do Mafia companies donate laundered money to the church?
lay [B]	have sex with, get laid [B]	Chuck brags about all the girls he's laid, but I don't believe him.
lay a trip	suggest guilt or blame or duty	Don't lay a trip on me about low grades. I'm studying hard.
lay down your arms	stop fighting, bury the hatchet	It's time to lay down your arms. Stop fighting with your sister.
lay down your life for	die for, be killed for	Doug was killed in World War II. He laid down his life for Canada.
lay eyes on	see, look at	She says she's my sister, but I've never laid eyes on her before.
lay it on	compliment, praise, a little thick	The salesman is praising the new Camry. He's really laying it on.
lay it on the line	be truthful, the straight goods	You can lay it on the line. I want to know if I passed or failed
lay low	stay out of sight; out of circulation	The escaped prisoner planned to lay low for a few days.
lay of the land	(See get the lay of the land)	
lay off	be unable to employ any longer, let go	NSU laid off 50 employees because there's not enough work.
lay off	stop doing it, quit it, cut it out	I think I'll lay off coffee. I'm getting too much caffeine.
lay on	provide, supply	The chefs lay on lots of food at the banquet. It's a feast!
lay over	stay overnight while traveling	On the way to Winnipeg, we usually lay over in Regina.
lay rubber	spin a car's wheels,	He likes to drive fast. He lays rubber at every intersection.

	drag race	
lay the blame	blame, say who is at fault	When he fails a test, his mom lays the blame on the teacher.
lay the lumber	hit with a hockey stick, slash with a hockey stick	The losing team started to lay the lumber on our best players.
lay waste	damage, wreck, plunder	The Vikings raided Scotland's coast, laying waste the villages.
lay you	bet you, give you odds	I'll lay you ten to one that Marc uses steroids. I'm sure he does.
lazy bones	lazy person, a person who does not want to work	If you don't want to work, we'll call you lazy bones.
lead a life	have a style of living, have a way of life	With your career and children, you lead a busy life.
lead foot	(See heavy foot)	
lead pipe cinch	certain of the result, a foregone conclusion	The Jets are a lead pipe cinch to win the game. They're better.
lead you down the garden path	tell you a false story, give you a line	He said the trip to Paris was free. He led me down the garden path.
lead you on	promise good things, pretend to be good	I know you love Jo, but she was leading you on. She loves Paul.
leaf out	grow new leaves, in leaf	She trimmed the branches before the trees began to leaf out.
leak	allow people to know, tell the media	Details of the program were leaked to a newspaper.
leak	(See have a leak)	
lean times	times of poverty, hard times	During lean times they sold eggs for 50¢ a dozen.
learn the lingo	learn the language, know the idioms	To work in the computer industry you have to learn the lingo.
learn the ropes	learn the first steps, learn the basics, know the ropes	He wants to learn the ropes, to learn how to play jazz.
learn your place	learn to know where and when to speak	When I was young, kids learned their place; they showed respect.
leave me hanging	leave me wondering what happened	You begin a story, but you don't finish it. You leave me hanging.
leave no stone unturned	look everywhere, look high and low	In our search for Mom's wedding ring, we left no stone unturned.
leave out	not include, discard	Leave out the cracked dishes. We'll throw them away.
leave out in the cold	not invite, exclude	Kim didn't receive an invitation. She was left out in the cold.
leave the door open	allow people to reply, invite a response, feel free to reply	If you offer to provide answers to their questions, you leave the door open for a reply.
leave well enough alone	if you do more you could cause more trouble	If I cause a problem, I apologize. Then I leave well enough alone.

leave you holding the bag	leave you to do the work or finish a difficult job	He left me holding the bag. I had to finish the work by myself.
leave you in the lurch	leave you with a problem, fend for yourself	The bride didn't go to the church. The groom was left in the lurch.
leave yourself open	not protect yourself, allow people to hurt you	By coming late to work, he left himself open to discipline.
led to believe	be told, be given information, lead you down...	"Were you led to believe that the car was in good condition?" "Yes. They said it was fine."
left holding the bag	(See leave you holding the bag)	
left in the lurch	(See leave you in the lurch)	
left out in the cold	(See leave out in the cold)	
left over	remainder, what is not used or not eaten	We bought too much ice cream. There are two pails left over.
left, right and center	in every direction, everywhere	There were soldiers everywhere - left, right and center.
leftovers	food not eaten at the previous meal	After the Christmas feast they ate leftovers for a few days.
lefty	left-handed person, southpaw	The ignition switch in most cars is not designed for a lefty.
leg up	(See a leg up)	
leg work	walking, going to visit customers or voters	The kids delivered the notices - they did the leg work.
lemon	a car with many problems, a car of low quality, seconds	When the American companies began to make small cars, there were a lot of lemons for sale.
lend a hand	help someone, give me a hand	Our neighbors lend a hand when we have too much work to do.
lesser lights	people who are not as talented, not superstars	We owe our success to the lesser lights on our team - the workers.
lesser of two evils	both are bad but one is not as bad as the other	Neither person can be trusted. Choose the lesser of two evils.
let a fart [B]	allow gas to escape, fart, pass wind	If I let a fart in this tiny room, we won't be able to breathe.
let down	not do as expected, disappoint someone	Don't let the team down. Please come to the game.
let George do it	let him or her do the job, wait for someone to do it	If his attitude is let George do it, he won't succeed in our firm.
let go of	release, allow to be free, part with	Please let go of my hand now. I want to leave.
let her rip	release or start suddenly, go with	When you want him to dump the load, just say, "Let 'er rip!"

	full power	
let it all hang out	relax, be natural	When we go camping, we let it all hang out. We really relax.
let it be	leave it alone, do not touch it	When a cat is sick, let it be. Don't pet it or pick it up.
let it go to your head	become too proud, have a swelled head	So you won the golf tournament. Don't let it go to your head.
let me have it	tell me, do not wait to tell me	If you want to criticize my work, go ahead. Let me have it.
let off	not have to pay or do, get off	Kyle was involved in the crime, but they let him off.
let off steam	express concern, sound off	Hec is letting off steam again. He wants to save the wolves.
let on	show, say, reveal, let others believe	Don't let on that you know me. Our friendship will be a secret.
let one	(See let a fart)	
let sleeping dogs lie	do not create problems, leave things alone	Don't tell them the price of gas will rise. Let sleeping dogs lie.
let the cat out of the bag	tell people, the cat's out of the bag	People know we plan to elope. Who let the cat out of the bag?
let the chips fall where they may	let it happen naturally, do not control everything	We've done all we can to win the election. Let the chips fall... .
let the good times roll	let the party begin, let us enjoy our time together, the more the merrier	Uncle Harry welcomed us to the reunion. Then he said, "Let the good times roll!"
let this chance go by	allow an opportunity to pass, miss your chance , seize the opportunity	This letter means that you are accepted for admission to Oxford. Don't let this chance go by.
let up	not do it as much, ease up	If the rain lets up, we'll go to the park.
let you down	(See let down)	
let you have it	scold you, shout at you, hit you, tell you off (see tell him off)	If you tease him about his girlfriend, he'll let you have it.
let yourself go	relax, be natural, let it all hang out	"Let yourself go," the leader said. "Share what you are feeling."
let yourself go	not groom yourself, become sloppy	If you let yourself go, your wife may lose interest in you.
letter-perfect	perfect in every detail, like a machine-printed alphabet, picture-perfect	"How did I do on my theory test?" "It was letter-perfect, but can you hear all of the notes you have written so neatly?"
lettuce	money, dough , moola	A billion dollars is a lot of lettuce! It's more than I need.
level the playing field	make it equal for everyone, a level playing field	If we train all employees, we help to level the playing field.
level with you	be honest with you,	Peter will level with you. He'll tell you what the doctor said.

	the straight goods	
lick and a promise	(See a lick and a promise)	
lick your wounds	become healthy again, recover from a defeat	After losing the election, he went home to lick his wounds.
lickety-split	moving fast, boot it, hell bent for election	The train is going lickety-split, at least sixty miles an hour!
lie down on the job	stop working, refuse to work	Yes, I take long coffee breaks, but I would never lie down on the job.
life in the fast lane	a fast-paced life, living or working in a large city	We tried life in the fast lane - in Toronto - but Seth didn't like it.
life is just a bowl of cherries	life is just wonderful, life is grand	When Anne is happy, she says, "Life is just a bowl of cherries!"
life is not all guns and roses	life is not all war and love, life is not like the movies, come down to earth	After World War II, some people had to learn that life is not all guns and roses.
life of Riley	(See the life of Riley)	
life of the party	(See the life of the party)	
life on the edge	(See live on the edge)	
life you lead	the way you live, lifestyle; lead a life	The life we lead here is based on respect for human rights.
lifer	a person who has been sentenced to life in prison	The lifers all sit at the same table in Hampton Penitentiary.
lift a finger	help someone, do anything to help	Loki is my friend, but he didn't lift a finger when I needed help.
lift my spirits	cause me to be happy, give me a lift	Music will lift our spirits. Let's listen to some Mozart.
light at the end of the tunnel	a sign of progress, feeling hopeful because you will soon be finished	After four years of study, I could see light at the end of the tunnel. I would soon graduate.
light in the loafers	homosexual, gay, faq	Just because he likes to sew, you think he's light in the loafers.
light up	light a cigarette, begin to smoke	As Ken left the school, he lit up. It was okay to smoke outside.
lighten up	relax, do not be so serious	Lighten up, Charles. Try to see the humor in life.
lighthearted	humorous, joking	His lighthearted approach to life is popular with students.
lightning fast	very quick, super fast, faster than a speeding bullet, greased lightning	The black mamba is lightning fast - one of the fastest - and is the most deadly of African snakes.
lights are on but...	(See the lights are on but nobody's home)	
like a bat out of	very fast, go like	When Harriet is late for work, she drives like a bat out of

hell	stink	hell.
like a bolt from the blue	like a sign from heaven, like a flash of light	Like a bolt from the blue, I got the idea to shave my head.
like a broken record	repeating the same sound, saying it over and over again	From morning till night I hear that complaint - like a broken record!
like a chicken on a June bug	very quickly, in a flash , before you can say Jack Robinson	If you leave a chocolate bar on the table, Kathie will be on it - like a chicken on a June bug!
like a dirty shirt	always there - like shirts that need to be washed	If you have a garage sale, Jim will be there like a dirty shirt.
like a hawk	(See watch me like a hawk)	
like a mother hawk	(See watch over like a mother hawk)	
like a hot potato	(See drop him like a hot potato)	
like a ton of bricks	heavily, with much weight and force	When the cable broke, the cargo came down like a ton of bricks.
like crazy/like mad	a lot, very much, to beat the band	She laughed like crazy whenever Earl told a joke.
like dog's breath	not pleasant, not popular	This plan smells like dog's breath. It's a bad plan.
like father, like son	sons are like their fathers, a chip off the old block	This is Fred, and this is Fred, Jr. Like father, like son.
like hell [B]	not likely, no way , not	"It's a goal!" said the referee. "Like hell it is!" said the goalie.
like hell [B]	fast, go like stink	That dog can run like hell.
like it or lump it	if we do not like it, that is too bad; tough bananas	This is the supper Dad cooked for us - like it or lump it.
like nobody's business	a lot, busily, like crazy	The squirrel was eating nuts - chewing like nobody's business.
like shit through a goose	moving easily, smoothly, easy as pie	"How do you get the bark off the aspen branch to make the whistle?" "After making the cuts, just tap the bark and the wood will come out like shit through a goose!"
like the devil	quickly, too fast to see, like hell	The disease spread like the devil. Soon his whole leg was swollen.
like the wind	fast and smooth, like the devil	You can't catch that deer. It can run like the wind.
lily-livered	cowardly, chicken , wimpy	Bull riding is not a sport for lily-livered folks. It's not for wimps.
line of authority	people in order of power, chain of command	The line of authority goes from our manager up to the president.
line up	form a line of people, form a queue	College students have to line up to buy their text books.
lingo	(See learn the lingo)	

lion's share	(See the lion's share)	
lip	rudeness, cheek	No more of your lip, boy. I won't allow you to be rude.
lip off	talk without respect, talk back	Did you hear him lip off the police? He called them pigs.
lippy	rude, impolite, cheeky , sassy	If you get lippy with me, I'll give you extra work to do.
lips are sealed	will not talk about it, mum's the word	I won't tell anybody you love the coach. My lips are sealed.
liquored up	drunk, having drunk too much liquor, sloshed	I wish Pa wouldn't get liquored up when he goes to town.
listen up	listen carefully, pay attention	The coach said, "Listen up, guys. This is important."
little bird told me	(See a little bird told me)	
little by little	a little progress each time you try, bit by bit	Little by little, we saved our money to buy this house.
little white lie	(See white lie)	
live and let live	live your life and let others live their lives	Pop's approach to life is simple and fair: live and let live.
live by	follow, use as a guide	My husband and I live by two principles: honesty and trust.
live it up	live wild, go to a lot of parties, have a fling	When I move to the city, I'm going to live it up - have fun.
live off	earn enough money to pay expenses	Can we live off the profit from selling your garden flowers?
live on	have to pay rent and buy food etc.	What will we live on if you don't have a job?
live on the edge	live in danger from drugs or disease or crime	When Bill played in the NHL, he was living on the edge.
live up to	be as good as people said you would be	Live up to your own standards. Set your own rules.
liven up	cause more activity or excitement	Let's invite Jerry to our party. He'll liven things up.
liveware	people who use computers, computer students	Our school has more liveware than computers!
living daylight	(See the living daylight)	
lo and behold	suddenly, look, out of the blue , wonder of wonders	We were standing there when, lo and behold, a fish fell out of the sky and flopped around on the ground!
loaded	having many extra devices or accessories	That Buick is loaded, including a sun roof.
loaded	drunk, inebriated, sloshed	After his fifth drink of rum, he was loaded. He was staggering.
loaded	wealthy, rich, deep	To own a jet, you would have to be very wealthy - loaded.

	pockets , moneybags	
loaded to the hilt	fully loaded, packed to the top	The trailer was loaded to the hilt - full of our belongings.
local yokel	resident of a town or rural community, local resident	We were lost, so we stopped and asked a local yokel for help.
lock you up	put you in prison, put you in a mental hospital	If you sell cigarettes to children, the police will lock you up.
lock, stock and barrel	everything, kit and caboodle	They took everything in the shed - lock, stock and barrel.
log off	exit from a mainframe computer system	Before you log off, be sure to save the work you completed.
log on	enter a mainframe computer system	When you log on, you have to type in your password.
lollygag	be idle, be listless, waste time (see the opposite: waste no time)	Hank isn't busy today. He's just lollygagging around the house.
long arm of the law	(See the long arm of the law)	
long for	wish for, want very much	Kelly longs for her home in the mountains. She's homesick.
long gone	departed earlier, not here now	Albert was long gone by the time the RCMP arrived.
long in the tooth	old, aged, over the hill	Jack is a good pitcher, but he's long in the tooth - too old.
long johns	winter underwear - with long sleeves and legs	If you are going cross-country skiing, put on your long johns.
long time no see	I have not seen you for a long time	When I got off the bus, Grandpa said, "Long time no see."
loo	(See the loo)	
look after	care for, take care of	He really looks after his car. It's in very good condition.
look daggers	look angry, look with hateful eyes	Ginny looked daggers at me when I kissed her boyfriend.
look down on	look as if you are better, look superior	Do some Americans look down on people from Canada?
look down your nose at	look at a person as though he is not as good as you	Just because he's rich he looks down his nose at us.
look high and low	look everywhere, leave no stone unturned	We've looked high and low for that watch, but we can't find it.
look into	investigate, find the facts, get to the bottom of	The principal will look into the attendance problem and see what is causing it.
look like death warmed over	appear to be sick, look pale or weak	Mom is not feeling well. She looks like death warmed over.
look like he was	appear to be very	After a divorce and a funeral, Anne looked like she'd been

dragged through a knothole	tired, burn out , run down	dragged through a knothole.
look out	be careful	Look out! That knife is sharp.
look out for	watch, protect, look after	Please look out for your sister. She needs your protection.
look out for number one	help yourself first, get enough for yourself	You can look out for number one as well as help your friends.
look over	check, examine, look at	I've looked over the report. It contains the data we need.
look over your shoulder	look to see who is following you	He's always looking over his shoulder to see who's after him.
look sharp	look very nice, very well dressed and groomed	She looks very sharp in her new suit-like a model!
look the other way	try not to notice, turn the other way	The officer saw the liquor, but he looked the other way.
look up a dead horse's ass [B]	do a worthless task, do a pointless exercise, pissing into the wind	If they want a tax-free society, they may as well be looking up a dead horse's ass!
look up to	admire, idolize	Ian looks up to his brother. He respects James a lot.
look up/look it up	find it in a book	Please look up the word guru.
looking up	(See things are looking up)	
loonie	Canadian one-dollar coin	I bought this rose for one loonie!
loony bin	mental hospital, nut house	If you ride that giraffe downtown they'll put you in the loony bin.
looped	drunk, loaded , smashed	You were looped last night. You don't remember what happened.
loose cannon	(See a loose cannon)	
loose ends	unfinished tasks, odds and ends	"Finished making the dress?" "Almost - just some loose ends."
loose ends	(See at loose ends)	
loose ends	(See tie up loose ends)	
lord it over	be the boss of, dominate a person/group	When we were boys, my older brother tried to lord it over me.
lose a family member	experience the death of a member of the family	Poor Sadie. She lost her mother last year and a brother this year.
lose count	forget how many you counted, lose track	There were so many falling stars that I lost count.
lose favor	lose a person's approval, in your bad books	If you lose favor with reporters, you may lose the election.
lose ground	slide back, lose power, fall behind	Every day we lose ground in the battle to save the environment.
lose him	get away from him,	I can lose him at the mall - among the shops and people.

	ditch him	
lose it	become angry, lose your cool	When he criticized you, I started to lose it. I almost hit him.
lose it	lose the ability to think clearly, become forgetful	After 35 years of teaching, he was losing it. He was confused.
lose my train of thought	forget my order of thoughts or words	Don't interrupt me because I may lose my train of thought.
lose out	lose a chance, fail to take advantage of	If I don't apply now, I'll lose out. This is my last chance.
lose patience	not be patient any longer, out of patience	Mom is losing patience with us because we don't obey her.
lose sight of	forget about, not remember the purpose	Let's not lose sight of why we're picking berries - to make pies.
lose time	waste time, fall behind	We lost time when the car stalled. We were delayed.
lose track	forget how many you have, lose count	He tried to count the number of birds, but he soon lost track.
lose your appetite	not feel hungry anymore, lose the desire to eat	If a bug crawled out of your apple would you lose your appetite?
lose your cool	lose control of emotions, lose your temper	Don't you ever lose your cool? Don't you ever get angry?
lose your head	lose your ability to think clearly	If you become lost, don't lose your head. Be sensible.
lose your marbles	lose control of your mind, lose it	When people grow old, do they lose their marbles?
lose your mind	lose control of your mind, go out of your mind	If you continue to use drugs, you'll lose your mind.
lose your shirt	lose most of the money you invested	He invested in condominiums and nearly lost his shirt.
lose your temper	become angry, get mad	When you lose your temper, the children become frightened.
lose your tongue	be unable to think what to say, cat got your tongue , mind goes blank	It's embarrassing to lose your tongue when you're standing in front of an audience.
lose your touch	lose some of your skill, lose it	"I'm losing my touch," he said, looking at his drawing.
losing it	losing the ability to think or remember, not sharp	I think I'm losing it. I can't add or multiply without a calculator.
losing streak	losing game after game, losing a series of games	The Jays are on a losing streak. They've lost four games straight.
loss leader	a low-priced item to bring customers to a store, bogof	The loss leader at SuperStore is a package of coffee for 99¢.

lost cause	(See a lost cause)	
Lotus Land	British Columbia (west coast of Canada)	They went to Lotus Land for a holiday - to Vancouver.
loud mouth	one who talks about things he should not	When Bart was a boy, he was a loud mouth. He told our secrets.
lousy	poor quality, in poor condition, shabby	Everything works except the lousy printer. It's broken.
love at first sight	sudden love, love begins when people first meet	When Jessica met Ryan, it was love at first sight.
Love Bug	Volkswagen Beetle, The Bug	I'd love to go for a ride in your Love Bug.
love conquers all	love is strong enough to overcome all problems	When the family was reunited, Mom said, "Love conquers all."
love is blind	people do not see the faults in their lovers	She can't see his bad habits because love is blind.
love is where you find it	love happens, love is not planned, it is better to have loved...	My family thinks Peter is too old for me, but I think love is where you find it.
love tap	(See a love tap)	
love them and leave them	love them but not stay with them	When Claude was touring Europe, he'd love 'em and leave 'em.
lovelies	ladies, women, girls, chicks	When we docked at Rome, we met three lovelies and went dancing.
lovelife	the romantic part of your life, your intimate life	"How's your lovelife?" "Great! I've met a wonderful lady."
Lovers' Leap	a cliff where lovers jump into a canyon together	Let's drive up to Lovers' Leap and look at the stars.
low	sad, depressed, ill, down	I've been feeling kind of low lately - it's the bad weather.
low-ball him	offer him a very low price for his car, house etc.	If his price is too high, low-ball him. Offer him a very low price.
low-down	bad, evil, not nice	Stealing from that old woman was a low-down thing to do!
lowdown	(See the lowdown)	
lowlife	a person without morals or humanitarian values	What a lowlife! He sold drugs to children.
low on the totem pole	ordinary worker, not a manager or boss, gofer , pecking order	If you want to understand the real problems, talk to the workers - people who are low on the totem pole.
luck of the draw	(See the luck of the draw)	
luck of the Irish	(See the luck of the Irish)	
luck out	have good luck, a lucky break	She lucked out at the casino. She won a thousand dollars.

lucky break	(See a lucky break)	
lucky dog	a lucky person, someone who has just won a prize	When I told Bill I won the car, he said, "You lucky dog!"
lucky streak	a series of lucky wins, string of good luck	He lost the bet on the sixth race, and his lucky streak ended.
lump together	put together, place in the same category	They lumped us all together - young, old, rich, poor.
lush	alcoholic, in the tank , wino	Joni was a lush when she met me. Now she doesn't drink at a

mad about	like a lot, love very much, crazy about , head over heels	Olga's mad about Yorgi. She loves him too much!
mad about	angry about, pissed off [B]	He's mad about the lost key. He told me I was careless.
mad as a hatter	strange, eccentric, batty, plumb loco	If you wear that pink wig, people will think you're mad as a hatter.
mad hatter	strange, unusual, wacko	Jo lives in a mad-hatter place. Her friends walk around nude and sing songs about heaven.
made for each other	be natural mates, be very compatible, soul mates	Bob and Alice are made for each other. They're happily married.
mainstream	common, familiar, of the majority	Smoking isn't as common now. It isn't a mainstream activity.
major (credit)	(See a major)	
major	big, huge, main	"Is money a problem?" "Ya. Major."
make a beeline	go straight towards	When the kids saw the ice-cream man, they all made a beeline for him.
make a big deal of it	complain a lot, make a mountain...	Whenever Todd dances with me, Brenda makes a big deal of it.
make a big to-do	complain too much, make a federal case...	If the waiter makes a mistake, don't make a big to-do about it.
make a booboo	cause an error, make a mistake , screw up	"I made a booboo." "Don't worry. We can fix it."
make a bundle	earn a large profit, make a lot of money	Manfred made a bundle selling real estate. He's rich.
make a clean breast of it	tell all you know about it, admit what you did	The man went to the police and made a clean breast of his crime.
make a clean sweep	win all games in a series	The Jets made a clean sweep of the series - won all four games.
make a comeback	try to recover your former skill and success, comeback kid	George Foreman made a comeback when he was over forty!
make a difference	affect or change it, tip the scales	Even a small donation will make a difference. It will help us.
make a face	wrinkle your face until it is ugly	Chad made a face at me and stuck out his tongue.
make a false move	reach for the phone or a gun, try to run away	"Make a false move and I'll shoot your buttons off," the boy said.
make a federal case of it	make it too important, make a mountain...	Okay, so I used your hair dryer! Don't make a federal case of it.
make a fuss	cry or complain, throw a tantrum	If I don't hold the baby, it will make a fuss. It will cry.
make a go of it	earn enough money to pay the bills, live well	With both of us working, we were able to make a go of it.
make a good impression	meet and talk to strangers so they like you	Penny made a good impression on my parents. She is so polite!
make a killing	earn a big profit, make a bundle	If you buy gold now, you'll make a killing when the price goes up.
make a life for	live a good life; have	So you want to make a life for yourself in Canada.

yourself	a job, home and family	That's good.
make a living	earn enough money to live on, make your way	You can make a living at farming, but you won't be rich!
make a mistake	give a wrong answer, make a booboo	Learn from making a mistake. Learn how not to do it.
make a mountain out of a mole hill	make a problem bigger, exaggerate a problem	I spent \$50, not \$500! Don't make a mountain out of a mole hill.
make a name for yourself	become well known, become famous	Martin Luther King made a name for himself - and for freedom!
make a pass	show that you feel romantic toward someone	Julie made a pass at me. She sent me a love note and smiled at me.
make a pitch	try to sell, try to persuade	She handed him her resume and made a pitch for the job.
make a point of	remember to do, act with a purpose, make sure	Uma made a point of telling me about the meeting. She wants us to come.
make a scene	complain too loud, kick up a fuss	If she doesn't let Denis ride in the shopping cart, he makes a scene.
make a silk purse...	(See you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear)	
make a splash	advertise with style, open with balloons and prizes	When Tom opened his Toyota dealership, he made quite a splash.
make advances	try to kiss or touch, come onto , get fresh	"If he doesn't make advances, should I?" Shelly asked.
make amends	apologize to someone you have hurt, make up for	What can I do to make amends for opening her personal mail?
make an entrance	enter with style, enter with a flourish	When the duchess attends an event she likes to make an entrance.
make an offer	offer money to buy; write what you will pay for something	"Your price is too high." "Well, make an offer. What do you think the car is worth?"
make believe	imagine, pretend, make up	"Let's make believe we are baby elephants," I said to the children.
make do	use whatever you can find, substitute, jury-rig	When our kids don't have toys, they make do with pots and pans.
make ends meet	pay the bills, have enough to pay the expenses	Although the Millers are poor, they make ends meet.
make every effort	do everything possible, bend over backwards	Our employees make every effort to please our customers.
make faces	(See make a face)	
make friends	act in a friendly way, become a friend of	Sally makes friends easily. People seem to like her.
make fun of	tease, laugh at, poke	Ko is angry because you made fun of him. You teased

	fun at	him.
make good	do as promised, follow through	When I get paid, I'll make good my promise to buy you dinner.
make good time	travel quickly, not be delayed, not lose time	Driving to Saskatoon, we made good time. It took only five hours.
make hay while the sun shines	work while the weather is good, work while we have time and helpers	There's a demand for our product, and we have a large stock. Let's make hay while the sun shines!
make headway	progress, get ahead	With Freda's help, we made headway. We learned to write.
make it	go or come, attend	Can you make it tonight? Can you come to the meeting?
make it better	improve it, help it	When a child is hurt, sympathy will help to make it better.
make it big	succeed, be one of the best	Roch made it big as a singer. He's very successful.
make it snappy	be quick, hurry up	I'll have a Coke, please, and make it snappy!
make it worse	hinder, cause it to be worse	Stepping on the brakes will only make it worse. The car will skid.
make light of	make a joke about, make fun of	I was hurt when you made light of my poem. You laughed at it.
make love	embrace in a loving way and have intercourse	I can't describe how I feel when we make love. It's breathtaking!
make me do it	cause me to act, force me to do it	I didn't want to steal the watch. The devil made me do it.
make me sick/mad etc.	cause me to feel sick or mad etc.	It makes me sick the way he talks about war all the time.
make mention	talk about, bring up	No one made mention of his research - not one word!
make mincemeat of	defeat badly, demolish, blow them away	The heavyweight champ made mincemeat of the young boxer.
make money	work for wages, earn a profit	You can make money in real estate. You buy low, sell high.
make my day	do something to help me enjoy this day	Go ahead, kiss me, and make my day!
make myself clear	say it clearly, say it so you understand	Her sister said, "Do not wear my clothes. Do I make myself clear?"
make no bones about it	admit it, speak openly about it	She's in love with her student. She makes no bones about it.
make of it	know what it is, identify it, make sense of it	Do you see that bright light in the sky? What do you make of it?
make off with	take away, take without permission	The boys made off with his toys. They took all his cars and trucks.
make out	do, finish, end up	How did you make out when you played the Rebels? Did you win?
make out	kiss and hug, get it on , make whoopee	Keith and Dawn were making out in the back seat of the car.
make room	create a space, move over , out of the way	Please make room so Miss Munroe can walk to her car. Move, please.
make sense	appear to be logical or	Renting a car makes sense to me - if it's not too

	sensible	expensive.
make sense of it	understand it, fathom it, see how it happened	He is my father, but I am not his son. Can you make sense of it?
make something of it	(See want to make something of it)	
make something of yourself	be successful, be respected for your skill and honesty	I want to choose an occupation and make something of myself.
make strange	be afraid of a stranger, cry when a stranger comes	Ali makes strange when we have visitors. He cries and tries to hide.
make sure	be certain, check carefully	Make sure you mail the letter. It must be sent today.
make the bed	arrange the sheets and blankets on a bed	Please make the bed before you eat breakfast.
make the grade	do acceptable work, measure up	To make the grade, you have to complete the training program.
make the most of it	do the best you can, seize the opportunity	When you speak, make the most of it. Persuade them not to fight.
make the team	become a member of the team	Paul will make the soccer team. The coach will choose him.
make tracks	hurry, move quickly, vamoose	We better make tracks or we'll be late for dinner.
make trouble	cause a fight, don't make waves	Don't make trouble, eh. Don't start an argument or a fight.
make up	create, imagine	He likes to make up stories - you know, fiction.
make up	be friends again, come together again	John and Marsha fight, but they always kiss and make up.
make up for	repay, compensate	Please let me make up for my mistake. Let me help you.
make up your mind	decide, choose	If you will make up your mind, we can order our dinner.
make war	fight with troops and planes and bombs	To make war is to be greedy or insane - or both.
make waves	(See don't make waves)	
make way	move off the path, move to the side, make room	If the leader wants your seat in parliament, you make way for her. You give her your seat.
make whoopee	kiss and hug, get it on , make love	Tony and Victoria were making whoopee when we walked in.
make your bum hum	excite you, please your senses, turn you on	Anchovies on a banana split - that'll make your bum hum!
make your hair stand on end	cause you to be afraid, petrified , scared stiff	Strange sounds began coming from the closet. It was enough to make your hair stand on end.
make your head spin	confuse you, amaze you, boggle your mind	All the numbers on this sheet will make your head spin.
make your mark	be known for an invention or an achievement, set the	If you want to make your mark, do it for humanity. Think of a cure for hate and war.

	world on fire	
make your mouth water	cause you to salivate, cause you to be hungry	Your carrot cake smells so good it makes my mouth water.
make your way	move toward, navigate	After sailing to Jamaica we made our way over to Cuba, si?
make your way	survive, live by your own efforts, make a living	Chad, my boy, if you are going to make your way in this world, you need an education - formal and informal.
make yourself at home	relax, feel as though you are in your own home	Lee's mom welcomed us, saying, "Please, make yourself at home."
make yourself scarce	leave, do not stay, get lost	If you see a bull in the pasture, make yourself scarce.
make yourself to home	(See make yourself at home)	
makes no difference	will not affect or change something	The color of the car makes no difference to me. I don't care.
makings of	(See the makings of)	
malarkey	(See a bunch of malarkey)	
man of few words	(See a man of few words)	
man of the cloth	(See a man of the cloth)	
mark a watershed	begins a change, starts a shift or movement, the turning point	The invasion of Palestinian neighborhoods marked a watershed. That's when world opinion shifted.
mark my words	listen carefully, pay attention	A California team will win the Super Bowl. Mark my words.
marked man	(See a marked man)	
match wits	compete with someone's wit or humor	Don't try to match wits with Pat. He has a reply for everything.
matter of life and death	(See it's a matter of life and death)	
mayday (m'aidez)	distress signal, call for help, SOS	"Mayday! Mayday!" we shouted into our cell phones when the tanks started running over people in the streets.
mean business	is serious or determined, no nonsense	At work or play she means business. She is a serious person.
mean streak	being unkind at times, having cruel traits	Kurt has a mean streak in him. Did you see him kick his dog?
mean well	wants to help, has good intentions	Kay is a gossip, but she means well. She tries to be a friend.
measure up	do enough work, achieve high quality	With more training, he'll improve. He'll measure up to our standards.
meet up with	meet, encounter	In Montreal, he met up with a young singer named Celine.
meet you half way	find an equitable agreement, split the	Try to settle the claim out of court. See if he will meet you half way.

	difference	
meeting of minds	mutual agreement, consensus	We agreed to share the cost of the project. It was a meeting of minds.
megabucks	a lot of money, thousands of dollars	Her personal computer system cost megabucks. It was very expensive.
melt in your mouth	fine bread or pastry, food with a fine texture	Aunt Carol's muffins are so good! They just melt in your mouth!
mend fences	solve political problems, listen to voters	Every summer the politicians go home and try to mend fences.
mental block	(See a mental block)	
mess up	do a bad job, ruin it, screw up	The manager messed up. He spent too much money on advertising.
mess with	challenge, fight with, mix it up with	We learned not to mess with the Mafia. Their revenge is deadly.
messed up	depressed, dependent on drugs, not coping with life	At that point in his life, he was messed up on drugs and alcohol.
mete out	administer, give according to the law or policy	It was his duty to mete out justice in the colony.
middle ground	a position that is fair to both sides, a compromise, meeting of minds	The minister tried to find some middle ground between the nurses and the administrators.
middle of the road	moderate, not extreme	Our education policy is middle of the road. The majority like it.
middleman	(See the middleman)	
miffed	annoyed, not pleased, put out about , ticked off	Marnie was miffed when you swore at her cat. She said you were rude.
milk it	take all it will give, get all you can from it, seize the opportunity	I learned the mail-order business and milked the idea for all it was worth. I earned a lot of money.
milk run	airline route that stops at small cities	From Vancouver, we took the milk run through Kelowna.
mince words	(See doesn't mince words)	
mind boggling	too many to count, more than you can imagine	The potential for profit is mind boggling - too large to believe.
mind games	control people's feelings, play games	He plays mind games with me - he tries to control my feelings.
mind go blank	cannot think what to say, lose your tongue	When the Prime Minister stopped to talk to me, my mind went blank.
mind in neutral	not thinking, vegetate	Some of our employees stand around with their minds in neutral.
mind of his own	independent thinker, his own man	Fu doesn't copy the work of his friends. He has a mind of his own.
mind over matter	believing you can do it, using the mind's power	When your brain controls your heart rate, it's mind over matter.

mind the store	manage the store, serve customers	Dana, please mind the store while I go to the post office.
mind your manners	be polite, be courteous, watch your P's and Q's	At the wedding, Mom said to me, "Now, Son, mind your manners."
mind your own business	do not ask questions about my business	I asked about her plans, and she told me to mind my own business.
mind your P's and Q's	be polite, do not drink too much, mind your manners	Lorraine said he was drinking too much. She told him to mind his P's and Q's.
mint condition	new condition, original condition, super mint	In an old garage we found a Peugeot 403 in mint condition.
misery loves company	sad people want to be with other sad people	On the door of the jail was this sign: Misery Loves Company.
miss out on	not be there, be unable to attend	If I have a job, I'll miss out on the soccer games after school.
miss the boat	misjudge, misunderstand, make a mistake	I missed the boat on the essay question. My answer was wrong.
miss the point	not understand, not get the point	I missed the point of his remark. Do you know what he meant?
miss the water till...	(See you don't miss the water till the well runs dry)	
miss you	feel lonely because you are not here	I miss you when you go to Hong Kong. Can I go with you?
miss your chance	not do it when you can, not seize the opportunity	I'm sorry. You cannot go today. You missed your chance to go yesterday.
mix it up	challenge, fight, mess with	If you mix it up with a street fighter, you could get injured.
mix up	become confused or puzzled	He gets mixed up when we all give advice. He gets confused.
mix you up	confuse you, boggle your mind	Too much information will just mix you up - confuse you.
mixed feelings	feeling both positive and negative, happy and sad; bittersweet	I have mixed feelings. I'm happy about the new job, but sad about leaving my friends.
moment of truth	(See the moment of truth)	
money doesn't grow on trees	money is not easy to get, we value our money	Father said, "Money doesn't grow on trees, boy. You earn it."
money is the root of all evil	money is the cause of bad things	If money is the root of all evil, why do you want to be rich?
money talks	money causes action, grease my palm	If you want service, money talks. When you pay, they serve.
money to burn	lots of money, filthy rich	They've got money to burn, so why do they drive that old car?
moneybags	rich person, loaded person	We used to call him moneybags. He always had money on him.
monkey business	nonsense, foolishness, funny	I've had enough of your monkey business. No more foolishness.

	stuff	
monkey off my back	(See get this monkey off my back)	
monkey's uncle	(See I'll be a monkey's uncle)	
monkeywrenching	trying to ruin a project, sabotaging, throw a monkey wrench into...	The members of Green Peace were accused of monkeywrenching the whale hunt. They tried to stop it.
month of Sundays	(See a month of Sundays)	
moola	money, cash, scratch	Without moola, we can't travel. We need money for air fare.
moon them	show them a bare bum , show your bare buttocks	They booed him for dropping the ball, so he mooned them.
moonlighting	working at a second job in the evening	Bernie is very tired these days because he's moonlighting.
moonshine	homemade liquor, hooch , screech	Art invited us over to taste his moonshine - homemade wine.
mop the floor with us	perform so well the audience wants more, she peed	We loved the Gagnon concert. He mopped the floor with us.
mop up	correct mistakes, clean up a mess left by others	The manager told us he would not mop up after us. We have to fix our own mistakes.
moppie	mobile office professional, ambitious business people, yuppie	A lot of moppies lost their jobs when the oil industry declined.
more money than brains	rich but not intelligent, money to burn , moneybags	He bought a house but didn't use it, rent it or sell it. He has more money than brains!
more power to you	you deserve more support, we hope you succeed because you are kind	When she told us about her plan to help abused children, we said, "More power to you, Ms. Wah."
more than meets the eye	(See there's more than meets the eye)	
more than welcome	we invite you, please come to our place, feel free	Mary invited them to stay. "You are more than welcome to sleep at our place," she said.
more than you can shake a stick at	a lot, too many, oodles	Alfreda has more cats than you can shake a stick at - over 30!
mortal coil	(See this mortal coil)	
mothball	put away, put on a shelf	The boss mothballed the report. The owners never saw it.
Mother Nature	nature, natural forces and causes	Mother Nature provided the basic foods: wild vegetables and water.
motherfucker [B]	a person you dislike, creep , scum	That motherfucker! I'd like to kick his ass to kingdom come!
motherhood and apple pie	statements about mom and home etc.	The audience wants news and facts, not motherhood and apple pie.

motherlode	the largest amount, the main supply, a shitload	He played poker for six hours before he won the motherlode.
motormouth	one who talks fast but says very little, disk jockey	Listen to that motormouth! He talks fast but says nothing.
mount a comeback	begin to score goals or points while losing, snatch victory from...	Our soccer team was losing 4-1, but they mounted a comeback and won the game 5-4.
Mounties	Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)	The Mounties, Canada's police force, were once called Redcoats.
mousy	worn and faded, shabby	This shirt is kind of mousy, but I love to wear it.
mouth off	tell a secret, talk about private information	Why did you mouth off about the accident? I was going to tell Dad.
move it	go, go faster, get going	"Move it!" said the guard. "Get in your cell!"
move over	move a little, move to the next chair, make room	I asked him if he would move over so I could sit beside him.
move you to tears	cause you to feel sadness or sympathy, touch you	The songs in Gorecki's Third Symphony will move you to tears.
move your ass	move quickly, get going , move it	If you want to ride on the train, you better move your ass. It's leaving now.
movers and shakers	owners, investors, wheeler-dealer	We invited all the big investors: the movers and shakers.
much obliged	very thankful, very grateful, thanks a million	"You can stay with us until your wounds heal," she said. "Much obliged, Ma'am," I replied.
muckrake	gossip, tell bad stories	If you talk about your opponent, try to avoid muckraking.
mudsling	insult people, criticize other candidates	The Liberal leader lost my vote when he began mudslinging.
mugged	stopped and robbed, held up by robbers (see hold up)	If you walk down Cordova Street at night, you could get mugged.
mull over	think about, consider, think it over	I've been mulling over what you said about love. I believe it's more spiritual than physical.
mum's the word	do not tell anyone, this is on the QT	She told us the secret. Then she whispered, "Mum's the word."
Murphy's Law	"Anything that can go wrong will go wrong." it never fails	Have you planned for failure? Remember, Murphy's Law applies to all projects.
muscle in	force yourself between two people	He didn't want to go to the end of the line, so he tried to muscle in.
music to my ears	good news, a message that makes me happy	When she called my name, it was music to my ears.
musical chairs	a game in which each player must find a	"At my birthday party can we play a game of musical chairs?" "Yes, dear."

	chair when the music stops (there are more players than chairs), play musical chairs	
must	(See a must)	
my ass	I doubt it, that is not true	"It's our right to own a gun." "My ass! It's a privilege!"
my eye	I do not believe it, that did not happen	You ate fifteen blueberry pies? My eye!
my old man	my husband, my man	My old man is babysitting while I have a weekend holiday!
my old man	my father, my dad	My old man gets mad if I don't come right home from school.

N

nada	nothing, none, zero, zip	"How much for the baseball cap?" "Nada - it was free."
nag	horse, race horse	Pat bet on a nag in the sixth race and it came in second!
nag	complain too much, a hassle	Poor Erik. His wife nags him about his first marriage.
nail-biter	(See a nail-biter)	
nail down	get a clear answer, find out , pin down	I've checked the books, but I can't nail down the reason for the loss. I can't find the error.
nail him	hit him, hurt him, stop him	They want to nail him because he beat up on Tommy.
nail in your coffin	(See another nail in your coffin)	
nail it down	complete it, finalize it, close a deal	Don't spend too long on a sale. Try to nail it down quickly.
naked as a jay bird	no clothes on, bare naked, in the nude	A boy had taken my clothes, so there I stood, naked as a jay bird!
naked eye	(See the naked eye)	
name-dropper	one who implies famous people are his friends, drop a name	That name-dropper! He spoke of Gordon Lightfoot as his friend.
name is cleared	name is not involved in a scandal or a crime	The lawyer thinks I should leave town until my name is cleared.
name is mud	name is bad, name is not respected	If you don't pay for the support of your child, your name is mud.
nary a word	not a word, nothing	When I asked the boy a question, he said nothing - nary a word.
natural high	feeling good from having nutritious food or exercise	After swimming, she would often experience a natural high.
nature calls	need to go the washroom, have to go	When nature calls, just say you have an important appointment.
navel-gazing	sitting and looking at your own navel, contemplating your own existence	"Have you nothing better to do than to sit there navel-gazing?" "No."
nay	no, nope	"Should Tom be our team leader?" "Nay."
neat	fine, well designed, cool	What a neat car! It's small but roomy - and comfortable!
necessity is the mother of invention	our needs cause us to invent devices, build a better mousetrap	Do you think the invention of TV proves that necessity is the mother of invention?
neck	kiss and hug, make out , make whoopee	For me, necking is a memory from my teenage years.
neck and neck	running at the same speed, even-steven , side by side	It was neck and neck all the way - then Jordy won the race by leaning forward at the finish line!
neck of the woods	area, part of the country, in these parts	In our neck of the woods, a man doesn't hit a woman.
necktie party	(See a necktie party)	
need money to make...	(See you need money to make money)	
needle	ask bothersome	She needled him with questions about his former girlfriends.

	questions, a hassle	
needless to say	it is obvious, it goes without saying	Needless to say, there are many idioms in the English language.
neither fish nor fowl	not clearly separated, a little of both	Our experiment produced a being that was neither fish nor fowl.
nerd	weird person, nut	That nerd! He spit on my toe!
nerves of steel	able to speak or act calmly when facing risk or danger	Percy has nerves of steel. He persuaded the gunman to leave.
nervous breakdown	(See breakdown)	
nest egg	money for retirement, life savings	After selling the farm, they had their nest egg - about \$200,000.
Net surfer	a person who frequently uses the Internet	Lisa is a Net surfer. She can help you get on the Internet.
Netwar	an attack on computer systems via the Internet, terrorist attacks on the Net	After 9-11, the fear is Netwar. How do we defend against attacks on computer systems that control a city's water and electricity?
never mind	do not bother to do it, do not worry, forget it	Will you help me find an idiom? Never mind. I found it.
never say die	never quit, never give up	Set your goals and try to achieve them. Work hard. Never say die.
new blood	different person, someone with new ideas	Armid retired because he feels the company needs new blood.
new kid on the block	new person in the office or in the class etc.	I'm the new kid on the block. I come from Portugal.
new lease on life	(See a new lease on life)	
new legs	young runners or players, rested players	The Geritols have a lot of old players. They need new legs.
new money	money earned recently, money that is not inherited	Bill's got a million or two - it's mostly new money.
new wave	new trend, the latest idea or fashion	Tony loves new-wave music. He buys only new-wave CD's.
Newfie	person from The Rock ; from Newfoundland	Is Gordon Pinsent a Newfie? Was he born in Newfoundland?
next of kin	closest relatives, members of the family	The police are trying to find the man's next of kin - his family.
nine lives	avoiding death often, lucky to survive	Some race-car drivers have nine lives. They often escape death.
nine times out of ten	90% of the time, very often	Jack wins at cribbage nine times out of ten. He's very lucky.
nip and tuck	a close race, having just enough to win or finish	It was a close race - nip and tuck all the way - but we won!
nip it in the bud	stop it before it grows, prevent it from spreading	If the students plan a revolt, we'll nip it in the bud.
nitpick	find unfinished details, see flaws or small errors	Deborah can find the errors. She likes to nitpick.
nitty-gritty	(See the nitty-gritty)	

nitwit	fool, dumbbell , hairbrain , half-there	When he's drunk he acts like a nitwit - like he has no sense!
no bloody way	(See no way)	
no bones about it	(See make no bones about it)	
no business	(See got no business)	
no can do	we cannot do it, no way	We can't sell you a pet tiger. Sorry, no can do.
no chancy	there is no chance of it, it cannot be done, no dice	When I asked Bill for a loan, he said, "No chancy."
no contest	one player or team wins easily, hands down	Compare the speed of light to the speed of sound. It's no contest.
no dice	no, no chance, not approved, no way	I asked Dad if we could use the car, but no dice.
no doubt	it is certain, without a doubt, no question	No doubt, you will inherit his fortune. You are the only heir.
no fair	it is not fair, one person or team has an advantage	You have six players and we have five. No fair!
no-frills	without unnecessary additions or luxuries	We just booked a no-frills motel room in Toronto.
no fucking way [B]	(See no way)	
no great shakes	not special, not superior, not so hot	I've tasted Granny apples. They're no great shakes.
no guff	it is the truth, no kidding , no shit [B]	I swam across the lake. No guff.
no hard feelings	no feelings of anger or resentment, no grudges	Dad and Paul argue about politics but there are no hard feelings.
no holds barred	try anything, no rules apply	In a street fight, it's no holds barred. There are no rules.
no kidding	I am serious, I am not joking	Keith's my brother. No kidding. I'm telling you the truth.
no let-up	continuing strong, not diminishing	There was no let-up in the traffic. The cars kept coming.
no love lost	(See there's no love lost)	
no match for	not as strong as, not an equal competitor	European basketball teams were no match for the Dream Team.
no matter how you slice it	it does not matter how you look at it	No matter how you slice it, we have to hire more help.
no news is good news	if there is no news there is still a chance of good news	The doctor hasn't phoned. No news is good news.
no nonsense	serious, not joking, strictly business	Gil is a very serious person - a no-nonsense kind of guy.
no offense, but...	do not be insulted but..., don't get me wrong	No offense, but I was here first. I hope you understand.
no pain, no gain	to improve, exercise until your muscles ache	A sign on our gym wall reads No Pain, No Gain!
no problem (no prob)	it was not a problem, don't mention it	"Thank you," I said. "No problem," she replied.
no qualms	no doubts, no hesitation	She has no qualms about dating married men. She doesn't care.
no question	it is certain, no doubt	"No question of its quality," he said, examining the watch.

no questions asked	you will not be asked to explain or pay	If he returns the stolen car, there will be no questions asked.
no rest for the wicked	wicked people must work long hours as a penalty, what did I do to deserve...	When I told the men there was another truck to unload, Per said, "No rest for the wicked, eh."
no rhyme or reason	no sense, no logical plan	There's no rhyme or reason to the game of golf. It's stupid!
no rush	do not hurry, take your time	"When does he want his car?" "He left a note saying no rush, so do the other cars first."
no shit [B]	it is true, no kidding	We drove from Calgary to Regina in seven hours - no shit.
no-show	someone who does not attend	There were two no-shows on the class list. All but two attended.
no shrinking violet	a bold woman, not a timid woman	Barb will defend her rights. She's no shrinking violet.
no skin off my nose	no bother to me, will not hurt me	If he doesn't come to my party it's no skin off my nose.
no slouch	quite skilled or talented, not half bad	Cora doesn't brag, but she's no slouch when it comes to tennis.
no sweat	not a problem, no trouble, no prob	"Thanks for the help, Ryan." "No sweat, man."
no truth to it	lacking any reliable information, a pack of lies	When Gary tells you about his hiking adventures, don't believe a word. There's no truth to it.
no use for	no respect for, no desire to own	I have no use for STAR products because they are not reliable.
no way	no, do not try, it is not possible	When he told me to jump off the train, I said, "No way, man."
no word	no news, no reply, no phone call or letter	We've had no word from Denise and Guy. I hope they're okay.
nobody's fool	wise or intelligent person, been around	Joe is nobody's fool. He's intelligent and experienced.
none of your lip	do not be rude, don't talk back	"You can't boss me," Bobby said. "None of your lip, boy!" I replied.
none the worse for wear	not hurt or damaged, still in good condition, okay	The immigrants were none the worse for wear after their wagon trip across the prairie.
nookie [B]	intercourse, sex, poontang	My man! All he wants is nookie!
nope	no, nay	"Want to paint the fence?" "Nope."
nose is out of joint	she is upset, he is not pleased	Ed's nose is out of joint because the Liberals lost the election.
nosebag	food, something to eat, fill your face	I'm hungry. It's time to put on the nosebag.
not	not a good idea, forget it	"Maybe we should buy a Lada." "Not."
not a question of	(See it's not a question of)	
not all it's cracked up...	(See all it's cracked up to be)	
not all there	retarded, slow to learn, one brick short...	Sometimes Vincent acts kind of strange - like he's not all there.
not at all	it was no trouble at all, don't mention it , no prob	"Thank you for helping us find our dog," Dad said. "Not at all," the man replied.

not by a long shot	very little chance, not likely	That horse won't win, not by a long shot. It's old and slow.
not by any stretch of the imagination	not adding to the story, not stretching it	Gigi wasn't his only girl, not by any stretch of the imagination.
not feeling myself	not feeling well, under the weather	I'm not feeling myself these days. I'm tired all the time.
not for all the tea in China	no; never; not if you gave me all the tea in China	"Would you like to live in space?" "No. Not for all the tea in China!"
not half bad	quite good, better than expected	Have you seen Honey, I Ate The Kids? It's not half bad, actually.
not likely	very little chance, improbable, a slim chance	"Do you think we'll win the prize?" the boy asked. "Not likely," his dad replied
not long for this world	soon will die, do not have long to live	When Lee had the flu, he said, "I'm not long for this world."
not on your life	no; it is dangerous; no way	"Can I shoot your gun?" I asked. "Not on your life," she replied.
not on your tintype	no, never, not on your life	Mom said, "You're not going to Vegas - not on your tintype!"
not playing with a full deck	not rational, not all there	People say he's not stable - that he's not playing with a full deck.
not so hot	not special, not superior, no great shakes	I went to hear Le Gang last night. They're not so hot.
not speaking	not friendly, not speaking to each other	Emily and Pam had a fight. They're not speaking.
not to worry	do not worry, no sweat	"I dropped my ice cream!" "Not to worry. There's more."
not too shabby	quite good, better than average	Have you seen the new Camaro? It's not too shabby.
not with it	not feeling right, out of it	I'm just not with it these days. I lack energy and confidence.
not worth a plugged nickel	worthless, good for nothing	In 1930, stocks weren't worth a plugged nickel - nothing!
notch below	(See a notch below)	
nothing succeeds like success	one success leads to more success	This is the first rule of learning: Nothing succeeds like success.
nothing to it	(See there's nothing to it)	
nothing to sneeze at	of good quality, do not ignore it	That was a nice apartment - nothing to sneeze at.
nothing to write home about	not special or spectacular, no great shakes	He's a nice guy, but nothing to write home about.
nothing ventured, nothing gained	if you try nothing, you will gain nothing; go for it	We've decided to start a business. As the old saying goes, Nothing ventured, nothing gained.
now or never	(See it's now or never)	
nuke	heat in a microwave oven, zap	If you nuke a potato, it cooks in about seven minutes.
nukes	nuclear arms, nuclear weapons	He opposes the building of more nukes - like nuclear bombs.
number is up	(See your number is up)	
number one	the best, the winner, top	"We're number one!" the crowd shouted when we won the game.

	dog	
numbskull	idiot, foolish person, dimwit , dipstick	Why did he call me a numbskull? I'm not stupid.
nut	a person who acts crazy or foolish	You nut! Wearing that wig makes you look like a British judge.
nut bar, nut case	(See a nut case)	
nut house	mental hospital, psychiatric ward, loony bin	They took Hans to the nut house when he taped paper wings to his arms and tried to fly.
nuts	crazy, around the bend , off your rocker	If that phone rings once more I'll go nuts!
nuts	oh no, darn , rats , sheesh	When he doesn't catch the ball, he says, "Nuts!"
nuts about	likes a lot, passionate, crazy about	Helen is nuts about Mozart. She loves his piano concertos.
nutty as a fruit cake	funny, kooky , mad as a hatter	Do I know Karl? Yes, I do. He's nutty as a fruit cake!

O

odd one	(See the odd one)	
odds and ends	small pieces that are not used, tie up loose ends	When you build the fence, save the odds and ends to make toys.
odds-on favorite	(See the odds-on favorite)	
of course you can	you can do it; yes, you can	"I can't read this fat book." "Of course you can, Johnny."
of the lot	of the group, of the bunch	This rug is the best of the lot. It's nicer than the others.
of two minds	having two opinions, mixed feelings	Speaking of abortion, I'm of two minds: pro choice and pro life.
off	sour, spoiled	The cream tastes a bit off. I think we should buy fresh cream.
off-beat	different, unusual	His condo has an off-beat design. There's a shower in the kitchen.
off color	bad, dirty, impolite	His wife gets so embarrassed when he tells an off-color joke.
off key (music)	not at the right pitch, not in tune	He has a beautiful voice, but wasn't he singing a bit off key?
off kilter	off balance, not straight, out of whack	One of the poles was off kilter. It was leaning toward the road.
off my back	(See get off my back)	
off the bat	(See right off the bat)	
off the beaten track	not on the main road, out of the way	I like to explore places that are off the beaten track - wild places.
off the cuff	quickly, without thinking	Off the cuff, I'd say there are 75 applicants. That's my guess.
off the deep end	(See go off the deep end)	
off the hook	not charged with a crime, not obligated, let off	The police found the murderer, which lets Louis off the hook.
off the kitchen etc.	leading from the kitchen, attached to the kitchen	The laundry room is off the kitchen - very convenient.
off the mark	not correct, wrong	His answer is a bit off the mark. Canada Day is July 1, not July 4.
off the record	not to be reported, not official	What the President said is not to be printed. It's off the record.
off the shelf	from the store shelf, run of the mill	It isn't a special gift, just an off-the-shelf radio with batteries.
off the top of my head	without thinking carefully, off the cuff	Off the top of my head, I believe the US has 50 states.
off the wagon	drinking again, drunk again	He's off the wagon again. He started drinking last night.
off the wall	unrelated, unusual, off topic	His idea of selling time is really off the wall - quite strange.
off to a bad start	not a good start, a poor beginning	The class got off to a bad start because the teacher was sick.
off to a good start	a successful beginning, away to the races	Jim's off to a good start in math. He has the basic skills.
off to the races	moving quickly ahead, off to a good start	When we get our business loan, we'll be off to the races.

off topic	not on the chosen topic, not related to the topic	If you're writing about dogs, flowers are off topic.
off with	remove clothing or a covering	Off with your overcoat, Ben. Stay and visit awhile.
off with you	leave, go, skidaddle	Off with you, girl, or you'll be late for school
off your high horse	(See get off your high horse)	
off your rocker	crazy, not rational, around the bend	You gave away your piano? You're off your rocker!
offer I couldn't refuse	(See an offer I couldn't refuse)	
offhand	casual, without much thought, off the cuff	I didn't think before I spoke. It was an offhand remark.
offside (hockey)	going into the opponent's zone ahead of the puck	Wayne scored a beautiful goal, but Kurri was offside on the play.
oh my gosh	oh no, oh dear, darn , rats	Oh my gosh! I've lost my keys!
oilpatch	the local oil industry, the oil business	Calgary's oilpatch does not control the price of oil and gas.
okay, OK	fine, good, cool	It's okay with me if your friends come to play.
okay, OK	yes, alright	"Can I borrow your sweater?" "OK - if I can use your cell phone."
Old Boys' Club	a group of wealthy old men with political power	For City approval, talk to Craig. He's in the Old Boys' Club.
old coot	an old man, geezer	That old coot, as you call him, is a person with feelings.
old flame	a former lover, an old sweetheart	In Toronto, I met an old flame. We were lovers many years ago.
old goat	an old man, a cranky man	Henry Wilson - that old goat - told the kids to get off his lawn.
old hat	an old idea or fashion, passé	Sunday picnics are old hat. They're not popular now.
old man	(See my old man)	
old money	an inheritance, money that has been in the family for decades	She bought that property with old money - money that her great-grandfather saved.
old wives' tale	a myth, an old story that contains little truth	One old wives' tale says that goose fat will cure a cold.
on a full stomach	with a stomach full of food, soon after eating a meal, on an empty stomach	I've heard that it's not a good idea to run or do strenuous exercise on a full stomach.
on a lark	carefree, happy in a natural way	It's fun to be with him when he's on a lark - when he's carefree.
on a pedestal	in the position of a hero, in a high place	If you put your girlfriend on a pedestal, she won't respect you.
on a roll	having good luck, lucky streak	I'm gonna play bingo all night. I'm lucky - I'm on a roll!
on a silver platter	like a beautiful gift, served in style	Success won't come on a silver platter. You have to work for it.
on a string	controlled by a person, wrapped around his finger	He's got you on a string, Bonny. Are you thinking for yourself?
on about	(See go on about)	
on all fours	on your hands and knees, crawling around	There was Julie, on all fours, looking for her contact lens.
on an empty	without food in your	He never has a drink on an empty stomach. He says it

stomach	stomach, on a full stomach	affects his appetite.
on approval	taking a purchase home to decide if you want it	I buy clothes on approval so I can return them if they don't fit.
on behalf of	representing a group, acting for a group	He presented the award to me on behalf of the community club.
on board	loaded on a vehicle, riding on a boat etc.	Two thousand passengers were on board the ship to Canada.
on cloud nine	very happy, riding high	When Bev received her diploma, she was on cloud nine.
on deck	next in order, next to bat	Gary's at bat; Tim's on deck.
on drugs	using drugs, do drugs	"Do you know he's on drugs?" "Yes. His eyes look blank."
on edge	not relaxed, nervous, anxious, edgy	Gina's a little on edge. She gets her test results back today.
on even terms	having equal skills, having the same ability	When we play chess, we're on even terms. We're both average.
on fire	eager, energetic, all fired up , gung ho	When he began working here, he was on fire - very enthusiastic.
on good terms	in a good relationship, able to talk and work with	Steve is on good terms with all his co-workers. They like him.
on his last legs	very tired or old, at the end of his career	Gordie was on his last legs, but he could still shoot hard.
on his tail	following him closely, chasing him	The thief knew the police would follow him. They'd be on his tail.
on in years	(See get on in years)	
on loan	borrowed, signed out	The book you want is on loan to someone else until May 12.
on moral grounds	based on what is right and wrong	We refuse to accept money from drug dealers - on moral grounds.
on my back	criticizing me, on my case , ride me	The coach is on my back about missing the game last week.
on my best behavior	being polite to everyone, behaving in an appropriate manner	I promised my mother that I will be on my best behavior at her wedding. I will be a very good boy.
on my case	looking for my mistakes, criticizing me	The coach is on my case again, yelling at me to play harder.
on my deathbed	nearly dead, very ill, at death's door	I was so sick, I thought I was on my deathbed.
on my good side	to become my friend, in my good books	He says nice things to me, hoping to get on my good side.
on my plate	on my schedule, on my list of duties or tasks	I have too much on my plate right now. I'm too busy.
on my way	continue my journey, departing	Before I leave, I'd like a cup of coffee. Then I'll be on my way.
on my word	(See upon my word)	
on our last legs	nearly dead or bankrupt, nearly done for	Financially, we were on our last legs. We couldn't get a loan.
on parade	walking in a parade, displaying	When Jack's on parade, he marches straight and tall.
on parole	still supervised, not free of prison	He's on parole now. He can leave the prison during the day.
on pins and needles	waiting anxiously, worried	Mom will be on pins and needles until we arrive. She'll be worried.

on probation	becoming a permanent employee, proby	As an employee on probation, you will be learning new skills.
on purpose	for a reason, intentional	Did she drop her glove on purpose - so he would find it?
on queer street	dizzy or stunned, not acting normal	After he hit me I felt like I was on queer street - I was dazed.
on schedule	within the dates on the plan, on target	They arrived on Mars on June 11, which means they're on schedule.
on shaky ground	missing a proper foundation, prone to fail	"If you don't start learning for your next exam now, you'll be on shaky ground."
on short notice	without much warning, at a moment's notice	Can you come to work on short notice? Within a day or two?
on side	for our side, supporting our group	In order to have a majority, we need to bring the clerks on side.
on speaking terms	not friendly but saying hello etc.	Louise and I are not friends, but we're on speaking terms.
on tap	available from the tap on a keg of beer or ale	There was a red neon sign in the window: COLD BEER ON TAP
on target	done by the planned date, on schedule	If we can complete the drawings by Monday, we'll be on target.
on tenterhooks	carefully, cautiously, afraid to move	He's cautious since his accident. He drives around on tenterhooks.
on the back burner	to be done later, not as important	The playground project is on the back burner until next spring.
on the ball	smart, intelligent, bright , sharp	Max has a lot on the ball. He can solve our problem.
on the bandwagon	helping, supporting, on side	Get on the bandwagon, folks! Our man is going to be Premier!
on the beat	on the job, working, doing a task or assignment	A journalist must be on the beat, working among the people and telling their stories.
on the books	listed, accounted for	Is it legal to sell items that aren't on the books - that aren't listed?
on the bright side	positive, optimistic	Chan is positive. He always looks on bright side of things.
on the brink	close, almost there, on the verge	Their marriage is failing. They're on the brink of divorce.
on the bubble	between the ones that pass and fail, may be included or excluded	There are seven applicants. Two will be interviewed, three will not, and two are on the bubble.
on the button	correct, accurate, dead on , spot on	When Fern guessed my age, she was right on the button: 39.
on the carpet	asked to explain a mistake, give me the third degree	Tom's on the carpet because he lost company documents.
on the clock	o'clock, at the time showing on the clock	"Did you come to work on time, Michael?" "Yes, sir. At eight on the clock, sir."
on the cutting edge	(See the cutting edge)	
on the dot	exactly on time, not early or late	The concert started at 7:30 on the dot.
on the double	quickly, now, move it	Coach Keyser said, "Sutton, get over here - on the double!"
on the edge	very interested in a movie,	The movie The Firm will have you on the edge of your

of your seat	feeling suspense in a story	seat.
on the fence	(See sit the fence)	
on the fringe	not familiar, radical, not mainstream	The Canasaurus Party is new - definitely on the fringe.
on the fritz	not operating, broken, out of order	The VCR is on the fritz again. We can't watch videos tonight.
	Several conjectures about the origin can be found on www.worldwidewords.org/ga/ga-ont4.htm	
on the go	busy, not stopping to rest	We've been on the go all day, shopping and preparing food.
on the ground floor	(See get in on the ground floor)	
on the heels	immediately after, following	On the heels of the typhoon was a five-day rain.
on the lam	running away from the police, lay low	When he's not in jail, he's on the lam - always running.
on the limp	limping, walking with a leg injury	Norman is on the limp today. He sprained his ankle playing ball.
on the loose	free, running around, not in a pen or cage	The zoo notified the media that a giraffe is on the loose.
on the make	looking for romance or sex	Most of the men in the bar were on the make, looking for action.
on the mark	accurate, correct, dead on , spot on	Your answer is right on the mark. Canada became a country in 1867.
on the market	ready to sell, for sale, up for sale	Yes, our house is on the market. We want to sell it by October 1.
on the mend	healing, becoming healthy again	Jake's had open-heart surgery, but he's on the mend.
on the money	correct, accurate, on the mark , spot on	Your answer is on the money. You win a new Honda!
on the move	moving, going from place to place	The caribou are on the move again, migrating to find food.
on the outs	not friendly, not speaking	Amy and Pat are on the outs. They had a fight.
on the QT	as a secret, not to be told to anyone	I'm telling you this on the QT. Please don't tell anyone.
on the rails	operating smoothly, on track	Troy helped me get back on the rails when I was depressed.
on the rise	increasing, growing	The number of female engineers is on the rise - more every year.
on the road	going toward, improving, on the mend	Jill is feeling much better today. She's on the road to recovery.
on the run	very busy, having much to do, on the go	I've been on the run since early this morning. What a busy day!
on the run	running from the police, running from a problem	He's been on the run ever since he robbed a bank in Tulsa.
on the same wavelength	understanding each other, communicating clearly	I understand Ted's beliefs. We're on the same wavelength.
on the shit list [B]	on the list to be punished, in your bad books	Greg's on the shit list because he missed the sales meeting.
on the side	extra, in addition, under the table	By typing reports and resumes, I earned a few dollars on the side.
on the sly	secretly, illegally	Phil was selling cigarettes to his friends on the sly.

on the spot	immediately, at that time and place, then and there	He admitted the accident was his fault and wrote me a check for the damage on the spot.
on the spur of the moment	immediately, impulsively	On the spur of the moment we decided to drive to Banff.
on the stand	on the witness stand, testifying in court	Jack was on the stand today. He told the court what he saw.
on the table	offered, proposed	Our offer is on the table: a 7% increase in salary for the clerks.
on the take	stealing, robbing	A week after he got out of jail, he was on the take again.
on the throne	sitting on the toilet, in the john	Archie's on the throne. He'll be down in a few minutes.
on the tip of my tongue	almost able to recall, beginning to remember	Her name is on the tip of my tongue. It begins with K.
on the up and up	legal, within the law, not underhanded	If a company gives away cars, can it be on the up and up?
on the verge	close, nearly, almost doing it	Our baby is on the verge of talking. She said, "Da-da."
on the wagon	not drinking liquor, not getting drunk	The old man is on the wagon. He promised he wouldn't drink.
on the wane	decreasing, diminishing	The number of men who smoke is on the wane. It's decreasing.
on the whole	generally, considering the whole group or situation	On the whole, women are making progress toward equal status.
on the wing	flying, in flight	Canada geese were on the wing, going south for the winter.
on the wing	without a plan, creating as you go, wing it	Paul can perform on the wing - he has a great imagination!
on thin ice	in a risky position, in danger	His grades are very low in this course. He's on thin ice.
on time	not late, at the scheduled time	Mary is always on time. She is very punctual.
on top of	informed, prepared, up on	Addie stays on top of math by doing problems every day.
on track	in the right direction, on the rails	After a few problems, our project is back on track.
on trial	in court as a defendant, defending your actions	The man charged with the assault is on trial now. He's in court.
on vacation	having a holiday from work or school	I don't feel like getting up early when I'm on vacation.
on your ass [B]	wrong, misinformed, all wet	He doesn't know how to manage a business. He's on his ass!
on your deathbed	very ill, nearly dead	When I get a cold, you think I'm on my deathbed. Relax.
on your guard	careful, cautious	Be on your guard when you buy a used car - don't buy a lemon.
on your own	independent, supporting yourself	When you're on your own, you can stay out all night if you wish.
on your side	supporting you and your efforts	"I'm on your side," Kelly said. "I want you to pass this course."
on your toes	ready, alert	I have to be on my toes in her class. I have to listen and think.
on your way	traveling, leaving, on the	You can be on your way as soon as the tire is repaired.

	road home	
once-over	(See give it the once-over)	
once in a blue moon	very seldom, rarely, in a long time	"Have you heard from Paul?" "Once in a blue moon he calls, maybe once a year."
once upon a time	a long time ago, at one time	Once upon a time, there was a king named Arthur...
one and the same	the same as, not different, part and parcel	Some people believe abortion and murder are one and the same thing.
one at a time	one then another, one by one	Don't push, kids! It's one at a time.
one born every minute	many easy customers, lots of suckers	"There's lots of suckers," he said. "There's one born every minute!"
one brick short of a full load	mentally slow, not all there	I'm okay, but you may be one brick short of a full load. Ha ha.
one by one	one then another; one at a time , single file	One by one the children entered the shelter.
one false move	one move to get away or call for help	"One false move and you're dead," the gunman said to his hostage.
one fell swoop	(See in one fell swoop)	
one for the money, two for the show...	prepare to go or run, children's countdown	Before bedtime, Dad would say, "One for the money..."
one for the road	one drink or kiss etc. before you leave	If you have one for the road, have a cup of coffee (or a kiss).
one hell of a time	one very difficult task, one major problem, a hell of a time	I think that bull knew we were taking him to market. We had one hell of a time getting him into the truck!
one man's garbage is another man's art	each person has different likes and dislikes, to each his own	You pick up what somebody throws away, so one man's garbage is another man's art.
one man's meat is another man's poison	one person likes what another person hates, to each his own	Some people love his music; others hate it. One man's meat is another man's poison.
one of the boys	a typical member of the group, a regular guy	Roger is one of the boys, eh. He's always ready to play or help.
one on one	one player against one player	I like it when the coach lets us go one on one in soccer practice.
one-track mind	tendency to think about only one subject	My son has a one-track mind these days. He thinks only about cars.
onto something	found some important information	Nick looks very confident. I think he's onto something.
onto us	knows that we are doing bad things, wise to us	The doorman is onto us. He knows we didn't buy a ticket.
oodles	lots, more than we need, scads	"Do we have enough salad?" "Yes. Oodles!"
open a can of worms	(See can of worms)	
open a window	find a new way of looking at a topic or problem	That idea opens a window on the causes of war. What do you see?

open and shut	easy to judge, not complex	If either spouse admits adultery, divorce is an open and shut case.
open mind	(See keep an open mind)	
open season	legal to hunt or kill at this time	Nancy said there should be an open season on sex offenders.
open some doors	provide opportunities, help someone succeed	I'm hoping my college diploma will open some doors.
open to criticism	in a position that can be criticized, vulnerable	If you become a politician you will be open to criticism.
open to question	not clearly correct, debatable	Your decision to allow liquor at the party is open to question.
open up	talk openly, express feelings	When we become friends, I'll open up with you - I'll share.
open up a big can of whoop-ass	punish, discipline, whup your ass	If you don't stop jumping on the couch, I am going to open up a big can of whoop-ass!
other fish to fry	(See bigger fish to fry)	
ounce of prevention	(See an ounce of prevention)	
out and out	bold, not hidden, a bare-faced lie	The advertisement was an out-and-out lie. It contained no truth.
out cold	unconscious, knocked out	Liam is out cold. A baseball hit him on the side of the head.
out for blood	trying to defeat or hurt, seeking revenge	The Jets are out for blood tonight because they lost 7-0 last night.
out in left field	not logical or sensible, all wet	Don't listen to his advice. He's out in left field.
out in the cold	not included in a group, not invited	He was left out in the cold because of his religious beliefs.
out loud	loud enough to hear, spoken clearly	Dad was very angry, but he didn't swear out loud.
out of	have no more, have none, run out	Stop at the bakery, please. We're out of bread.
out of bounds	off the playing field, across boundary lines	Ramone kicked the soccer ball over my head and out of bounds.
out of breath	short of breath, puffing, out of breath	She was out of breath after climbing the stairs.
out of circulation	not visiting, don't get around	I've been out of circulation. I've been studying.
out of commission	not operating, out of order	My brain is out of commission. I can't think today.
out of context	taken out of the sentence, missing important words	Brian's comment, "Roll of the dice," was taken out of context.
out of control	not managed, wild, not under control	The crowd was out of control. People were fighting and looting.
out of hand	not controlled or disciplined	The children got out of hand. I couldn't control them.
out of harm's way	out of danger, in a safe place	Jerry parked the car off the road - out of harm's way.
out of here (outa here)	going, leaving	When I get paid, I'm outa here.
out of his	not trained, too deep for	He was out of his element when they began discussing

element	him	DNA.
out of hock	not having debts, not owing any money	We paid off our mortgage today. It feels good to be out of hock.
out of it	not feeling right, not with it	For some reason, I'm out of it today. I have no energy.
out of joint	(See nose is out of joint)	
out of kilter	(See off kilter)	
out of line	not showing respect, not polite	Ty was out of line when he called you a hooker.
out of luck	nothing left for you, shit out of luck [B]	We're out of luck. There are no tickets left.
out of my depth	not having the knowledge, over my head	I was out of my depth talking about genetics with the doctors.
out of my hair	not bothering me, not a problem for me	Next week the kids will be back at school - out of Mom's hair.
out of my head	crazy, out of your mind , wacko	I must have been out of my head to lend him my car. I was crazy.
out of nowhere	without warning, without an introduction	Out of nowhere a motorcycle passed us, going like a bullet.
out of order	not operating, broken	The stamp machine is out of order. I think it's broken.
out of our hands	not able to change or control the result	The decision is out of our hands. The voters will decide who wins.
out of patience	having no more patience, lose patience	I'm out of patience with the kids. They're fighting all the time.
out of place	in the wrong place, not appropriate	I felt out of place wearing shorts in the dining room.
out of pocket	expense paid from personal funds	Larry is out of pocket for the team lunch at McDonald's.
out of range	too far away, not close enough	The FM station is out of range of my radio. The signal is weak.
out of sight (outa sight)	too much, too high	The price was outa sight! They wanted \$200 for a nylon jacket.
out of sight	too far away to see, not visible anymore	He watched the plane until it was a speck. Then it was out of sight.
out of sight, out of mind	if you do not see it you will forget about it	When I moved away, I forgot her - out of sight, out of mind, eh.
out of sorts	feeling negative, down , in a funk	Andre is out of sorts because he didn't get enough sleep.
out of step	not with the others, not designed for today	Your business plan is out of step with the 21st century. It's old.
out of the ball park	not close to the correct number or price	Few people will buy your product if the price is out of the ball park.
out of the blue	not expected, not on topic	Then out of the blue, he says, "What color are your shorts?"
out of the closet	not hiding your sexual orientation or secret	Jay decided to come out of the closet - to tell people he's gay.
out of the corner of my eye	at my far right or left, to the side	Out of the corner of my eye, I saw something move. It was the cat.
out of the goodness of my heart	because I am kind, because I want to help	I help her out of the goodness of my heart. I don't want to be paid.
out of the loop	not included on the list, not in the loop	Ever since I moved across town I've been out of the loop. Nobody tells me the news anymore.

out of the norm	not normal, not common	Having six husbands at the same time is out of the norm, eh.
out of the picture	not a factor, not competing or playing	Mario returned to Italy, so he's out of the picture. He's gone.
out of the question	not possible, no way	Because of the storm, traveling by car is out of the question.
out of the way	off the road or path, not blocking or obstructing	"Get out of the way!" he shouted. "Here come the runners!"
out of the way	done, no longer a problem, over with	Our Christmas shopping is finally done - out of the way.
out of the way	off the main road, off the beaten track	Rumsey is an out-of-the-way town, just east of the river.
out of the woods	out of difficulty, not in danger any more	Pedro survived the heart surgery, but he's not out of the woods yet.
out of the woodwork	from hidden places, from unknown places	Gas at 40¢ per litre will bring customers out of the woodwork.
out of this world	excellent, very delicious	Naomi is an excellent cook. Her carrot cake is out of this world!
out of touch	not communicating, not in touch	I'm not sure where Diane lives. We've been out of touch.
out of touch	not aware of reality, head in the clouds	He's been doing drugs. He's completely out of touch.
out of tune (music)	not at the correct pitch, not in tune	The violins were out of tune, but I enjoyed the singing.
out of whack	not aligned, poorly constructed, off kilter	The door doesn't close properly. Something is out of whack.
out of wind	short of breath, winded, out of breath	After running the race he was out of wind - exhausted.
out of work	not employed, unemployed, laid off	Lyle is out of work, so he stays at home with the kids.
out of your gourd	(See out of your mind)	
out of your mind	not thinking logically, crazy, crackers	You must be out of your mind to lend him money. You're crazy.
out of your tree	crazy, loony, nuts , out of your mind	You're out of your tree if you think I'm going sky diving.
out on a limb	in a dangerous place, taking a chance (see take a chance)	I went out on a limb and said that you would donate \$1000.
out on the town	enjoying the city's entertainment	On Saturday night, let's go out on the town and have a good time.
out to get you	wanting revenge, waiting for a chance to get even	Ever since I beat him at table tennis he's been out to get me.
out to lunch	not working effectively, not with it	The Service Manager is out to lunch. He's not helpful.
out to win	wanting to win, competitive	When Jon plays checkers, he's out to win. He's a competitor.
outdo yourself	perform better than before, do your personal best	Don't try to outdo yourself every time you run. Just jog sometimes.
outplay	play better than the opponent	The Flames outplayed the Kings in the third period of the game.
over and done with	done and forgotten, out of the way	We were glad when the trial was over and done with - finished.

over and out	message complete, signing off	"Over and out," the radio operator said when he completed his call.
over easy	eggs fried on both sides without breaking the yolks	"How would you like your eggs?" "Over easy, please - on toast."
over my dead body	do not try to do it, I'll stop you	"I want to marry your sister." "Over my dead body!"
over my head	I do not understand, too deep for me	That lesson went over my head. Did you understand it?
over the edge	become ill or unable to cope, around the bend	Poor Ernst went over the edge when his twin brother died.
over the hill	too old, on his last legs	At 35, he was over the hill - too old to play pro soccer.
over the hump	past the difficult part, into an easier phase	After saving \$2000, I was over the hump. I could pay the tuition.
over the rainbow	eccentric, weird, a bit off , spinny	Aunt Freda? She's been over the rainbow for years, poor lady.
over the top	too much, exaggerated, ham it up , a send-up	His interpretation of Hamlet was over the top. Hamlet is a tragic figure, not a comic figure.
over with	completed, finished, over and done with	Now that the trial is over with, we can return to a normal life.
overdo it	work too hard, become too tired	The doctor said I can work in the garden if I don't overdo it.
owly	cranky, unco-operative, negative	When Herb gets drunk he gets owly - kind of stubborn.
own medicine	giving what you got, tit for tat	She hurt me so I'll hurt her - give her some of her own medicine!
own up	admit a mistake, come clean	If Jason is involved in the crime, he'll own up. He'll tell the police.
own worst enemy	create our own problems, prevent our own success	A smoker is his own worst enemy. He's harming himself.

P

P's and Q's	(See watch your P's and Q's)	
pack a punch	hit hard, have a strong effect	Here's a word that packs a punch: <i>guilty</i> .
pack a rod	carry a hand gun, have a gun on a belt	The boys knew that one of the students was packing a rod.
pack it in	quit, leave, pull the pin	"What if you don't get paid?" "I'll pack it in. I'll quit."
pack Uzis	carry automatic rifles, have powerful weapons	The news report stated that the soldiers were packing Uzis.
pad	apartment, digs	You have a nice pad, Nora. I love your leather furniture!
pad an expense account	claim more money than spent, add false expenses	How can I pad my expense account if I don't have receipts?
paddle your own canoe	be an individual, be independent	<i>Love many, trust few, but always paddle your own canoe.</i>
pain in the ass [B]	(See a pain in the ass)	
pain in the butt	(See a pain in the butt)	
paint a picture	describe in detail, portray with words	The speaker painted a picture of a ghetto with kids on the streets.
paint the town red	have a party downtown, go out on the town	During the carnival they paint the town red - have a great time.
paint with the same brush	include in the same group, generalize	He was with the gang, but can we paint him with the same brush?
pair off/pair up	find a partner, organize people in two's	The coach asked us to pair off and practise passing the ball to each other.
pale by comparison	is not as good, is not as beautiful or talented	Most European parks pale by comparison to Banff.
paltry sum	(See a paltry sum)	
pan out	succeed, go as planned, work out	Blair's ideas usually pan out. His suggestions are practical.
parachute	to lose a job and be given another, to land	A vice-president in trouble can parachute to one of several positions, or the board can create a position!

	in a safe position when your position is in danger, Bob's your uncle	
pardon me	what did you say? please repeat it	Pardon me? Did you say you grew up in Hong Kong?
part and parcel	the same as, similar, one and the same	Socialism and communism are part and parcel of the same thing.
part company	separate, go in different directions, split up	Mel and Brad parted company after they arrived in Germany.
part with	sell, allow someone else to own, let go of	Papa won't part with his Peugeot. He'd never sell it.
partners in crime	people who plan and commit crimes together, boozing buddies	As kids, Andy and I took apples from a neighbor's tree. We were partners in crime, so to speak.
party-pooper	one who leaves a party, stick-in-the-mud	You party-pooper! Stay here and dance with us.
party to that	(See a party to that)	
pass around	pass from person to person in the room, hand out	The speaker passed around a sheet of paper for us to sign.
pass away	die, pass on	Grandma passed away in 1974. She was 92.
pass for	appear similar to, look like	In that uniform, you could pass for a police officer.
pass off	offer as real or genuine, use a fake object or paper	If you pass off counterfeit money, you can be charged with a crime.
pass on	die, bite the dust , kick the bucket	Before her dad passed on, she visited him every day.
pass out	faint, become unconscious	He passed out after running the marathon. He fell on the road.
pass the buck	blame others, refer the problem to others	I won't pass the buck. I won't blame others for our problems.
pass through	drive or travel through a town	When we were passing through Regina, I called my cousin.

	or city	
pass up	not take an opportunity, not do it when you can	Do not pass up this opportunity to go back to school.
pass water	urinate, take a leak [B], take a pee [B]	The nurse came in and asked him if he'd passed water yet.
pass wind	let out gas, let a fart [B]	Mother says it's not polite to pass wind while you are eating.
passé	old fashioned, dated, old hat	It's passé to say beg your pardon. We don't hear that now.
past is slipping by without a trace	(See the past is slipping by without a trace)	
pat answer	(See a pat answer)	
pat on the back	praise, a compliment, tip of the hat	Chaya's compliment was like a pat on the back. She praised my work
patch things up	agree to stop fighting, become friends again	Jon and May fight a lot, but they patch things up and go on.
paths will cross	(See cross paths)	
pave the way	make it easier to do, prepare a path	A \$5000 scholarship paved the way for her career in medicine.
pay a compliment	say nice things about, say you did a good job	Tony paid you a compliment, Rita. He said you have a lovely garden.
pay a visit	go to visit someone, drop over	I must pay her a visit. I want to see her before we move.
pay attention	watch and listen, listen up	Pay attention to my words. Please listen carefully.
pay back	repay, return money that was borrowed	He said he would pay back every cent he borrowed from us.
pay down	pay more, pay off	Interest rates are high, so let's pay down our mortgage.
pay him back	do what he did to you, get revenge	Sally paid Harry back by going on a date with Jim.
pay in kind	(See repay in kind)	
pay my respects	attend a ceremony or send a symbol of your respect for someone	Remembrance Day allows us to pay our respects to the people who defended our country.
pay off	pay all that you	I want to pay off my loan now - pay the whole balance.

	owe, pay the balance	
pay off	reward you, give you what you want	Studying pays off. You get higher grades.
pay-off	reward, profit	We invested in property, hoping for a pay-off when we sell it.
pay the penalty	pay a fine, endure, receive punishment	He paid the penalty for his laziness: failure.
pay the price	work hard, endure, suffer	To be an Olympic athlete, you have to pay the price: pain.
pay the shot	pay the whole bill, pay for everybody's ticket etc.	Uncle Sammy paid the whole shot for our trip to Europe.
pay through the nose	pay high rates for rent or service, cost an arm...	If you rent a condo in Dover, you'll pay through the nose.
pay tribute	show that you respect or admire a person, honor someone	In a letter to Ms. Lee, the City paid tribute to her for service to her community.
pay up	pay what is owed, pay a bet you lost	When I see Todd, I'll ask him to pay up. He owes me \$20.
pay your dues	work hard and learn, be loyal for years	In the sport of rodeo, you have to pay your dues to get respect.
pay your way	pay your share of the expenses	"I don't want charity," she said. "I pay my way."
peace of mind	freedom from worry or guilt	If you want peace of mind, you should buy insurance.
peaches-and-cream	beautiful skin, clear complexion	This new lotion will give you a peaches-and-cream complexion.
peachy	fine, great, wonderful, neat	When I asked Ko if she liked her job, she said, "Yes! It's peachy!"
peanuts	small amount of money, loss of a negligible value, a paltry sum , chicken feed	"Isn't the loss of one billion worth of credits a problem for you?" "Oh, that's peanuts for a bank like us."
pecking order	from strongest to weakest, line of authority	The first thing to learn about a company is the pecking order.
pedal her ass [B]	sell sex, become a prostitute	Jane used to joke about pedaling her ass to earn extra money.
pedal to the metal	accelerator all	He always drives fast - pedal to the metal all the time.

	the way down, flat out	
peed	(See she peed)	
peek-a-boo	peek through the fingers with hands covering eyes	Shelly was playing peek-a-boo with the baby.
peep this	look at this, check this out , eyeball this	Peep this! My fingernails are as long as Dolly's!
peer sneer	an unfriendly look from a person who is the same age	When the manager praised my work, Vic gave me a peer sneer.
pell-mell	in a wild manner, in panic, harum-scarum	When the fire alarm sounded we ran pell-mell down the hall.
pen those words/lines	write those words or lines, compose that line	The medium is the message: Do you know who penned that line?
penny for your thoughts	(See a penny for your thoughts)	
penny pincher	a person who spends carefully, a thrifty person	He used to be a penny pincher, but now he spends freely.
penny wise, dollar dumb	wise in saving, foolish in spending; burn a hole in your pocket	You spent our carefully-saved money on an expensive electric organ that neither of us can play! Now that is penny wise, dollar dumb!
penny wise, pound foolish	careful with pennies but careless with pounds, penny wise, dollar dumb	Our budget is penny wise and pound foolish - we save a little on food, and waste a lot on a luxury car!
people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones	people who have faults should not criticize others	Perfect people can be critical, but people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.
perfect stranger	(See a perfect stranger)	
perk up	show interest or enthusiasm	When we mention girls, he perks up. His eyes sparkle.
pernickety/persnickety	fussy, critical of details, perfectionistic	When Dale was teenager, he was pernickety about his hair.
pet	touch intimately, kiss	Petting is a prelude to sex. It is the touch of passion.

	and caress	
peter out	gradually lose power, reduce, run out	After 6, sales began to peter out. We had fewer customers.
petrified	very frightened, scared stiff	Gigi was petrified when a spider crawled up her leg.
phase me	(See faze me)	
phase me out	(See it phased me out)	
phat	pretty hot and tempting, nice, cool	Hey, phat wheels! The WRX is a cool car.
phone-in	a radio/TV show that invites phone calls	The topic for the phone-in show was Animal Rights.
phooey	oh no, darn it , nuts , rats , shucks	Phooey! I hit my golf ball into the water again!
photo op	photo opportunity, chance to have your photo taken	Then Brian shook hands with students to create a photo op.
piano tied to your ass [B]	something preventing you from moving	If you want coffee, make some! There's no piano tied to your ass.
pick a fight	start a fight, begin an argument	If Jamie tries to pick a fight with you, just walk away.
pick holes in	criticize, look for errors or faults, nitpick	Grant won't show you his work because you pick holes in it.
pick-me-up	(See a pick-me-up)	
pick of the litter	(See the pick of the litter)	
pick on	criticize, tease, get on my case	Why is everybody picking on me? I feel like a victim.
pick up	learn, understand, catch on	We pick up the street idioms faster than the grammar, eh.
pick up	improve, increase	If business doesn't pick up soon, we'll need another loan.
pick up the pace	go a little faster, step on it	We're walking rather slowly. Can we pick up the pace?
pick up the pieces	put together again, mend	After her husband died, she tried to pick up the pieces of her life.
pick up the tab	pay the bill, pay the shot	Who picked up the tab for the hotel rooms? Who paid?
pick you up	give you a ride in a car, give	I'll pick you up at 6:45 and we'll drive to the mall.

	you a lift (see give me a lift)	
pick you up	make you feel better, make you happy or natural high	Here, have a cup of tea. That will pick you up.
pick your brains	learn what you know, ask you questions	Maria wants to pick your brains about Freud and Jung. She wants to ask you what you know about them.
pick yourself up	do not quit, persevere, roll with the punches	Don't let a failure stop you. Pick yourself up and try again.
picky	fussy, looking for the perfect one	Don't be so picky, Dennis. Just choose a candy and eat it.
picture is worth a thousand words	(See a picture is worth a thousand words)	
picture-perfect	perfectly made or performed, excellent, letter-perfect	Olga's performance on the balance beam was picture-perfect!
piddly	little, small, tiny	"What a piddly car!" "Yes. It's a Micra."
piddly-assed [B]	(See piddly)	
pie-eyed	drunk, intoxicated, hammered	Byron was pie-eyed when we got to the party. He was drunk, man.
pie in the sky	unrealistic, not practical, hairbrain , half-baked	When first invented, the car and phone were pie-in-the-sky ideas. Now we have phones in cars.
piece of ass [B]	(See a piece of ass)	
piece of cake	(See a piece of cake)	
piece of me	(See want a piece of me)	
piece of my mind	(See a piece of my mind)	
piece of piss	(See a piece of piss)	
piece of tail [B]	(See a piece of ass)	
pig	police, cop , flatfoot , fuzz	Rocky says, "There was pigs on every corner. We couldn't move."
pig in a poke	(See a pig in a poke)	
pig out	eat a lot, fill your face	Then we went to the Dairy Queen and pigged out on soft ice cream.
piggy bank	glass or porcelain pig	The little girl was counting the money in her piggy bank.

	used for saving coins	
piggyback	carried on someone's back, riding on someone's back	Jurgen loved to ride piggyback when his dad walked in the park.
piggyback	succeed on the efforts of others	A catering firm piggybacked to success on United Airlines.
pill	(See the pill)	
pilot project	the model or prototype, trial run	This solar generator is our pilot project. If it's successful we'll learn from it and build more.
pimple pole	youth with pimples, teenager with zits	Hey, pimple pole! You left your locker door open.
pin down/pin him down	get a direct answer, obtain the facts	Jed won't answer my questions. He's difficult to pin down.
pin money	extra money, money to spend on candy etc.	Janet used to earn pin money by painting signs.
pin your hopes on	hope for one big chance, hope without planning, all your eggs...	If you pin your hopes on some horse winning a race, you will probably be disappointed.
pinch	steal, rob, take what does not belong to you	When he was a boy he pinched pennies from his mom's purse.
pinch an inch	pinch an inch of fat on your body	"If I can pinch an inch, am I fat?" "No. Just pleasantly plump."
pinch-hitter (baseball)	substitute batter, extra batter	Gomez is the best pinch-hitter on the team. His average is .372.
pinch of coon shit [B]	(See a pinch of coon shit)	
pinch of salt	(See a pinch of salt)	
pinch off a loaf [B]	have a bowel movement, drop a log	"Where were you?" "In the can, pinching off a loaf."
pinch to grow an inch	(See a pinch to grow an inch)	
pine float	(See a pine float)	
pinhead	one who does not use his brain, dipstick	"Who broke your glasses?" "Some pinhead sat on them!"
pinko	a socialist; one	The pinkos want big business to pay for their social programs.

	who is not as red as a communist, nor as white as a democrat	
pinpoint	locate the exact place or point, determine the time	Lawrence is trying to pinpoint the time of the plane crash.
pins and needles	(See on pins and needles)	
pipe down	do not be so noisy, be quiet, keep it down	The teacher opened the door and said, "Pipe down, Grade 7."
pipe dream	a dream based on luck, pie in the sky	Do you have a pipe dream or a plan? There's a big difference.
pipes	voice, carry a tune	K.D. Lang has great pipes, eh.
pipsqueak	tiny person, weak man, potlicker , wimp	Keith was a pipsqueak until he started lifting weights.
pirate	steal, take someone else's property, bootleg , rabbit	His computer is loaded with pirated games and movies - all stolen.
piss away [B]	waste, spend on liquor	He pissed away a lot of money when he was an alcoholic
piss in the pickles [B]	ruin a project, wreck a piece of work	Plans for a school were OK until the Premier pissed in the pickles.
piss like a race horse [B]	have to urinate, back teeth are floating	I hope this mall has a washroom. I have to piss like a race horse.
piss off [B]	leave, go, beat it , take off	"If you don't like cigar smoke," he said, "you can piss off."
piss on them [B]	who cares about them? they are worthless	When Scotty heard you quit the team, he said, "Piss on him!"
piss parade [B]	a group of people pissing together	On bus trips we stopped for a piss parade every two or three hours.
piss poor [B]	of poor quality, not well made	Grandpa said, "That's a piss-poor tractor. Don't buy it."
piss pot full [B]	a lot, very many, more than expected	After the poker game, Sammy had a piss pot full of loonies.
piss your pants [B]	become very frightened, be very scared	The House of Horrors is so scary you'll piss your pants!
pissed [B]	angry, upset,	She was really pissed when you told her to carry your luggage.

	teed off	
pissed [B]	drunk, hammered , sloshed	When I saw her walk, I knew she was pissed. She nearly fell down.
pissed off [B]	angry, mad, pissed , ticked off	He'll be pissed off if I leave him. He'll be mad.
pissed to the gills [B]	drunk, plastered , snapped	He was pissed to the gills, so we sent him home in a taxi.
pissing into the wind [B]	working at a hopeless job, feeling futile about a task	Cleaning up an oil spill is like pissing into the wind - hopeless!
pit of my stomach	(See the pit of my stomach)	
pit stop	a brief stop to buy gas or go to the washroom	Excuse me. I have to make a pit stop before we go to the movie.
pits	(See the pits)	
place on a pedestal	(See on a pedestal)	
plain as day	easy to see, clearly visible, in broad daylight	I saw it, plain as day - Bigfoot - not twenty feet away!
plain as the nose on your face	very easy to see or understand, very clear, crystal clear	We have photos of the earth from outer space that prove the earth is round. It's plain as the nose on your face!
Plan B	the substitute for Plan A, an alternative plan	Plan A depends on getting a student loan. What is Plan B?
plastered	very drunk, hammered , looped , sloshed	After losing the fight, Jock went and got plastered.
plastic	credit cards, bank cards	I like to use plastic when I travel. I don't feel safe carrying cash.
plate is full	too much to do, cannot do any more	I'm busy writing exams. My plate is full.
play a big part	do much to help, be a main factor	The nice weather played a big part in the success of our festival.
play a bit-part	be a minor actor in a movie or a stage play	Irene played a bit-part in a movie last year. She's a good actor.
play a joke on	fool or trick someone, play	I played a joke on Ty. I phoned and said he'd won the lottery.

	a prank on	
play a mean game	play very well, play to win	Ingrid may beat you. She plays a mean game of chess.
play a part	be a cause, affect the result	His drinking played a part in his dismissal. Drinking was a cause.
play a prank on	arrange a surprise for you so people will laugh	Ty played a prank on me. He left a message to call the president.
play a trick on	deceive you for fun, play a joke on	We played a trick on Liz. We sent her picture to a beauty contest
play along	pretend to believe, go along with, let on	Lisa played along with the joke on Mark. She didn't tell him.
play around	have other mates, sleep around	She knows he's playing around, but she won't confront him.
play catch-up	try to score the number of goals the opponent has scored, catch up, too little too late	They scored four goals in the first period, and we were playing catch-up for the rest of the game.
play dead	pretend to be dead, lie down as if you are dead	If a grizzly bear attacks you, play dead and it may go away.
play dirty	play rough, break the rules, play hardball	Even if his opponents cheat and lie, Pat won't play dirty.
play dumb	act as if you do not know, play along	Play dumb when she tells you I won. Pretend you don't know.
play fair	play using rules, give everyone an equal chance	A referee will help us to play fair, to play according to the rules.
play games	deceive people, not be sincere, mind games	He's been playing games with us. We can't believe what he says.
play hard to get	pretend you do not care; you do not want him	When Tom invites you to go on a date, you could play hard to get.
play hardball	play tough, try to hurt the opponent, play dirty	If the manager wants to play hardball, show him that you are tough.
play havoc with	interfere with,	The wind played havoc with the ball, causing it to rise or fall.

	cause sudden changes	
play hooky	not attend classes, stay away from school	One spring day, some of us played hooky. We went fishing.
play into his hand	do as he planned, fall into his trap (see fall into a trap)	By accepting a ride in Paul's car, you played right into his hand.
play it by ear	play without a plan, improvise, jam	If our plans fail, we can play it by ear. We'll be creative!
play it cool	be calm, do not become excited, chill out	If Lisa tells you she's pregnant, play it cool. Don't become angry.
play it for all it's worth	get the most out of it, dramatize it, ham it up	When Uncle Saul tells a story, he plays it for all it's worth.
play it safe	be careful, do not take a chance	Play it safe when you go out in a boat. Wear a life jacket.
play it up	act like it is important, make it a big deal	If there's an argument, he plays it up. He makes it worse.
play musical chairs	move people around but not change the operation, shuffle the chairs on the deck	The government is playing musical chairs again - moving the the ministers around but not improving anything.
play my cards right	behave in the best way, do the right things	If you play your cards right at the interview, you should get the job.
play on my heart strings	cause me to feel emotional, make me feel sentimental	The movie Hey Jude will play on your heart strings. It will make you cry.
play on words	(See a play on words)	
play out	become tired or exhausted, become winded	After two sets of tennis, Ling said, "I'm played out!"
play out	happen, conclude, pan out , work out ,	Nina used to work for Ed. Now Ed works for Nina. I want to see how this plays out.
play second fiddle	accept a lower	Kirk won't play second fiddle to her. He wants to be the boss.

	position, take a back seat	
play the field	date many people, go out with various men/women	After a long relationship with Sue, he began to play the field.
play the fool	pretend you are a fool, act simple or foolish	If you play the fool, people will often tell you secrets.
play the ham	act for an audience, ham it up	After a couple of drinks, he likes to play the ham - to be a clown.
play the heavy	be the strong man or tough guy	In our gang, Don plays the heavy. He talks and acts tough.
play the ponies	bet on horses at the race track	He's lost a lot of money playing the ponies. He bets on every race.
play the stock market	buy stocks and shares, sell stocks and shares	At first he invested in real estate; then he played the stock market.
play to the crowd	play a sport just for the crowd, a hotdog	The coach wants us to play to win, not play to the crowd.
play with fire	do risky things, live dangerously, take chances	"If you play with fire," Trine explained, "you may get burned. You may get hurt."
pleased as punch	very pleased, happy about	Our minister is pleased as punch when there's a large offering.
pluck at the heart strings	cause us to feel sadness or longing, move you to tears , touch you	I'm feeling sentimental. That song is plucking at my heart strings.
plug away	work slowly and steadily, slug away	If you plug away at physics, you will eventually understand it.
plug into	become familiar with, learn to use	If he wants to be a dentist, he'll have to plug into the sciences.
plug the product	(See put in a plug for)	
plug the team	add the best players from other teams	The Flyers plugged their team with star players from the league.
plumb loco	completely crazy, crackers	After several crop failures, one farmer went plumb loco.
plump full	very full, full to the top, chock	Johnny's glass was plump full - so full he spilled some milk.

	full	
pocket Hercules	a small person with great strength	In the 1970s a guy named Stan Jonathan played for the Boston Bruins. He was small but very tough - a pocket Hercules.
pocket of resistance	(See a pocket of resistance)	
pogey	checks from employment insurance	Some guys work all summer and collect pogey all winter.
point a finger at	accuse, suggest that someone is guilty	If you aren't guilty, fine. But don't point a finger at me!
point-blank range	close range, only a few feet away	The report stated that the gorilla was shot at point-blank range.
point is well taken	opinion is true, statement is logical	Your point about smoking is well taken. It is expensive.
point of no return	(See the point of no return)	
point of view	opinion, what you think of it	This is my point of view: Religion is a private matter.
point out	tell, show, indicate	The teacher pointed out that the word run has several meanings.
pointed questions	questions that accuse, on the carpet , the third degree	"Why did you take the files?" he asked. "Stop with the pointed questions!" I replied. "I didn't take the files!"
poke fun at	laugh at, make fun of	Would you poke fun at someone who can't speak Chinese?
poker face	(See a poker face)	
pokey	jail, prison, behind bars , in the clink	Don't mention pokey in your resume. You don't want to advertise your time in jail.
polish off/polish it off	eat all of it, drink it all	Somebody polished off the last few cookies. Who ate them?
political football	a program or issue used by politicians to get votes, play political games	A day-care program is a political football. Politicians use it to get the votes of parents with babies.
politically correct	appropriate, not racist or sexist	Advertise for a salesperson. Use the politically correct term.
polluted	very drunk, loaded , plastered , wasted	Every Friday night he goes to the bar and drinks till he's polluted.
pony tail	tying the hair at the back leaving a tail of	Stan pulled on Judy's pony tail as he walked past her desk.

	hair	
pony up	contribute, give some money, do your part	Okay guys, it's time to pony up. Ten dollars will pay for a taxi into town.
poontang [B]	sex, intercourse, nookie	Listen, guys, poontang should be measured in quality, not quantity.
poop	excrement, droppings	"Please take with you what your dog brought: We need no poop in the playground."
poor as a church mouse	(See as poor as a church mouse)	
poor house	(See in the poorhouse)	
pop a cap [B]	shoot, murder, knock off	He says he's going to pop a cap in the supervisor. We've got to stop him.
pop in	visit without warning, drop in	When I'm in your part of town I'll pop in for a visit, okay?
pop over	visit for a few minutes, drop over	Why don't you pop over and see our wedding pictures?
pop the question	ask an important question, ask someone to marry you	In the old days, a man would buy the ring and then pop the question.
pop up	appear, occur, be visible	The name M. Greig kept popping up in the company records.
pop your buttons	feel very proud, be full of pride	When you received the award, did you pop your buttons?
popcorn brain	one who has not learned to think, an airhead	When I forgot my phone number they called me popcorn brain.
pope's nose	(See the pope's nose)	
positive	certain, very sure, dead certain	Are you positive it was Ming? Do you know for sure it was him?
pot	marijuana tobacco, reefer	The room smelled of tobacco, like someone had been smoking pot.
pot calling the kettle black	a guilty person accusing another guilty person	When thief accuses robber, it's the pot calling the kettle black.
pot of gold	a fortune, a lot of money	Izzy believes there's a pot of gold buried in every acre he buys.
potato sack	loose fitting jacket or clothing	Potato sack looks good on Ken. Baggy clothes suit him.
potlicker	little person, small	George - that potlicker! I can beat him with my little finger!

	competitor; originally a dog or other pet	
pound of flesh	revenge, an eye for an eye	For that insult, Simon will get revenge - his pound of flesh.
pound salt	leave, go, take off	If you don't want to play by our rules, you can pound salt, man!
pound the pavement	look for a job, walk from company to company to find a job	Carrying several copies of his resume, Tang was pounding the pavement in Vancouver.
pour it on	praise a lot, compliment too much	When Harry starts pouring it on, I know he wants something.
pour out your soul	tell your private feelings, tell all	When Zora visits, she pours out her soul to me. She tells me all about her lover.
pow	a word to describe a hit or a punch, bam	Then pow! This guy hits Cody in the stomach.
powder my nose	go to the ladies' washroom, go to the bathroom	Excuse me. I'm going to powder my nose. Are you coming, Judy?
power play (business)	a show of power, a grab for power	If a general manager demotes two managers, it's a power play.
power play (hockey)	five skaters against four or three	The Russians scored twice on their five-minute power play.
power to burn	very powerful, lots of horsepower, go like stink	That old Chev has a 454 motor. It has power to burn.
power trip	showing power, showing authority	Last week he went on a power trip and told us to work harder.
power user	a person who uses a computer a lot	Jay uses the computer about 12 hours a day. He's a power user.
powers that be	(See the powers that be)	
practice what you preach	do what you say people should do	If you want to hear truth, tell the truth. Practice what you preach.
prairie oyster	the testicle of a young bull or bull calf	Do you believe that some folks in Alberta eat prairie oysters?
praise him to the skies	praise him a lot, sing his praises	Wade is an excellent student. His teachers praise him to the skies.

pre-menstrual syndrome	emotional crises the week before menstruation, pms	Judy says pms causes most of her personal problems.
preach to the choir/preach to the converted	tell people who already know the message, talk to the wrong audience,	When I complained to the class about students who were absent, Ed reminded me that I was preaching to the choir!
prepare like crazy	prepare thoroughly, be ready for an event or test	Before I go to a job interview I prepare like crazy.
preppy	a youth who wears trendy clothes, clean cut	Brad is a preppy. He wears Polo sweaters and drives a Celica.
presence of mind	ability to think clearly and act appropriately, cool under pressure	When the bear charged the car, Jill had the presence of mind to sound the burglar alarm.
press charges	ask the police to charge someone with a crime	The police asked her if she wanted to press charges against the thief.
press into service	required to help, forced to serve	The young men were injured, so the old men were pressed into service.
press on	continue traveling, keep on going	Dumont wanted to stop at Batoche, but he pressed on to Fort Carlton.
press the panic button	become very scared, panic, freak	If a dog growls at me, I press the panic button. I scream and run.
pretty as a picture	very pretty, beautiful	"How do I look in my new dress?" "Pretty as a picture, my dear."
pretty penny	(See cost a pretty penny)	
price out	check the price of, find out the price	Before we buy a European car, we should price out parts and service.
price you have to pay	(See the price you have to pay)	
prick [B]	penis, dork , hoo-haw	When the doctor asked me where it hurt, I pointed to my prick.
prick [B]	foolish man, jerk	Only a prick would feed liquor to his pet.
pride goeth before a fall	you lose self-respect before	I think this proverb is taken from the Bible: Pride goeth before a fall.

	you do an evil deed	
prima donna	one who expects special treatment or privileges	A prima donna on our team might upset the other players.
Prince Charming	the perfect man, the ideal mate	Colin is not Prince Charming, but I love him and he loves me.
proby	an employee who is on probation, a new employee	When I was a proby, I tried to impress my supervisors.
promise the moon	promise that everything will be perfect	If you promise the moon, the kids may be very disappointed.
pronto	now, immediately, right away	You'll miss your bus if you don't leave now. Pronto!
proof of the pudding...	(See the proof of the pudding is in the eating)	
props	respect for ability or effort; derived from "proper respect"	David deserves his props for scoring points against the champion.
psych out	lose confidence, be unable to concentrate, faze me	If I think about making a mistake, I get psyched out.
psyched/psyched up	prepared, excited, pumped , up for it	Claire was psyched for the exam. She was ready for the challenge.
pub crawl	drink at many pubs in one day, bar hopping	If you go on a pub crawl today, you'll have a headache tomorrow.
Proud of	Something to be proud of	Winning a reward in assembly is his Dyed-in-the-wool
public property	what everybody knows, public information	If you tell Zora about the plan, it'll be public property.
puddlejumper	small car, subcompact	"Why did you buy that puddlejumper?" "Because it gets good gas mileage."
pull a face	wrinkle your face, make a face	Lyle is 14, but he's still a boy. He pulls a face when he's upset.
pull a few strings	help by talking to powerful	My application was late, but a friend of mine pulled a few strings and got me an interview.

	people, it's not what you know...	
pull a muscle	injure a muscle, strain a muscle, charley horse	One of our best players pulled a muscle and can't play tonight.
pull for	support, cheer for	We were pulling for your team. We're glad you won.
pull in your horns	not be so aggressive, stop attacking or criticizing	Father's advice is to pull in your horns or you could be dismissed.
pull it off	cause it to happen; succeed, win, snatch victory...	With Jean as leader of the party, the Liberals can pull it off. They can win the election.
pull it out	win just before the end; before it is too late	The score was tied, but we pulled it out with a last-minute goal.
pull out all the stops	work as hard as possible, go all-out , go for broke	You're losing this match. If you want to win, you'll have to pull out all the stops
pull punches	talk nice, ease up , take it easy on you	If the service is poor, he doesn't pull punches. He complains.
pull that	do that, do something wrong, try that	She reached for the phone to call the police, but the thief said, "Don't try to pull that."
pull the goalie (hockey)	remove the goaltender and use an extra skater	After our coach pulled the goalie we scored and tied the game.
pull the pin	quit, resign, leave, pack it in	If the company doesn't give us a raise in pay, I'm pulling the pin.
pull the plug	stop working on a project, not support any more, leave you in the lurch	When Zoe lied to Social Services they pulled the plug on her. They stopped paying her expenses.
pull the rug out	take away your help, remove your support, leave you holding the bag	Some insurance companies pull the rug out from under you when you file a claim.
pull the wool over your eyes	deceive you, trick you, fool you	Don't let him pull the wool over your eyes. He's not at the office.
pull through	recover, get well, get over the operation	The doctor didn't think he'd pull through, but he's feeling fine.
pull together	work together,	If we pull together, we can complete this project on time.

	co-operate	
pull up stakes	move away, go to live in another place	We pull up stakes when winter comes. We move to Arizona.
pull up your socks	do better, improve	He'll have to pull up his socks in math - if he wants to pass.
pull your chain	ask you what you think, ask for your opinion	If we want your opinion we'll pull your chain. We'll ask you.
pull your leg	fool you, tell you a false story as a joke	If he said Canada has a tropical climate, he was pulling your leg.
pull your weight	do your job, do your share of the work	If we all pull our weight - do our share - we can achieve our goals.
pull your wire [B]	masturbate, jerk off [B]	"Why do you pull your wire?" "Because it feels good."
pull yourself together	control your sadness, get a grip on yourself	It's difficult to pull yourself together after a divorce.
pumped/pumped up	excited about performing, ready to play	John's pumped for today's game. He really wants to play.
punch your lights out	hit you, knock you down, knock you out	If you try to kiss my girlfriend I'll punch your lights out.
puppy	a name for someone or something familiar	Your old Honda? Don't sell that puppy. It's a keeper.
puppy love	young love, love between children or teenagers	Puppy love is sweet, but it's just a step on the path to mature love
pure luck	just luck, not skill or talent	Hank won the fishing contest, but it was pure luck, not skill.
push me (to the limit)	put pressure on me, bugme too much	Don't push me. One more insult and I'll punch you.
push the boat out	work harder to complete the job, give 110% , go the extra mile	Chris, my son, to make your marriage work, sometimes, well, many times, you have to push the boat out.
push the envelope	challenge yourself, innovate, take risks , think outside the box	If we are going to lead this industry, we need to push the envelope.
push the right buttons	say the right things, do the right things	The players want to play for Pat. She pushes all the right buttons.
push your luck	(See don't	

	push your luck)	
pusher	a person who sells illegal drugs	The judge sentenced the pusher to ten years in prison.
pushing fifty	nearly 50 years old, 48 or 49 years old	Bart is pushing fifty, but he looks much younger.
pushing up daisies	dead and buried in a graveyard, deep six	Old Tom's pushin' up daisies. He died a long time ago.
pussy whipped	controlled by his wife, afraid his wife will cut him off	Tim loves his wife, but he's not pussy whipped. He has a mind of his own.
put 'em up	raise your hands, reach for the sky	Merv sticks his finger in my ribs and says, "Put 'em up."
pussyfoot around	not have the courage to say what you think, wimp	"Say what you believe!" Marilyn shouted. "Stop pussyfooting around here like we're made of crystal!"
put 'er there	let us shake hands, I want to shake hands with you	After the argument, I apologized and said, "Put 'er there, eh."
put a bug in my ear	told me secretly, a little bird told me	"Who told you I need a wallet?" "Mom put a bug in my ear."
put a different slant on it	change the way you see it, change your view, put things in perspective	If you called the police because you thought I needed help, that puts a different slant on it.
put a hex on me	bring a curse upon me, put me under a spell	I haven't won a game of cards today. Did you put a hex on me?
put a lid on it	do not be noisy, keep it down	When we shout, he says, "Put a lid on it. Not so loud, eh."
put all your eggs in...	(See all your eggs in one basket)	
put an end to	stop or end it, cause it to stop	The policeman came and put an end to the fighting.
put away	eat or drink, pig out	Dennis has a good appetite. He put away ten pancakes!
put down	criticize, knock , put-down	Those poor kids are put down all the time - criticized and yelled at.
put down	kill, shoot, dispatch, put out of its	The horse had to be put down because it was badly injured.

	misery	
put-down	criticism, disapproval	His speech was a put-down of our policies - very negative.
put down roots	live in one place for years, buy land and raise a family	After moving from town to town, we put down roots in Moose Jaw.
put her there	let us shake hands, I want to shake hands with you	After the argument he apologized and said, "Put 'er there."
put him in his place	tell him he is wrong - that he is out of line	Dwaine has insulted all of us. I hope Dad puts him in his place.
put in a good word for	tell the employer that you are a good applicant	If you apply for a job with us, I'll put in a good word for you.
put in a hard day	work hard all day, a hard day	You've put in a hard day, Fran. Let's have supper at a cafe.
put in a plug for	advertise free, promote free	When you speak on TV, please put in a plug for my book.
put in time	be there a lot, hang out , spend time	Raj puts in a lot of time at the piano. He practices a lot.
put it	say it, express it	She said, "He's my favorite cowboy." That's how she put it.
put it on the bill	charge a purchase, charge it , run a tab	When I buy something at the grocery store, I put it on the bill.
put me on	(See putting me on)	
put my finger on it	(See can't put my finger on it)	
put my foot down	say no, say you cannot do that, no way	When the kids ask if they can go to a restricted movie, I put my foot down.
put my neck on the line	risk my job or safety, stick my neck out	As a manager, I'll put my neck on the line for a good employee.
put off	upset, unhappy, miffed , put out about	He was put off when Nola refused to go out with him.
put off	do it later, postpone	We've put off the wedding until Chad completes his education.
put on a pedestal	(See on a pedestal)	
put on airs	pretend you are better or richer or smarter	Martha would never put on airs. She is very sincere.

put on the dog	use your finest dishes or clothes etc.; show off	When we visit Mame, she likes to put on the dog - get dressed up.
put out	do, function, perform	Vern's crew really puts out. They do a lot of work in a day.
put out	unhappy, upset	Was he put out when you asked for more money? Was he upset?
put out about	bothered, annoyed, ticked off	What's Jan put out about? She seems irritated.
put out feelers	discover indirectly, ask subtle questions, through the grapevine	I'm not really looking for a new job, but I'm going to put out a few feelers and see what happens.
put out of its misery	kill because it is suffering, put down	One of our dogs had diabetes, so we put it out of its misery.
put stock in	believe in, have faith in	An atheist doesn't put much stock in the Bible.
put the finishing touches on	add the last details or trimmings	Lan decorated the cake - she put the finishing touches on it.
put the hammer down	go faster, floor it , pedal to the metal	If we's goin from New York to LA in two days, you got to put de hammer down.
put the heat on	cause someone to feel pressure or stress	The cops put the heat on them by asking a lot of questions.
put the kibosh on	prevent, stop	The manager put the kibosh on our dental plan. He said no.
put the right spin on it	say it in a diplomatic way, bafflegab , doctor it , spin doctor	Don't say it's lost. Say it's been misplaced. Put the right spin on it!
put them up	put your hands up, stick them up	The outlaw drew his gun, saying, "Put 'em up, folks, or I'll shoot."
put things in perspective	see things as they are, see the actual size	A few days after the flood, I was able to put things in perspective.
put to bed (print media)	put in a box when it is ready to print	The editor always checks the paper before he puts it to bed.
put to death	killed, shot, hanged, put down	If a soldier deserted the army he was put to death.
put to rest	not think or worry about it	It's time we put to rest our quarrel over Dad's will.

	any more	
put to shame	defeated very badly, feel ashamed of losing	Our baseball team was put to shame by the Cubans: 11-0.
put to the test	be tested, be challenged	Your computer skills will be put to the test in your new position.
put too fine a point on	be too precise, split hairs	If you want to put too fine a point on it, the color is actually russet.
put up or shut up	pay for or be quiet, do instead of talk	If you brag about your cooking we'll ask you to put up or shut up.
put up the money	pay for, finance, front me	If I start a new business, will you put up the money?
put up with	tolerate, endure, not get frustrated	Alice puts up with a lot of complaining from Jackie.
put you at ease	cause you to relax, break the ice	An embarrassing moment can sometimes put you at ease.
put you away	defeat you, knock you out	If the score is tied, he must win two points to put you away.
put you in a bad mood	cause you to feel upset or unhappy	The violence in that movie put me in a bad mood. I dislike violence.
put you off your game	cause you to play poorly, cause you to make errors	Wearing a helmet will put me off my game. It will bother me.
put you through the mill	test your endurance or will, give you a hard time , run the gauntlet	On the first day, the workers will put you through the mill. They want to know if you are strong.
put your best foot forward	try to do your best work, present yourself well	If you put your best foot forward, the employer will be impressed.
put your foot in it	say or do something that causes an argument	He really put his foot in it when he said that doctors are underpaid.
put your foot in your mouth	say something that causes pain or embarrassment	If you speak the truth, you will often put your foot in your mouth.
put your heart into it	try hard, do your best, give it your best shot	If you hope to succeed in life, you have to put your heart into it.
put your mind to it	use the power of your mind,	You can do this calculus problem if you put your mind to it. Find a quiet place to work and apply all of your skill.

	be focused, mind over matter	
put your money where your mouth is	pay what you offered, put up or shut up	I accept your offer. Now put your money where your mouth is.
put your shoulder to the wheel	begin to work	If you want a share of the profits, put your shoulder to the wheel.
put yourself out	give too much, sacrifice, go to a lot of trouble (see go to any trouble)	When I visit, don't put yourself out. Don't do anything special.
put yourself through college	earn money to pay for your college education	You need a good summer job to put yourself through college.
putting me on	joking, fooling me, kidding me	You won a Nobel Prize? You're putting me on!
putting on the ritz	dressing fancy or classy, doing things high class	She's dining and dancing in Paris. She's putting on the ritz!

Q

quake in his boots	feel afraid, be scared, scared spitless	When the war began, it was scary. We were quaking in our boots.
question of	(See a question of)	
quick and dirty	fast or easy, instant, short cut	I know a quick and dirty way to calculate interest. It's easy.
quick like a bunny	very quick, without delay	Get into bed now - quick like a bunny!
quick on the draw	quick to speak or shoot; get the drop on	Think before you speak. Don't be so quick on the draw.
quick study	(See a quick study)	
quicker than you can say Jack Robinson	very quickly, before you can say Jack Robinson	The ghost was gone - quicker 'n you can say Jack Robinson!
quickie	(See a quickie)	
quit this place	leave, go away from here, blow this joint	I'm bored. Let's quit this place. Let's get out of here.
quit while you're ahead	quit before you begin to lose, don't push your luck	If he lets you have the car, don't ask for his credit card. Quit while you're ahea

R

rabbit	steal, take company supplies, pinch , scoff	Those sailors will rabbit anything that isn't chained to the deck! They're ruddy thieves!
rabbit died	(See the rabbit died)	
rabbit food	lettuce, carrots, cabbage etc.	Dad says salad is tasteless. He calls it rabbit food.
rabble-rouser	a person who makes noise and causes problems	A bunch of rabble-rousers were fighting at the football game.
rack my brain	think hard, try to remember	I've racked my brain, but I can't remember where I saw that man.
rack up	compile, increase, build up , run up	He racked up a lot of points with his first hand of cribbage.
rad	radical, weird, on the fringe	What a rad video! The singer's head was sitting on a table!
rags	clothes, threads	I need some new rags. My clothes are old and worn.
rags to riches	(See from rags to riches)	
ragtop	convertible car, ragtop	In the summer, Pam drives a ragtop - a Fiat Spyder
railroad	push a plan, force a person	No, I didn't want to resign. I was railroaded into it!
rain check	using a service later, credit for a product	The store had sold all the CD's, so they gave me a rain check.
rain on their parade	ruin the party, spoil the fun, piss on them [B]	When Barb found out she wasn't invited to the wedding, she said, "I hope it rains on their parade."
raining cats and dogs	raining hard, raining heavily	You need a raincoat, Dear. It's raining cats and dogs!
raise a stink	complain a lot, cause an argument or a bad scene	Gunter raised a stink by accusing the chairman of stealing funds.
raise an eyebrow	(See raised eyebrows)	
raise Cain	shout and make noise, cause a disturbance	They were having a wild party upstairs - really raising Cain.
raise hell [B]	make noise, disturb the peace, raise Cain	The neighbors are drinking and raising hell again.
raise money	earn or request money for a project or a charity	The Boy Scouts are raising money to pay for a trip to China.
raise the bar	raise the level, set a higher standard	If we raise the bar, students will try harder but more will fail.
raise your hand against	hit someone, hurt someone	If you ever raise your hand against her, I'll call the police.
raise your spirits	help you feel positive, help you feel happy	If you want to raise your spirits, just have a visit with Kari.
raised eyebrows	shock, surprise, disapproval	When Chuck and Di separated, it caused some raised eyebrows.
raisins	old folks, seniors	Let's invite the raisins to our concert. They're a great audience.
rake in the dough	receive a lot of money, earn a large salary or profit	When he played pro basketball he was raking in the dough.

rake you over the coals	lecture you, scold you, ask you to explain	I got raked over the coals for taking the car without asking.
raking it in	(See rake in the dough)	
ralph	vomit, puke, barf , hork , throw up	In the washroom, someone had ralphed all over the floor.
ram down your throat	(See shove down my throat)	
rant and rave	yell and cry out, preach and complain	The old man was ranting and raving about his lost goats
rap your knuckles	(See get your knuckles rapped)	
rat fink	person who tattles, one who squeals, fink	You rat fink! Did you blab to Mom and Dad? Did you tell them?
rat on	tell the police or the authorities, squeal , tell on	Billy won't rat on me. He won't tell the teacher.
rat race	fast pace, busy schedule, living/working in the city	What a rat race! I want to leave the city and live in the country.
ratch	damage, wreck, trash	Who ratched the gears on my bike? I can't shift into low!
rats	oh no, darn , nuts	Rats! We have a flat tire!
rattle my chain	annoy me, anger me, get under my skin	That woman rattles my chain, the way she gossips about me!
rattle on	continue to talk, ramble, hold forth	The professor was rattling on about Canadian culture.
rattle sabres	threaten to attack, appear to be preparing for war	The workers are rattling their sabres, but they won't strike.
raw deal	(See a raw deal)	
razzle-dazzle	spectacular show, dazzling display, showboat	Grandpa said the rodeo had too much razzle-dazzle. It was too fancy.
reach for the sky	raise your hands, put them up	The cowboy drew his gun and said, "Reach for the sky, mister!"
reach me	phone me, contact me	You can reach me by leaving a message at my brother's place.
reach me	cause me to feel your message	The minister said he was trying to reach the kids through a film.
reach out	offer to help, let people know that you care	Magdalena reaches out to the children in violent families.
read along	read with the leader, read together	The instructor asked the class to read along in their text books.
read between the lines	see what is not written, read the implied message, find the hidden meaning	If we read between the lines, the memo says the company is going to be sold.
read into	add your own meaning, see what you are hoping to see	Teri reads love into every letter you write to her.
read it over	read it, go over it	Read it over and tell me what you think it says.
read me (CB	hear my voice, hear	"Do you read me?" she asked. "Yes. Loud and clear,"

radio)	my message	he replied.
read my lips	my lips are saying what you are hearing, believe it	Edie said, "Read my lips, people. We have no more money."
read them and weep	check your cards and cry about your poor hand	After dealing the cards, Walt said, "Read 'em and weep, boys."
read up on	read about, study, look up	I'm going to the library to read up on Louis Riel.
read you	see what you're thinking or feeling	You have an expressive face. Anybody can read you.
real McCoy	(See the real McCoy)	
realize your potential	be the best you can, come into your own	If you work for a good company, you can realize your potential.
really deaf	not willing to listen, not wanting to hear about	When you talk about smoking, he's really deaf.
ream out	scold, give you hell , tie into	He reamed me out for driving too fast. He said I could have caused an accident.
reap what you sow	(See you reap whatsoever you sow)	
rear end	buttocks, posterior, backside , butt	"Where did she pinch you?" "On my rear end - my bum
rearend	bump a car in the back, run into the rear of a car	"Your back bumper is dented." "Ya, some guy rearended me."
red carpet	(See roll out the red carpet)	
red-faced	embarrassed, ashamed when something private is made public	Judy was red-faced after you kissed her in class. She was embarrassed.
red herring	a false issue, make a mountain...	She said, "Fluoride is a red herring. It's not important."
red-letter day	(See a red-letter day)	
red tape	government forms and procedures	An immigrant faces a lot of red tape - many interviews, forms.
redneck	(See a redneck)	
reduce to tears	ask hurtful questions until someone cries	The lawyer's hurtful questions soon reduced Karla to tears.
reefer	marijuana cigarette, pot	After smoking two reefers, he laughed at anything they said.
regular guy	(See a regular guy)	
reject out of hand	reject without thinking, throw away quickly	If the apples aren't from B.C. he rejects them out of hand.
relate to that	know about that, have experienced that	He said he was afraid to speak in public. I can relate to that.
rented lips	lips that mispronounce, lips that say strange words	Did I say ossifer? I meant officer! Excuse my rented lips!
repay in kind	give the same as you get, help one who helped you	If you help a neighbor, he may repay in kind.
rest assured	be sure, be certain,	If Johnny said he would vote for Kim, you can rest

	count on	assured he will.
rest his soul (God rest his soul)	may his soul rest in peace; I hope his soul is peaceful	I remember when Jock Reynolds (rest his soul) saved Pete's life.
rest my case	have no more arguments, have completed my work	After speaking for abortion for an hour, he said, "I rest my case."
rest on your laurels	depend only on past success to help you, you're only as good...	If you win an award, you can rest on your laurels, or you can set new goals.
rhyme or reason	(See no rhyme or reason)	
ride herd	try to control a group; supervise children	When my wife goes shopping, I have to ride herd on the kids.
ride his coattails	depend on his success, use his success	My dad was a great doctor, but I don't want to ride his coattails.
ride me	continue to remind me of a duty or habit	You can stop riding me about doing my homework. It's done.
ride the clutch	drive a car with your foot on the clutch pedal	If you ride the clutch, we will soon have to replace it.
ride the wave	use luck or success to achieve more success	Enjoy your success. Ride the wave to a better life.
riding high	feeling great, on cloud nine	Jane is riding high after getting an A in math.
right as rain	as welcome as rain, naturally good	We always enjoyed Uncle Mel's visits. They were right as rain.
right away	now, immediately, on the double , pronto	If you leave right away, you can get to school on time.
right before my eyes	in front of me, in plain view	There, right before my eyes, was the Eiffel Tower! I had finally arrived in Paris.
right off the bat	at the start, the very first thing	Right off the bat she says, "Are you married?"
right on	that's good, great, okay	When I told him he passed the test he said, "Right on, man!"
right on the money	(See on the money)	
right, left and center	(See left, right and center)	
rigmarole	(See what a rigmarole)	
rile up	become afraid, upset, worked up	The horses get all riled up when they smell smoke.
ring a bell	remind you, cause you to remember	Does the name Kurelek ring a bell? Have you heard of him?
ring leader	leader of a gang, leader of some criminals	The ring leader, Tony Amano, helped the prisoners escape.
ring me	phone me, call me, give me a ring	Ring me when you get home from work. Tell me about your day.
ring off the hook	receive many phone calls	We put an ad in the paper. Now the phone's ringing off the hook!
rip-off	(See a rip-off)	

rip-snorting mad	very angry, violent	The bull got rip-snorting mad when he missed the toreador.
ripped off	cheated, taken	Dar paid too much for the watch. He got ripped off.
rise and shine	wake up and be happy, get out of bed smiling	"Rise and shine," he called to us each morning - at 6 a.m.!
rise to the occasion	be able to do what is needed at the time	When we need a speaker, Ed rises to the occasion. He speaks well.
risky business	a risky plan, a gamble	Being a peacemaker is risky business. You could get shot!
ritzy	very nice, luxurious, putting on the ritz , snazzy	Curt has a ritzy apartment in Berlin. It's a neat pad!
road apple	a frozen horseturd used as a puck for road hockey	Let's play hockey. You get the sticks and I'll find a road apple.
road to hell is paved...	(See the road to hell is paved)	with good intentions)
Roaring Twenties	the decade following World War I (1920-1929)	In the Roaring Twenties, ladies had short hair with kiss curls.
rob Peter to pay Paul	move money from one part of a budget to another	If we use grocery money to buy gas, we rob Peter to pay Paul.
rob the cradle	court a person who is too young, date a minor	You're seeing Lisa? She's only 17! That's robbing the cradle!
Rock	(See The Rock)	
rock	shock, cause a personal change, shake him	Killing Fields is a powerful movie. It will rock you.
rock	is great, is as good as great rock music, is cool	This webcam really rocks. I can send movies to all my friends!
rock bottom	(See hit rock bottom)	
rock the boat	disturb or upset things, don't make waves	If you rock the boat, you may be asked to leave the project.
rocks in your head	(See got rocks in your head)	
rocks socks	so good it will blow your socks off, cool beans	"You've just won a million dollars." "Holy crap! That rocks socks!"
	Coined by William Burns III	
rocky road	difficult path, rough going	In life, he traveled the rocky road. He always chose the difficult way.
rodchester	single armrest between two airplane seats	The woman beside me rested her arm on the rodchester.
roll around	future becomes present, future date arrives, time passes	By the time your birthday rolls around, I'll have no money to buy you a present.
roll in the hay	(See a roll in the hay)	
roll off the	natural to say, easy to	Podnzilowicz is a name that doesn't roll off the tongue.

tongue	pronounce	
roll out the red carpet	welcome in a special way, show lots of hospitality	We roll out the red carpet when the Queen comes to Calgary.
roll over and play dead	not try, not compete hard, give up	The coach said, "Don't expect the Jets to roll over and play dead."
roll their eyes	eyes express boredom or disapproval	When he told the joke again, the students began rolling their eyes.
roll with the punches	be a flexible competitor, pick yourself up	In politics you learn to roll with the punches and keep going.
rolling in it	rich, wealthy, filthy rich , loaded	"Is Erica rich?" "My dear, Erica is rolling in it."
rolling in the aisles	laughing so hard they fall out of their chairs	Robin Williams made us laugh. We were rolling in the aisles.
rolling stone	(See a rolling stone gathers no moss)	
root for	cheer for, pull for	Who are you rooting for - the Leafs or les Canadiens?
root of the problem	(See the root of the problem)	
rope into	be asked to help, talk into helping	We got roped into delivering posters because we have a car.
rot gut	homemade liquor, hooch , moonshine	If you drink that rot gut, you'll get sick. It tastes awful!
rotten to the core	all bad, corrupt	Hitler's regime was rotten to the core - corrupt.
rotter	one who cheats or lies, dirty rat	Hank, you rotter! You sold me a car that won't start.
rough and ready	strong and willing, a game one	For the oil-well crews, we need people who are rough and ready.
rough going	difficult work, tough sledding	It was rough going the first year. We had financial problems.
rough up	beat a little bit, push and slap	The leader roughed me up a bit because I lied to him.
round the clock	(See around the clock)	
round up	bring together, chase into a herd	Will you round up the kids and tell them to come inside?
row of beans	(See a hill of beans)	
royal pain	(see a royal pain)	
royal treatment	special hospitality, roll out the red carpet	We received royal treatment when we visited our relatives in Sweden.
rub elbows	work beside, associate with	Fran and I used to rub elbows when we worked at the fish plant.
rub salt in the wound	cause it to be worse, aggravate, add insult to injury	If you criticize a student's work in front of the class, you are rubbing salt in the wound.
rub shoulders with	work with, associate with	Art dealers rub shoulders with people from all the professions.
rub the wrong way	bother, irritate, bug	That waiter rubs me the wrong way. He's too impatient.
rubber match	final game, showdown	Each team has won a game. They play the rubber match today.
rubberneck	listen to a	Grandma used to rubberneck so she could hear the

	conversation on a party (co-op) phone line	local news.
rube	rural man, local yokel	Axel Nelson is a rube - a farmer. He doesn't know about city life.
ruddy	awful, cotton-picking , darn , friggin	I can't find the ruddy light switch! Ouch! Here it is. Now we can see.
ruffle your feathers	annoy you, bother you, get your dander up	Don't let that insult ruffle your feathers. Don't let it upset you.
rug up	dress warmly, bundle up	Rug up, my dear. It's winter in Winnipeg!
rule of thumb	general rule, guideline	The rule of thumb for a resume is Don't exceed two pages.
rule out	not allow, not permit, put the kibosh on	"How about the right to strike?" "That's been ruled out. They're passing a law against strikes."
rumor has it	people say that, through the grapevine	Rumor has it you're moving to Tuktoyaktuk. Is that true?
run a red light	go through an intersection when the light is red	The driver of the stolen car ran a red light and hit a truck.
run a tab	charge your purchases, put it on the bill	You can run a tab for groceries at my store if you pay every month.
run a tub	turn on the tap and fill the bathtub with water	When you're finished your bath, will you run a tub for me?
run across	discover, happen to see, run into	While I was in Vancouver, I ran across an old friend of yours.
run amuck	not go smoothly, go haywire	We ran amuck when Gus joined the band. He can't play the tuba!
run an errand	deliver something, go and get something	Paul, please run an errand for me. Take this bread to Aunt Matty.
run circles around you	run faster than you, win easily	Billy can run circles around any boy in school. He's very fast.
run down	go to, walk to	Lu, please run down to the store and get an onion.
run down	check, look over , run through	Run down the list before we go to the store. Did I miss anything?
run down	criticize, put down	Fred doesn't run down his staff. He never says negative things.
run down	tired, in poor condition, worn out	His car was a run-down Buick. It belonged in the junk yard.
run for office	be a candidate in an election	I do not plan to run for office this year. I'm leaving politics.
run for the hills	run away to a safe place, run and hide	A tiger has escaped from the zoo! Run for the hills!
run for your money	(See a run for your money)	
run-in	argument, fight	Doug had a run-in with the boss yesterday. They had an argument.
run interference	protect from attack, come between the attacker and the victim	We've been running interference for the President all week - people calling and demanding to speak with him about lying under oath.
run into	bump, crash into	My car slid on the ice and I ran into a mail box - knocked it down.

run into	meet by chance, bump into , run across	Did you run into anyone you know? See any old friends?
run it by me again	tell me again, come again	I didn't get the postal code. Would you run that by me again.
run its course	go until it stops, take its course	We don't have a cure for a cold. It will just have to run its course.
run of the mill	average, common, off the shelf	It was a run-of-the-mill novel, the story of a man who returns to the place he was born.
run off	make copies at a photocopier	Please run off extra copies of her resume before the job interview.
run off at the mouth	talk a lot, talk when you should be quiet	Why do you run off at the mouth and disturb this class?
run out	use all, not have enough, run short	Dad, we've run out of coffee. Will you make some more?
run out of patience	(See lose patience)	
run out of town	chase out of town, the bum's rush	If you don't pay property taxes they'll run you out of town.
run rampant	spread quickly, go out of control	A disease can run rampant in a ghetto. It's difficult to control.
run roughshod	force his way, step on people	The foreman is mean. He'll try to run roughshod over you.
run short	have less than you need, run out	First we ran out of coffee. Then we ran short of wine.
run the gamut	look at what is available, check the range of choices	We ran the whole gamut of colors but she didn't like any of them.
run the gauntlet	run past the enemy, go through a dangerous area	After three job interviews, I felt like I'd run the gauntlet.
run the risk	be at risk, be unable to control the risk or danger	When you invest in stocks, you run the risk of losing money.
run the show	manage the project, call the shots	Talk to Luc if you want to change anything. He's running the show.
run through	practise, read, go through	Let's run through the answers again. I want to know them well.
run up	drive to, go to, travel to	I have to run up to Edmonton tomorrow. Do you want to come?
run up	increase, add to a total, charge it	Ming lets us run up a bill if we pay it once a month.
run you out	force you to leave, the bum's rush	If they find drugs in your room they'll run you out of the hotel.
run you ragged	make you feel tired, wear you out	Grade 8 students use up all your energy. They run you ragged.
runaround	(See the runaround)	
running water	tap water, water from a pressure system	At the cabin in the woods we don't have running water.
runt of the litter	(See the runt of the litter)	
rush	(See what a rush)	
rush hour	the hour of heavy traffic, bumper to	During rush hour, many drivers become impatient and angry.

	bumper	
rust out	become rusty, be ruined by rust	Nobody wants that car because it's all rusted out.
rustbucket	a car that is very rusty, beater	Can you fix my rustbucket? Can you repair the rusty fenders?
rye	Canadian whisky, whisky made from rye	"What's your favorite drink?" "Rye and Coke."

S

Idiom	Meaning	Example
sabre rattling	(See rattle sabres)	
sack of hammers	(See a sack of hammers)	
sack out	sleep, catch some z's , crash	If you bring your sleeping bag, you can sack out on the floor.
sacred cow	protected part, the part that must not be changed	If our company is going to change, <i>everything</i> should be evaluated - no sacred cows.
sacred moose	(a sacred cow in Canada)	
sad sack	(See a sad sack)	
saddle up	put a saddle on a horse, place a saddle on a horse	Let's saddle up and ride our ponies to the river.
saddled with	burdened with, responsible for	She doesn't want to be saddled with a bus load of teen-age boys.
salt away	save a little money each month, save tiny amounts	By the time Jake died, he had salted away about \$50,000.
salt of the earth	(See the salt of the earth)	
salty	of the sea, accustomed to the ocean, like a sailor	Peter is a salty old bugger. The ocean is in his blood.
same here	I feel the same way, I have the same feeling	"I like reading stories." "Same here."
same to you	I wish the same to you, ditto	"I hope you have ugly children!" "Same to you!"
Saskatchewan pheasant	magpie, black and white bird	Two Saskatchewan pheasants flew out of the bush.
Sasquatch	a large ape-man living in the forests of Western Canada; Bigfoot	A man who was hunting moose in Northern Saskatchewan says that Sasquatch visited him. They sat around the campfire drinking coffee.
sassy	rude, impolite, cheeky , lippy	"I won't go to church!" he said. "Don't be sassy!" Mama said.
save a bundle	save a lot of money, save big time	If you buy a new car through a broker, you can save a bundle.
save face	prevent embarrassment, prevent more	To save face, the accused member should resign. It's embarrassing.

	shame	
save for a rainy day	save money for a time when you really need it	Ed and Vi spend little money. They're saving for a rainy day.
save your bacon	save you from failure or disaster, save your skin	If the boat sinks, a life raft may save your bacon.
save your skin/neck	save you from risk, dismissal or death	The dog saved your neck. His barking helped us find you.
saw logs	sleep, fall asleep , sleep like a log , sound asleep	When we got home, you were sawing logs. You were asleep.
saw-off	tie game, even score	The game ended in a saw-off: Leafs 3, Flames 3.
saw off a chunk [B]	have sex, have intercourse	I could hear the couple upstairs. They were sawing off a chunk.
saw sawdust	review a decision or failure too many times	"Don't saw sawdust," said the old man. "Don't live in the past."
say jump...how high	(an idiom to show how one person controls another)	Fritz is afraid of Olga. When she says jump, he says how high?
say my piece	say what I think, say my two cents' worth	When everyone else had spoken, I said my piece.
say the word	say yes or no, tell us when you want to begin	We're waiting for you. Just say the word and we'll start working.
say what	what did you say? pardon me?	Say what? Did you insult my pet pig?
say what's on your mind	say what you are thinking, speak your mind	Now, Mother, say what's on your mind. Give us your opinion.
say your piece	state your opinion, tell us what you think	OK, Vic, say your piece. Then we can vote on this offer.
scads	lots, many, oodles	"Are there any cookies left?" "Yes, scads of them."
scandal is brewing	an evil story is being told, there are rumors of a scandal	A scandal is brewing in the Pacific Ocean. A whale and a shark are living together without a marriage license!
scarce as hen's teeth	not many of them, few or none	Rural doctors are scarce as hen's teeth. Doctors like the city life.
scare the life out of me	frighten me a lot, scare me badly,	My son jumped out of the closet and shouted boo! He nearly scared the life out of me.

	scared out of my wits	
scared out of my wits	so scared I couldn't think, scared spitless	When I heard a low moan coming from the bathroom I was scared out of my wits.
scared shitless [B]	very frightened, scared, petrified , scared spitless	When I woke up and saw a figure standing beside my bed, I was scared shitless.
scared spitless	very frightened, scared stiff	Believe me. I was scared spitless when the wolves started to howl.
scared stiff	very frightened, frightened to death , petrified	"Are you afraid of heights?" "Yes. I'm scared stiff of anything higher than a bicycle seat."
scared to death	very scared, very anxious, scared stiff	I was scared to death that your plane had crashed. I was worried.
scaredy cat	a person who is afraid, a coward, fraidy cat	The girls will say scaredy cat if I don't go in the water.
schmooze	(See shmooze)	
school of hard knocks	(See the school of hard knocks)	
school's out	school is finished for the day or for the year	When the bell rings at 3:30, school's out! Yea!
scoff	steal, pinch	People who scoff books from the library are thieves.
scoop	news report, story	What's the scoop on the murder? Do you know who did it?
scoop them	get news before they do, print the story first	The reporter said, "We scooped them all on the Harding story."
score to settle	(See a score to settle)	
scot-free	free of work or discipline, not asked to pay, get off	Four members of the gang were convicted, but two went scot-free.
scout's honor	what I say is the truth; the gospel truth	We didn't take your golf ball - scout's honor.
scrape by	have just enough to live, get by	We can scrape by if we sell the car and the TV.
scrape me off the ceiling	help me become normal or recover from shock	If I win a million dollars, you'll have to scrape me off the ceiling.
scrape the bottom of the barrel	use the last ones or the worst ones, seconds	He's a bad referee. We scraped the bottom of the barrel to find him.
scratch	money, cash, bread , moola	If we sell these bottles, we'll have enough scratch to buy cigarettes.

scratch	remove from the list, cancel	I saw the list of players on the team. I've been scratched.
scratch the surface	barely begin, uncover only a few facts	His first lecture on Stravinsky only scratched the surface. He told us the basic facts about the composer.
scratch your head	feel confused, wonder who or why	They're still scratching their heads about who assassinated Kennedy.
screech	homemade liquor, hooch , moonshine	We can't afford a bottle of gin, so I bought a jug of screech.
screw	cheat, shaft , get an unfair advantage (also see get screwed)	Twice I tried to strike a deal with him and twice he screwed me.
screw [B]	have sex with, make love	When he heard the bed squeaking he knew they were screwing.
screw loose	(See a screw loose)	
screw up	perform poorly, ruin it, blow it	I hope I don't screw up when I take my driver's test.
screw-up	a careless mistake, a bungled job	Those screw-ups were his fault. He forgot to order materials.
screw you [B]	the worst to you, up yours [B]	After I defeated him, he said, "Screw you." He hates to lose.
scrut	oh no, darn , nuts , rats	Scrut! My bike has a flat tire!
scum/scumbag	unpleasant person, dirty rat , slimebucket	"Scum!" he shouted at the man who had attacked his daughter.
search me	I do not have the answer, I do not know	"Who took my Coke?" "Search me. I don't know."
second fiddle	(See play second fiddle)	
second guess	guess what people think or what they will do	Don't try to second guess people. Ask them what you need to know.
second nature	natural ability or interest, talent	Skating is second nature to Paul. He's got natural skating ability.
second wind	a feeling that your energy is returning as you run	In a 10 K race, I usually get my second wind after 15 minutes.
seconds	second-rate products, products with flaws	For work, I buy seconds - shirts and pants with minor flaws.
seconds	second helpings of food, more food on your	Mom, can we have seconds? This is great apple pudding!

	plate	
see	date , go out with , hang out with	Derek is seeing Angie. Aren't they a nice couple?
see a man about a dog	go to the bathroom or washroom	Excuse me. I have to see a man about a dog.
see eye to eye	agree, have similar views or opinions, on the same wavelength	Bob and Sue don't see eye to eye on religion. He's an atheist and she's a Christian.
see fit	decide it is right, decide it is good	I hope you will see fit to approve their request for assistance.
see hide nor hair	not see a person because he has gone	You won't see hide nor hair of him after he borrows money.
see it coming	predict it will happen, sense it will happen	I should have seen it coming. Now I know they were planning to dismiss me long before it happened.
see it through	work until you finish, follow through	If you renovate the kitchen, please see it through. Finish it.
see me for dust	not see me because I leave so fast, tail lights	If a sumo wrestler was chasing me, you wouldn't see me for dust.
see red	become angry, burn up	When she interrupts me, I see red. I get really angry.
see the light	understand, become aware	Now I see the light. I understand. You multiply first, then divide.
see the light of day	be exposed, be revealed	The treasure was buried, never again to see the light of day.
see through	see the real reason, see your motive	Mom saw through me. She knew I wanted the money for cigarettes.
see to it/see to that	be certain that it is done, be responsible for doing it	The doors should be open at 7. Ken, will you see to that?
see you stuck	(See won't see you stuck)	
see you through	allow you to survive, help you pay the bills	Here's \$100. Will that see you through till the end of the month?
see you/see your	match your bet, bet as much as you did	I'll see your \$50 and raise you \$100. That's my bet.
see your way	be able to, afford to	Can you see your way to give \$50 to the Food Bank?
seeing things	imagine that you see things, hallucinate	If John said there's a ghost in the house, he must be seeing things.
seek revenge	try to hurt a	If a dog bites you, there are many ways to seek revenge.

	person who hurt you, get back at	
seen better days	not in good condition, worn out	This jacket has seen better days. Look how the sleeves are worn.
seen dead in	(See wouldn't be caught dead)	
seize the opportunity	act now to gain most, take advantage of	He seized the opportunity to invest in gold. He didn't wait.
self-made man	one who succeeds by his own efforts	Ming built his business by himself. He's a self-made man.
self-starter	a person who will begin to work without a supervisor; a go-getter	We're looking for self starters - people who can begin a job and work by themselves.
sell like hotcakes	sell many, sell fast	Hockey cards sell like hotcakes. The kids collect them.
sell out	sell a business, sell all assets	Grandpa was 60 years old when he sold out and moved to Victoria.
sell out	sell information or support	The Bible tells us that Judas sold out to the bad guys.
sell the farm	over-react, sell everything to invest in a new venture	They've discovered diamonds in B.C., but don't sell the farm, eh.
sell yourself short	not mention some of your skills or qualifications	If the employer asks about your awards, don't sell yourself short.
seller's market	sellers are receiving high prices, a good time to sell, firm market	Real estate prices are high. It's a seller's market.
selling point	best feature, nicest part	The Peugeot's strongest selling point is comfort.
send a bouquet	compliment a person, announce a compliment	I would like send a bouquet to the volunteers at the Food Bank.
send him flying	trip him, cause him to fall, ass over teakettle	His motorcycle hit a rock and sent him flying into the ditch.
send him up	send him to prison, find evidence to convict him	The criminal threatened to kill the policeman who sent him up.
send-up	(See a send-up)	
sense of humor	ability to see a joke; knowing	He has a broad sense of humor. He laughs at himself and others.

	what is funny	
sentence to death	say that a person will be killed because he is guilty	After the jury said he was guilty, the judge sentenced him to death.
serious coin	a lot of money, big bucks	Membership in the Pines Golf Club will cost you serious coin.
serve notice	state your plans, say what you will do, spread the word	If you enter the novel contest, you are serving notice that you are a serious writer.
serve the purpose	do the job, accomplish the task	If you don't have an organ, a piano will serve the purpose.
serve them right	give them what they deserve	If they cheat on a test, it serves them right if they get an F.
set a spell	sit down for awhile, visit a spell	Hannah had to set a spell after doing the chores. She rested.
set about	begin, start	After we found the problem with the car, we set about fixing it.
set fire	start a fire, light a fire	A child playing with a cigarette lighter set fire to the curtains.
set foot	walk, step, come for a visit	He hasn't set foot in this house since his mother died.
set for life	have enough money to last a lifetime	He inherited a lot of money. He's set for life.
set in	begin, start	He had a cold. Then pneumonia set in, and it nearly killed him.
set in her ways	having old habits, not able to change easily	After living alone for fifty years, Florence was set in her ways.
set of wheels	vehicle, car, truck, wheels	The Ford needs a lot of repairs. I need a new set of wheels.
set off	start, trigger	Who set off the fire alarm? Who pushed the button?
set out	place where you can see it, put where it can be used	Tomorrow we go to the lake, so set out your swim suit and towel.
set out for	leave, embark	Then we set out for Pluto, where it's much colder than the arctic.
set out to	plan to, hope to	"What did you set out to do?" "I wanted to change the world."
set the table	set plates and cutlery on the table	If you will set the table, I won't ask you to wash the dishes.
set the world on fire	do great things, achieve fame and wealth	I don't want to set the world on fire. I just want a career.
set-to	argument, fight	After playing cards, the brothers had a set-to. They argued.
set-up	plan, scheme	Here's the set-up: You buy the tickets; I'll collect the money.
set up shop	organize a place to do business, buy a store	You could set up shop and sell this pizza. It's delicious!
set you back	pay, pay for, cost you	That looks like a fine camera. How much did it set you back?

set you straight	give you the facts, tell you how it is	If you want to know who's got the gold, Pat will set you straight.
set you up	cause you to appear guilty, frame you	We know you didn't steal your friend's car. He set you up.
set your mind at ease	help you to stop worrying, cause you to relax	Here is some news to set your mind at ease: the kids are safe.
set your price	choose a price for an item you want to sell	If you want to sell it quickly, set your price lower than the others.
set your sights	choose a goal, decide what you want to get	If you set your sights on being a doctor, I will help you.
set your teeth on edge	irritate, irk, bug	Some songs set my teeth on edge - really bother me.
settle down	be calm, relax, calm down	Let's wait until the baby settles down. Then we can eat.
settle down	live in one place, town or city, put down roots	We moved from place to place before we settled down in Guelph
settle in	become comfortable in a new house or apartment	We'd like to get settled in before we have visitors.
settle it	decide what is fair, work for an agreement	If the dispute is about property lines, a survey will settle it.
seven come eleven	7 followed by 11 are lucky numbers	"Seven come eleven," he whispered as he threw the dice.
shabby	worn, torn, ragged, lousy , mousy	I love these shabby old slippers. They're ragged but comfortable.
shack up [B]	live together before you get married, live common-law	"Tarzan and Jane are shacked up." "Oh, I hope they're happy."
shades	sunglasses, tinted glasses	Erica looks cool in her shades. She looks like a model.
shades of	like, similar to	That building looks familiar - shades of our old school.
shady deal	unfair business deal, a rip-off	Cal is a good salesman, but he's put together some shady deals.
shaft	cheat, swindle, screw (see get screwed)[B]	Tom got shafted. He only got 3% commission on his sales.
shagging wagon	a van designed for relaxing and having sex	Tony's van has a bar and a bed. It's his shaggin' wagon.
shake a habit	quit a habit, kick a habit	It's difficult to shake the habits you learn as a child.
shake a leg	hurry, move it	Shake a leg or you'll be late for work. Hurry!

shake a stick at	(See more than you can shake a stick at)	
shake hands	be friends after a fight, agree the fight is over	They argue for hours, but they always shake hands afterward.
shake him	make him nervous, cause him to lose confidence	Even the divorce didn't shake him. He didn't change at all.
shake on it	shake hands to show you agree on a price or a deal	After they agree on a price, they shake on it. It's a deal.
shaky ground	(See on shaky ground)	
shape up	improve, reform, get it together	The coach told us to shape up - to come to practice on time.
shape up or ship out	improve your work or go away, if you can't cut it...	"Soldiers must obey orders," the officer said. "You will learn to shape up or ship out."
shareware	computer programs that people share	Shareware will help us to save money. We'll share software.
sharp	intelligent, quick to learn	Geoff is a sharp kid. He's doing calculus at the age of twelve.
sharp	sarcastic, abrupt	Even when Anne was tired, she never gave you a sharp reply.
sharp	at a specific time, on the dot	The preacher began the service on time - at 11 a.m. sharp.
sharp as a tack	quick to understand, able to think quickly	He may be 85, but he's sharp as a tack - plays chess every day.
sharpen up	think carefully, use your intelligence	If I make a mistake, I don't want him telling me to sharpen up.
sharpen your pencils	be ready, be prepared	Let's sharpen our pencils, gang. We have to set some goals.
she peed	she is great, she took risks and succeeded, did good , done good , totally awesome	"Hey John, how'd Jessie's concert go?" "She peed. She peed all over the stage. She was awesome!"
shed a little light on	explain, enlighten, help you understand,	To shed a little light on the topic of idioms, we'll read this book.
shed a tear	cry, weep	He hides his emotions. When his dog died, he didn't shed a tear.
sheesh	this is frustrating, I am embarrassed, darn , nuts	Sheesh! I did it again! Why do I say lay when I mean lie?
shekel	dollar, coin,	He earns a few shekels a day by selling bottles that he finds.

	buck , loonie	
shell out	pay money for, fork over	How much did you shell out for that calculator? Thirty dollars?
shellack	defeat in a game, win by many points	The Bears were shellacked by the Pirates. The score was 19-2.
shipshape	everything is clean and orderly, ready for inspection, tickety-boo	We're ready for the demonstration. Everything is shipshape.
shirty	impolite, rude, cheeky , lippy	Brad has an attitude. He gets a little shirty with his teachers.
shit disturber [B]	a person who tries to cause problems	Cal is a shit disturber. He tries to embarrass the boss at meetings.
shit-faced [B]	very drunk, plastered , polluted	He goes to the bar every day and drinks until he's shit-faced.
shit fire and apple butter	I am getting upset, good grief , hell's bells	You still haven't taken your shower? Shit fire and apple butter! We have to leave in 10 minutes!
shit hit the fan [B]	(See the shit hit the fan)	
shit hot [B]	very skilled, talented	I've played golf with him. He's not so shit hot.
shit list [B]	(See on the shit list)	
shit myself [B]	so surprised or scared that I shit in my pants	When lightning struck the tree beside me, I nearly shit myself.
shit or get off the pot	do it or move, dog in the manger	He's holding the phone but he's not using it. I wish he'd shit or get off the pot!
shit or wind my watch	surprised, shocked, confused, discombobulated	When she announced that I was the father, I didn't know whether to shit or wind my watch! I don't even know the woman!
shit out of luck [B]	have no more, none left for you	There are no tickets left. We're shit out of luck.
shit through a goose	(See like shit through a goose)	
shitface [B]	ugly face	Tom's bulldog is a real shitface, but Tom loves him.
shithead [B]	stupid or foolish person, dipstick , jerk	What a shithead! He put water in the gas tank!
shitload	(See a shitload)	
shitting bricks [B]	very frightened, scared to death	When my parachute didn't open, I was shitting bricks!
shitty [B]	bad behavior, awful, crappy	He borrowed your car and took your girl? That's pretty shitty.
shmooze	visit with, be friendly, rub	You don't have to sell wine. Just shmooze with the clients.

	shoulders with	
shoe-in	(See a shoo-in)	
shoes like boats	very large shoes, gigantic shoes	This guy had shoes like boats. I bet he could've walked on water!
shogun	(See a shogun)	
shoo-in	(See a shoo-in)	
shoot	tell me, say it, I am listening, fire away	"Do you have any news?" "No. Just a rumor." "Shoot. I love rumors."
shoot from the hip	talk without thinking, run off at the mouth , shoot your mouth off	Juan, my friend, if you tell a traffic cop to shove it, you are shooting from the hip.
shoot it out	shoot at each other, shoot until one is killed	The thief decided to shoot it out with the police.
shoot-out (sports)	taking shots at each goal to determine the winner	Sweden won the gold medal by defeating Canada in a shoot-out.
shoot-out	a gunbattle, a duel	Two men died in the shoot-out: one cop and one robber.
shoot the breeze	talk, visit, chat, chew the fat	Hank and I were drinking beer and shooting the breeze.
shoot the shit [B]	visit, have a conversation, a chin wag	The ladies went shopping, and the men sat around shootin' the shit.
shoot up	inject an illegal drug, get a hit , do drugs	One of the addicts was in the bathroom shooting up.
shoot up	shoot guns to celebrate and scare people	The cowboys used to get drunk and shoot up the town.
shoot-up	shoot guns in the air without aiming	Do you remember the shoot-ups in the old western movies?
shoot your mouth off	talk without thinking, blab , squeal	Moe won't shoot his mouth off. He won't tell anybody.
shoot your wad	spend all your money, use all you have	If you shoot your wad today, what will you spend tomorrow?
shoot yourself in the foot	ruin your chances, cut off your nose... , your own worst enemy	If you want the job, don't be late for the interview. Don't shoot yourself in the foot.
shooting fish in a barrel	a task that is too easy, a game without challenge	We won 18-2. It was like shooting fish in a barrel.

shooting match	(See the whole shooting match)	
shop talk	(See inside joke)	
shop-floor struggle	a battle for control in the workplace, a fight between workers and managers	This is a shop-floor struggle about quality control. The workers want the right to choose the tools they use in the plant.
shoplifting	stealing products from a store while you shop	He's charged with shoplifting. He stole some cigarettes.
short cut	a shorter path, a quicker method, quick and dirty	To become an actor, you learn the skills and work very hard. There are no short cuts.
short end of the stick	(See the short end of the stick)	
short one	(See a short one)	
short strokes	(See down to the short strokes)	
short temper	quick to become angry, hot tempered	Dr. Jones has a short temper. He gets mad very quickly.
short with me	cross, abrupt, curt, cut me off	Mrs. Gore was short with me. I wonder if she's angry.
shortchange	not return enough money to the purchaser, a rip-off	I gave the clerk \$10 for a book costing \$6.95 and got \$2.05 back. Was I shortchanged?
shortfall	loss, deficit	Shoplifting is one of the reasons for the shortfall - for the deficit.
shot	worn, broken, ruined, had it	When they returned my bike, the gears were shot - worn out.
shot in the arm	(See a shot in the arm)	
shot in the dark	(See a shot in the dark)	
should be so lucky	one would be lucky if that happened, that would be very lucky	Your goal is to find your bliss? You should be so lucky!
shoulder the blame	accept the blame, take the rap	The managers agreed to shoulder the blame for the error? Sure.
shoulder to shoulder	working beside him/her, side by side	Poet and peasant stood shoulder to shoulder during the war.
shoulder to the wheel	(See put your shoulder to the wheel)	
shove down my throat	force me to accept it, force	Our preacher said that babies are sinners. He's not going to shove that down my throat!

	me to agree to that, eat that	
shove it [B]	put it away, stick it up your ass , stuff it	If that dental plan pays only half the cost, they can shove it.
show off	brag, boast, showboat	"Did you see Eric scale the stairs on his rollerblades in front of everybody? He loves to show off."
show-off	one who displays, showboat	Ron is the show-off in our class. He's always advertising himself.
show promise	show some of your ability, show that you will develop	Len shows promise as a teacher. He is patient and articulate.
show up	attend, go to class or work	Vi shows up every week for her lesson. She's always on time.
show you around	show you where things are, guide you	When we get to the ranch, follow me. I'll show you around.
show you the ropes	teach you the first steps, learn the ropes	It is my duty to take you to the plant and show you the ropes.
show you up	be better than you, cause you to look inferior	If you play tennis with Martina, she'll show you up. She's good!
show your stuff	do your best, show what you can do	When it's your turn to dance, show your stuff. Impress them!
showboat	a person who displays, a show-off	The peacock is one of nature's showboats - he's magnificent!
showdown	final fight or contest, rubber match	Ali defeated Frazier in the boxing showdown of the '70s.
shrink/head shrink	psychiatrist, therapist	If I can't manage my personal life, I can always visit a shrink.
shrinking violet	(See no shrinking violet)	
shrug it off	not let it affect you or bother you	He was hurt by the remark, but he shrugged it off and kept working.
shuck on down to the fraidy hole	go to the cellar for shelter from a cyclone or tornado, hide when you are afraid	When my uncle saw the sky turn black in the afternoon, he would shuck on down to the fraidy hole.
shucks	oh dear, well, heck	Aw shucks, Beth Ann, you know I care a whole lot for you.
shuffle the chairs on the deck	appear to change by moving things around, play	Shuffling the chairs on the deck will not help a sinking ship!

	musical chairs ,	
shut down	stop operating, quit	Without electricity, the factory will have to shut down.
shut-down	closure, end of operations	Cold weather sometimes causes a shut-down of our schools.
shut-in	someone who is ill and cannot go outside	Our priest visits the shut-ins - people who must stay at home
shut my mouth	sorry for what I said, slap my afro	"The girl you called an idiot last week has carried off the best marks." "Well, shut my mouth! There's more to her than meets the eye."
shut up	do not talk, keep quiet	"Shut up!" he yelled at the dog. "Be quiet or I'll muzzle you!"
shut your face	stop talking, shut up	When I told him he was a racist, he said, "Shut your face."
shutout (sports)	no goals scored against a goal keeper in one game	Our goalie has three shutouts this season - three zeros!
sick as a dog	(See as sick as a dog)	
sick at heart	sad, sorrowful	Papa was sick at heart after the hailstorm ruined our crop.
sick building	(See a sick building)	
sick of	not interested any more, bored by, tired of	We're sick of his jokes because he repeats them.
sick to death	wishing for a change, fed up , sick of	People are sick to death of the debate on gun control. They've heard too much about guns.
sick to my stomach	vomit, puke, throw up	Stop the car! I think I'm going to be sick to my stomach.
sicker than a dog	very, very sick; as sick as a parrot	He wants to go and play hockey, and he's sicker 'n a dog!
sicko	weird person, pervert, psycho, scumbag	"Who would pour ketchup all over my car?" "Oh, some sicko, I guess."
side by side	standing/walking beside, shoulder to shoulder	The children were standing side by side on the stairs.
sight for sore eyes	(See a sight for sore eyes)	
sign in	sign your name to show you are in the building	Be sure to sign in. We want to know that you are safe inside.
sign off	say goodbye, close, stop writing or talking	"I'll sign off now, but I'll write again soon. With love, Kim."
sign out	sign your name to borrow something, on loan	If you want to sign out a book you will need a library card.

sign up	sign the list, enrol, enlist	"Did you sign up for lessons?" "Yes. My name is on the list."
silence is golden	silence is wonderful, silence is peaceful	After a day of teaching grade two students, silence is golden.
silkhead	bald person, chromedome	If you were a silkhead, would you wear a toupee?
silver spoon	(See born with a silver spoon in his mouth)	
silver-tongued	nice-talking, smooth talker	A silver-tongued salesman sold me this car, but I can't drive!
simmer down	control your anger, chill out , cool off	Simmer down, Sassy. You are very angry. Try to control yourself.
sin bin (hockey)	(See the sin bin)	
sing his praises	praise him a lot, talk in glowing terms	His mom is always singing his praises, saying he's a good boy.
sing up a storm	sing loud, sing vigorously	After dinner we gathered around the piano and sang up a storm.
single file	a single row of people, one by one	We marched single file through the prison door.
single out	choose one person from a group	Why does the priest single me out for extra duties? Why me?
sinking feeling	feeling of failure; despair	When I saw the ambulance at our house, I got a sinking feeling.
sit in judgement on	judge someone's actions, evaluate	Gary is afraid because you sit in judgement on whatever he does
sit the fence	not choose either side, try to be in the middle	People don't like politicians who try to sit the fence.
sit tight	not move, wait here	I'll go and buy the hotdogs. You sit tight until I get back.
sit with you	relate to you, appeal to you	If we build a fence on your land, how would that sit with you?
sitting duck	(See a sitting duck)	
sitting pretty	in a good position, in favorable circumstances	Rich in oil and timber resources, Alberta was sitting pretty.
six bits	seventy-five cents, 3 x two bits	Grandfather told us that he used to pay six bits for a hotel room.
six of one, half a dozen of the other	nearly equal, about the same, like twins	Panasonic and Quasar are very similar - it's six of one, half a dozen of the other.
sixes and sevens	(See at sixes and sevens)	

size up	evaluate, check over	The teacher sized up the new student. He looked scared.
skate on thin ice	(See on thin ice)	
skaters	skate boarders, boarders	The skaters were asked to leave the downtown area.
skeleton in the closet	unpleasant secrets, old scandals	Every family has a skeleton in the closet - a dark secret or two.
skidaddle	leave, go, off with you , vamoose	"Get out of here! Skidaddle!" the old man shouted at the boys.
skids	drug users, skids	A few skids were playing video games at the mall.
skin virgin	never had a tattoo, skin has not been tattooed	Our club has no skin virgins. Every member has at least one tattoo.
skinhead	youth with a short haircut, member of the Nazi Party	Three skinheads shouted "Heil!" as they marched up the street.
skinny dip	swimming naked, in the buff	They took off their clothes and went for a skinny dip in the lake.
skins game	gambling game, betting on who will win a game of golf, curling, etc.	Jake would rather bet on a skins game than watch it.
skip classes	miss classes, not attend classes, play hooky	Riza had low grades in history because he skipped classes.
skip out	take a leave, do not attend, duck out	The students were so enthusiastic about math that nobody skipped out on the voluntary Saturday lesson.
skoal	a Scandinavian toast or salute, cheers , drink up	Jonas, here's to the monster fish we caught. Skoal!
skunk	not score one goal, goose egg	In the final game we got skunked 6-0. We were humiliated.
sky isn't blue	(See the sky isn't blue)	
slackass [B]	lazy person, lazy bones	Larry, you slackass, get over here and help us load the truck!
slam	criticize, insult, knock , put down	The newspaper article slammed the government for being slow to help the flood victims.
slammer	(See in the slammer)	
slap my afro / slap my fro	slap me to help me think, wake me up, shut my mouth	"Did you know that a Pentium computer is smarter than most Americans?" "Well, slap my fro! I didn't know that!"
slash and burn	reduce and cut	To save money, the Government used slash-and-burn policies.

	programs without care or mercy	
sleep around [B]	sleep with and make love to many partners	Harry was sleeping around before his wife divorced him.
sleep in	sleep until late in the morning	Don't call me until after lunch tomorrow. I'm going to sleep in.
sleep it off	sleep until you are sober, sleep until you feel normal	"That medicine made me drowsy." "Go to bed and sleep it off."
sleep like a log	sleep well, sleep soundly, dead to the world , deep sleep	After working in the fields and eating a big meal, I sleep like a log!
sleeper	ordinary device with surprising skill or power	The Taurus SHO was a sleeper. It looked slow, but it was fast!
sleepy head	a child who is tired or sleepy	Go to bed, sleepy head. I'll see you in the morning.
slick	quick and smooth, cool , neat , swell	You ran a slick race, Leah. You paced yourself, stayed in the inside lane and left just enough for the final kick. Congratulations!
slim chance	(See a slim chance)	
slimebucket [B]	crude, immoral person; scumbag	Children need protection from the slimebuckets in society.
slip	become lower, lose ground	My grades slipped last semester. My average dropped from B to C.
slip a notch	be less skillful, not perform as well	After the age of 30, your physical skills may slip a notch or two.
slip away	go away quietly, sneak out	While the men watched the fight, the boys slipped away unnoticed.
slip away	die, pass away	Grandma slipped away during the night. She was gone by morning.
slip of the tongue	(See a slip of the tongue)	
slip out	leave quietly, slip away	I'll slip out and check the parking meter. Be right back.
slip out	speak carelessly, say it without thinking	I didn't mean to answer, Sir. The words just slipped out.
slip up	cause a small mistake, make a booboo	The singer didn't slip up once - not even a little mistake.
slip your mind	forget, not remember	I met her at church last Sunday but her name slips my mind.
slippery slope	dangerous path, a path that leads to problems	When you assume that people are bad, you are on a slippery slope.
slo mo	slow motion,	Are you in slo mo today? You're moving like a snail!

	movement becomes slower, time stands still	
sloshed to the gills	very drunk, loaded , plastered ,	She was sloshed to the gills and singing very badly.
slow as a dead snail	(See as slow as a dead snail)	
slow as molasses...	(See as slow as molasses in January)	
slow day	a day with few customers, a day with little activity	We had another slow day at the theater - only six customers!
slow down	go slower, ease up	Please slow down for the bumps. You're driving too fast.
slowpoke	a person who is working slower than the others	I'm a slowpoke! I've done only one question; you've done six!
sluff off	not do, avoid doing, procrastinate	I've been sluffing off. I'm behind in my assignments.
slug away	work slowly but steadily, plug away	When we returned, Annie was still slugging away at her math.
slug of	(See a slug)	
smack dab in the middle	directly in the middle, in the center	The ball landed smack dab in the middle of the pizza.
smack of	is similar to, shades of	Even the phrase person of color smacks of racism. Don't use it.
small potatoes	unimportant things, insignificant matters	Don't worry about a few broken dishes. That's small potatoes.
small talk	talk about unimportant topics - the weather etc.	Winnie is good at making small talk with strangers.
smartass [B]	a person who tries to be witty, cocky , lippy	"What do you want to drink?" "Do you have breast milk?" "Don't be a smartass!"
smarten up	be smarter, do not be stupid	People who drink and drive should smarten up.
smarts	intelligence, mental ability	Jen gets good grades. She has the smarts to win a scholarship.
smashed	drunk, hammered , wasted	She gets smashed on gin and dances around the living room.
smashing	very beautiful, very attractive	Nicole looks absolutely smashing in that red dress.
smell blood	sense victory, be	Michael is a fierce competitor. When he smells blood, he wins.

	aware of an opponent's weakness	
smell where you're stepping	(See I smell where you're stepping)	
smelling yourself	acting grown-up, having signs of physical maturity, cocky	I know you're smelling yourself, but this is a conversation for adults.
smells	(See something smells)	
smidge/smidgeon	(See just a smidgeon)	
smithwright it	throw it in the garbage, chuck it , eighty-six it , junk it	If the drawing isn't perfect, we smithwright it - we throw it out.
smoke and mirrors	false impressions, deceit, trickery, bafflegab	His speech about new projects is just smoke and mirrors. The company is bankrupt.
smoke like a furnace	smoke a lot of cigarettes, chain smoke	He died of lung cancer. He used to smoke like a furnace.
smoking gun	weapon used, evidence, caught red-handed	The company told me to dismiss the employee, so I was holding the smoking gun.
smooth out	solve a problem or argument	The counselor smoothed out our problem. We're friends again.
smooth sailing	easy job, an operation that has no problems	After we paid the bank for our loan, it was smooth sailing.
smooth talker	one who says nice words, butter wouldn't melt...	Janet is such a smooth talker! She should be in politics.
snag	problem, difficulty, glitch	If you plan a project carefully, there will be fewer snags.
snap	(See it's a snap)	
snap a picture	(See take a picture)	
snap at	speak in a harsh tone, answer sharply	If I talk to you while you're watching TV, you snap at me.
snapped	drunk, loaded , looped	Whenever he gets snapped, he wants to fight.
snatch victory from the jaws of defeat	win when it appears that you will lose, mount a comeback	The opinion polls showed we were losing, but we snatched victory from the jaws of defeat.
snazzy	stylish, neat , way cool	That's a snazzy suit, George. It looks great on you.

snitch	tattle, squeal , tell on	That little devil! He snitched! He told Dad!
snootful	(See a snootful)	
snotty-nosed kid	a child, a boy with a dirty face	I was just a snotty-nosed kid when I got my first job.
snow job	(See a snow job)	
snow them	fool them, tell them a false story	You can't snow them. They know if you're telling a lie.
snowball	grow, become bigger, spread to other people	Among students, discontent can snowball. It can spread rapidly.
snowbirds	Canadians who go south for the winter	It's November, and the snowbirds are leaving Alberta for Arizona.
snug as a bug in a rug	warm and comfortable, cocoon	In this nice apartment, you'll be snug as a bug in a rug.
so and so	a person you dislike, a name you forget	Who invited that so and so to the party? I don't like him!
so far, so good	doing fine this far, good this far	After I had read one page, she said, "So far, so good."
so help me	I will need help to stop, I will need help if I do it	If that dog barks tonight, so help me, I'm going to get the shotgun!
so long	goodbye, see you later	So long, my friends. I have to leave you now.
so much as	this much will anger me, very little will anger me	If that cat so much as touches the baby, I'll tie up its tail!
so quiet you can hear a pin drop	very quiet, very still	The teacher said, "Class, try to be so quiet you can hear a pin drop."
so small you could barely swing a cat	very small room, narrow room, pokey	The bedroom was so small you could barely swing a cat in it.
so small you had to back out to change your mind	very small, tiny, as small as a phone booth	I've seen small apartments, but this one was so small you had back out to change your mind.
so-so	neither good nor bad, fair, fair to middling	"How's the wife, Byron?" "Just so-so, not much better. The doctor says she needs rest."
so to speak	using expressions or metaphors when speaking, to use the vernacular	Ron was up the creek, so to speak. He'd promised to marry Suzy, but he was already married to Joan.
so what	what is the difference, what does it matter,	So we lost the game. So what! It doesn't matter.

	who cares	
soap box	(See get off your soap box)	
sob story	a sad story, a story about love lost or misfortune, cry the blues	Have you heard Keiko's sob story? She lost her boyfriend and her cat on the same day.
sober up	become sober, wait until you are not drunk	Give him a few hours to sober up. He'll be okay after he has a rest.
sock it to me	tell me, give it to me, hit me , shoot	"It's bad news," he said. "Sock it to me," I said.
soft in the head	foolish, crazy	If you quit your job at Gulf Oil, you're soft in the head.
soft market	a period when sales are few and prices are low, buyer's market	The real estate market is soft now. Don't try to sell your house.
soft pedal	say it is not important, downplay	The government is trying to soft pedal their failures.
soft sell	not pressuring the customer, showing the product and letting the customer decide, hard sell	I like the soft-sell guys - the ones who let you take a car for a drive and see if you like it.
soft spot	(See have a soft spot for)	
soft-top	(See ragtop)	
soften up	cause a person to be more co-operative	Ken is stubborn about his right to smoke. I can't soften him up.
soften your stance	cause you to change your opinion or position	If his friends go against him, he may soften his stance.
software	computer programs, courseware	This accounting software is very easy to use.
software piracy	copying computer programs, bootleg	Software piracy is a crime and we could do time.
sold on	believe in, convinced of	I'm sold on this new herbal drink. It gives me energy.
soldier on	continue working; serving well; carry on	When the others quit searching, the family soldiered on, hoping to find their lost girl.
solid as the Rock	(See as solid as	

of Gibraltar	the Rock of Gibraltar)	
some chick	beautiful chick , great woman	Gloria is some chick! Will you introduce me to her?
something borrowed, something blue	two of the things required for a happy wedding and successful marriage	The bride borrowed a blue garter, so she has something borrowed, something blue!
something is haywire	something is wrong or broken, go haywire	Something is haywire with my back. I can't move.
something is rotten...	(See there's something rotten in the state of Denmark)	
something smells	something is wrong, something is not ethical, fishy , there's something rotten in the state of Denmark	Something smells about this case. Why would the police blow up an oil well?
something snapped	the brain broke, the mind failed	Something snapped when he was in the war. Now he can't speak.
sometimes life is a bucket of shit and the handle is inside [B]	sometimes life is very unpleasant, life is not all guns and roses	The junk dealer had a poster on the wall of his shack: Sometimes life is a bucket of shit, and the handle's inside!
song and dance	typical answer, old routine, cliché	"I was late because I had a flat tire." "Don't give me that old song and dance!"
Sophie's choice	choosing between your death and the death of your child	He was facing a Sophie's choice: Lose his son or lose his own life.
SOS	"Save Our Ship" or "Save Our Souls", a distress call, a call for help, mayday	When I was stranded in the North that winter, I tramped messages in the snow: H E L P and S O S.
soul mate	the person who is your natural and compatible mate	I thought Carson and I were soul mates, but we disagree a lot.
sound asleep	sleeping peacefully, dead to the world	When Tara went to check the baby, he was sound asleep.
sound bite	radio advertisement, a	I advertise our hotel on the radio using ten-second sound bites.

	few seconds of radio time	
sound off	complain, get it off your chest , speak out	He was sounding off about our papers - how bad they were.
sounding board	a person who listens to ideas or plans	Cliff used Linda as a sounding board for his business plans.
sour grapes	feeling negative because you did not win	If she loses, she complains about the referee. It's just sour grapes.
sour puss	one who is feeling sad, an unhappy person	Don't be such a sour puss. Let's have fun.
southpaw	left-handed person, lefty	Our baseball team needs another pitcher - preferably a southpaw.
sow wild oats	live a wild life as a young person	As a youth he lived a reckless life. He sowed a few wild oats.
spaced out	feeling strange or unreal, stoned	After falling, Jeff was spaced out. He looked dazed and limp.
spade work	first stage of the work, preparation for later work, pave the way	Paul did the spade work for our food bank. He asked each of the merchants for a donation.
spare me	please do not tell me, do not bore me with	Spare me the gross details of your love affairs. I'm not interested.
speak highly of	praise, say that a person is great or excellent	Angela's former teachers speak very highly of her.
speak of the devil	the person we are speaking about has just arrived	As I walked into the room, Piotr said to Dorota, "Speaking of the devil, here he is now! Ha ha."
speak out	say what you think, speak your mind	Did you speak out at the meeting? Did you tell them what is wrong?
speak up	speak louder, crank it up	Please speak up so everyone can hear you.
speak volumes	tells a lot, reveals much	Your smile speaks volumes about your career. You like it.
speak your mind	say what you think or feel, speak out	We want you to speak your mind on this issue. State your opinion.
speed up	go faster, accelerate, step on it	Don't speed up when you come to an intersection. Slow down!
spell disaster	cause an accident, lead to a tragedy	An error in the design of a car could spell disaster for the driver.
spell out	explain carefully, explain each	If I don't understand a question, I ask him to spell it out for me.

	word or step	
spell you off	do your job for you, allow you to rest	When you get tired of shoveling, I'll spell you off for awhile.
spend holidays	do during your holidays, go for your holidays	"How'd you spend your holidays?" "We drove to Texas and Tijuana."
spend time	wait, hang out , put in time	I spend a lot of time at her place. I'm there every day.
spending money	extra money, money for fun, pin money	Joe earns spending money by washing the neighbors' cars.
spice of life	(See the spice of life)	
spice up	add spices or flavor, jazz up	The chili tastes good, but let's spice it up a bit.
spiffy	clean and tidy, groomed, tiddly	Grandpa, your car looks real spiffy. Did you polish it?
spike a drink	put alcohol in a drink of juice or pop or coffee	Somebody must have spiked my drink. I feel quite dizzy.
spike the ball	hit the ball sharply over the net	Gary's ability to spike the ball gives our team an advantage.
spill the beans	tell a secret, tell others about it, spill your guts	Don't tell Sammy about our plan. He'll spill the beans.
spill your guts	tell everything you know, spill the beans	Don't spill your guts to mom. Don't tell her about our problems.
spin a yarn	tell a story, make up a story	We love to hear Norman spin a yarn. His stories seem so real.
spin crew	speech-writing crew, hired writers	The spin crew will tell me if I should say racial or ethnic.
spin doctor	a speech writer, an advisor to a politician, put the right spin on it	The spin doctor told us to say disability, not handicap.
spin the bottle	a game to decide who will kiss whom	When we played spin the bottle, Mavis always got to kiss Ron.
spin your wheels	waste effort, not progress	If you don't have a career goal you'll just spin your wheels.
spinny	a little crazy, eccentric, drive me batty	Their family is kind of weird. Even the cat is a little spinny.
spinork/spinorky	attractive, cool , groovy , neat	What a spinork sweater! It looks great on you.
spirit away	take away mysteriously, steal secretly, into thin air	Somebody or something spirits away my fingernail clippers. I wonder where they are.

spitting image	(See the spitting image)	
spitting mad	very angry, pissed off [B]	Mom was spitting mad when you ran across her flower garden.
spitting nails	very angry, very mad, hot , pissed [B]	Art was spitting nails when my dog scratched the paint on his car.
splashback	reaction from the public, fall-out , feedback	"Is there any splashback on the new income tax policy?" "Yes. It's all positive."
split	depart, go, leave	I gotta split. Class starts in two minutes.
split a gut	laugh very hard, crack me up	I nearly split a gut watching a John Candy video - hilarious!
split hairs	be very fussy, notice small differences	Clyde likes to work on research that requires him to split hairs.
split second	small difference in time, a fraction of a second	Many Olympic athletes win their events by a split second.
split the difference	divide the difference between the prices	Your price is \$100. I'm offering \$80. Let's split the difference: \$90.
split up	separate, part company	Charles and Di split up in the 90s. They've been separated for years.
spoil for a fight	try to begin a fight, chip on his shoulder , cruising for a bruising	Bud was spoiling for a fight with me. He said, "You're too chicken to fight, ain't you?"
spoiled brat	a child who always gets what he wants	Sure he's a spoiled brat. His mom gave him whatever he wanted.
spoilsport	one who will not play, party-pooper	You spoilsport! Why won't you play strip poker with us?
spot of tea	(See a spot of tea)	
spot on	correct, bang on , dead on , right on	Your answer is spot on! There are 1000 meters in a kilometer.
spotcheck	check anytime, inspect whenever you wish	The prison guard did spotchecks on the men during the night.
spread like wildfire	spread quickly, go public	News of the assassination spread like wildfire.
spread out	lie down with your arms and legs apart	When you spread out on the sofa, there's no room for me.
spread the word	tell everybody, get the word out	The teacher asked us to spread the word about the school concert.
spring for	pay for, pay the	"Who will spring for the pizza?" "Jack will. He just got paid."

	shot	
spruced up	(See all spruced up)	
spur on	encourage, motivate	Her refusal of his gifts seemed to spur him on. It challenged him.
square	not sophisticated, not cool , rube	What a square! He thinks Rolex is some kind of cereal!
square	(See call it square)	
square deal	fair to the purchaser, value for money spent	You get a square deal when you buy a tractor at Al's Machinery.
square meal	full meal: meat, bread, vegetables and milk	We need at least one square meal each day. Do you agree?
square off	face each other ready to fight, have a fight	If Joe and Bud square off, it will be an interesting fight.
square one	the beginning, back to square one	If you answer incorrectly, you have to start at square one.
square shooter	fair dealer, honest person	Sidney is a square shooter. He won't cheat you.
square up	pay a debt, pay your share	Cal told me you owe him \$50. He's wants you to square up.
square up	leave prostitution or life on the street	I've heard there's a group that helps prostitutes square up.
squat	a place to stay, a shelter for street people, a shack	"Where's your squat?" "Across the tracks in a deserted service station."
squeaky clean	very clean, innocent	I've checked Todd's record. He's clean - squeaky clean.
squeal	tell the police, rat on	Robbie won't squeal on us. He'll never tell what we did.
squealer	one who tells the police or authorities, canary	Jason, you squealer! You told the teacher I copied your work.
squirrel away	save, hide, put in a safe place, salt away	You can have your own pension if you squirrel away a few dollars each month.
stack up	compare with, pale by comparison	The Lincoln is a nice car, but how does it stack up against the Lexus?
stacked	having large breasts, having big boobs , sweater girl	"Please describe the woman." "She was tall, blond and, well, you might say she was stacked."
stag	party for a man who will soon be	Let's have a stag for Greg. It's his last party as a single man.

	married	
stand away	turn away, shun, give you the cold shoulder	I don't want to stand away, but you have hurt me deeply.
stand behind	repair or replace, guarantee	Our company stands behind its products. We offer a guarantee.
stand by me	be my friend, be loyal to me, be there for me	I know you like me, but will you stand by me if I get in trouble?
stand corrected	admit a mistake or error, own up	The square root of 4761 is 69, not 68. I stand corrected.
stand for	believe in and represent, be the symbol for	Vicki stands for social justice. She supports public health care.
stand for	permit, tolerate, put up with , stand it	My parents won't allow us to smoke. They won't stand for it.
stand in	replace, substitute, take my place	I can't coach the soccer team today. Will you stand in for me?
stand it	endure it, bear it, put up with it	There's a very strong gas odor in here. How can you stand it?
stand on ceremony	expect everyone to know manners and customs	Leave your cap on if you like. We don't stand on ceremony.
stand out	appear different, not be the same as the others	Dick's voice stands out because it is lower than the others
stand to lose	may lose, could lose	If my son fails to make a loan payment, I stand to lose \$4000.
stand up	not meet you as planned, not attend an appointment	Jerry said he would take Rita to the movies, but he stood her up.
stand up and be counted	say you support and will vote for it, stand up for	If you really believe in gay rights, you will stand up and be counted.
stand up for	support, protect, speak out for	I'm not afraid to stand up for our rights. I'll ask to see a lawyer.
stand up to	challenge, not back down	Please stand up to the bully. Tell him to stop hitting us.
standoffish	not friendly, not sociable	Brett appears to be standoffish, but he's really quite friendly.
stark naked	wearing nothing at all, naked as a jay bird , without a stitch of clothes on	The people on the beach were stark naked. They were members of a nudist colony.
stark raving mad	completely crazy, out of your mind	Ophelia went stark raving mad after Hamlet rejected her.
start a fire under	motivate him,	Somebody started a fire under Kent. He's skating hard tonight.

him	get him started	
start from scratch	start from the beginning, go back to square one	After the flood, we all had to start from scratch - to rebuild our lives.
start out	start, begin, leave on a journey	Fill the tank with gas and check the oil before you start out.
start over	begin again, go to square one	If I make a mistake, I start over. I go right back to the beginning.
start up	start, begin, organize, begin a business	Before you start up a business you should write a business plan.
start with a bang	start well, start fast, off to a good start	The party will start with a bang if Elton arrives by hot-air balloon.
state of mind	mood, mental attitude, frame of mind	My state of mind improves when I read a book by Northrop Frye.
state of the art	most advanced, cutting edge	Many state-of-the-art devices use the LASER beam.
state secret	(See it's not a state secret)	
stay abreast	be aware of developments, stay current, keep pace	Can you stay abreast of changes in computer technology?
stay alive	win enough to continue, continue in a series	To stay alive, the Leafs must win the next two games.
stay awake	not sleep, be alert	I can't stay awake any longer. I can't keep my eyes open.
stay in line	obey the rules, behave well	Stay in line, young man. We expect you to obey orders.
stay put	stay where you are, do not move	He took his dog out of the store and said, "Sit! Stay put!"
stay up	not go to sleep, wait up for	We stay up until the kids come home - if it isn't too late.
steal the show	be the favorite performer, receive the most applause	The little Peterson girl stole the show with her fine tap dancing.
steal your heart	cause you to like or love, win the hearts	The kittens will steal your heart. They're so cute and playful.
steal your thunder	tell your news, reveal your main message	If I mention the new product, will I steal your thunder?
steam up	upset, excited, worried	Poor Emil would get all steamed up when his car wouldn't start.
steamy	portraying lots of sex, full of love	Love In The Park is a steamy movie. There's lots of action.

	scenes	
steer clear	avoid, not go there	I advise you to steer clear of the bridge. There's been a flood.
stem to stern	(See from stem to stern)	
step aside	resign, quit so someone else can do the job	If Jon will step aside, Harvey can become president.
step down	resign, leave a position, bow out	It was time for Pierre to step down - time for him to resign.
step on his dick	cause an error, screw up	John really stepped on his dick when he lost that CD. It had all his customer accounts on it.
step on it	go faster, step on the gas, pedal to the metal	Father said, "Step on it, son. We don't want to be late."
step on people	hurt people to get ahead, use people to succeed	I want wealth, but I don't want to step on people to get it.
step on their toes	offend them, upset them	When I mentioned their debt, did I step on their toes?
step on your dick	cause a problem for yourself, shoot yourself in the foot	You really stepped on your dick when you told her about seeing your old girlfriend.
step out of line	do something bad, misbehave	If John steps out of line again, I'll remind him of the rules.
step up to the plate	do your best, take action , take your turn	Pedro said, "It's time for me to act. It's time to step up to the plate."
stick in my craw	irritate me, get to me	That decision really sticks in my craw. How could he sell Gretzky?
stick-in-the-mud	one who does not go out, party-pooper	Farley, that stick-in-the-mud! He never goes to a party.
stick it out	stay until you finish, hang in there	Can you stick it out until six? Can you work until then?
stick it up your ass [B]	put it away, forget it , shove it	You can take your useless truck and stick it up your ass!
stick my neck out	risk my safety to help, put my neck on the line	Why should I stick my neck out when you disobey your father?
stick out like a sore thumb	not fit or blend, look out of place	The ugly painting stuck out like a sore thumb in the art gallery.
stick them up	put your hands above your head, hands up	The man took out a gun and said to the clerk, "Stick 'em up!"
stick to it	stay at a tough job, hang in there	If you stick to it - practice every day - you will be a fine pianist.
stick to your guns	not change your	If you testify in court, stick to your guns. Tell the same story.

	belief, be firm	
stick up for	support, encourage	Will you stick up for me if I get in an argument?
stickhandle	maneuver, negotiate, deke you	When the lawyer tried to trap me I just stickhandled around his question and talked about something else.
stiff	not pay for, leave without paying	The cab driver told a policeman that a lady had stiffed him.
stiff	person, man	You lucky stiff! You won a TV!
stiff upper lip	(See keep a stiff upper lip)	
still wet behind the ears	still quite young, the tender age of	When we moved to Boston, you were still wet behind the ears.
stink the joint out	play very poorly, perform badly	In Chicago, we stunk the joint out, losing 7-1 to the Hawks.
stitch in time	(See a stitch in time)	
stitch of clothes on	(See without a stitch of clothes on)	
stock in trade	main product, bread and butter	Our stock in trade is tires. We sell more tires than oil or gas.
stone dead	very dead, no sign of life, dead as a doornail	When we finally found the goose, it was stone dead.
stone unturned	(See leave no stone unturned)	
stone's throw	(See a stone's throw)	
stoned	drugged, natural high on drugs, spaced out , wasted	If he's stoned, he shouldn't drive. Let's hide his keys.
stonewall	block, prevent, not allow	The president stonewalled every one of our plans. He said no.
stop at nothing	do anything to succeed, not stop until you win	The Indians will stop at nothing. They will get a reservation.
stop on a dime	stop very quickly, stop exactly where you wish	With disk brakes, this car can stop on a dime. See?
stop you cold	stop you quickly, grind to a halt	One look from the old witch will stop you cold. What a fierce gaze!
stop you in your tracks	cause you to stop, prevent you from going further	You know what will stop you dead in your tracks? A bear, that's what.
straight	(See go straight , square up)	
straight away	(See right away)	

straight cash	all cash, using only cash	When I go shopping I pay straight cash. I don't use my credit cards.
straight dope	(See the straight dope)	
straight face	(See keep a straight face)	
straight from the horse's mouth	directly from the person who said it or did it	I want to hear the story from Tomas, straight from the horse's mouth.
straight from the shoulder	directly, plainly, call a spade... , doesn't mince words	Richler spoke straight from the shoulder when addressing his own people - the way Jesus did with the money-changers.
straight goods	(See the straight goods)	
straight man	the man who is not joking, the man who is honest or natural	When I began in comedy, my straight man was Jason. He would ask honest questions and I would give funny answers.
straight talk	the truth, the facts, the the straight goods	My son and I believe in straight talk. We communicate.
straight up	without stopping, not reduced, full strength	I do ten minutes of exercise; then I run 5 km straight up.
straight up	truthfully, the way it is	Give it to me straight up - exactly what she said.
straighten you out	tell you the facts or the truth, set you straight	Talk to the teacher. She'll straighten you out.
strapped	having very little money, nearly flat broke	I can't afford to go to a concert this month. I'm strapped.
straw horse	an idea to be discussed and refined, a draft proposal or motion	I have an idea that may work - kind of a straw horse. I'll tell you about it and we can discuss its potential.
straw that broke the camel's back	(See the last straw)	
street smarts	knowing how to survive, worldly wise	You need street smarts to be a police officer in Toronto.
street wise	wise about street life, been around	Let's ask Sal to go downtown with us. He's street wise.
stretch the dollar	spend carefully, buy the most for each dollar	We have a large family. I stretch the dollar as far as I can.
stretch the envelope	extend the boundaries, expand your horizons	I've set some goals that stretch my envelope - challenge me.
stretch the truth	add to a true	Al was stretching the truth. He said the waves were 60 feet high.

	story, include lies with the truth	
stretching it	saying it was bigger or better than it was	To say the mosquitoes are as big as starlings is stretching it.
strictly business	very serious, not joking, no nonsense	When he conducts the band, he's strictly business. He's serious.
strictly for the birds	(See for the birds)	
strike a bargain	find a satisfactory deal or price	After discussing the price of the carpet, we struck a bargain: \$15.
strike it rich	earn or win a lot of money, find a gold mine	People came to the Yukon hoping to find gold - to strike it rich.
strike me	causes me to pause, impresses me	What strikes me is the color of the leaves. They're crimson.
strike out (baseball)	fail to hit the ball while at bat	This time he'll hit the ball. Last time at bat he struck out.
strike out on your own	leave home and support yourself, be independent	I was eighteen when I struck out on my own and found a job.
strike up a conversation	begin a conversation with a stranger	Uncle Ho is sociable. He strikes up a conversation with anyone.
strike up the band	begin conducting the band, give the downbeat	Maestro, strike up the band. We want to hear some music.
strike while the iron is hot	do it before it is too late, now is the time to act	In business, timing is important. You strike while the iron is hot.
strike your fancy	interest you, appeal to you, turn your crank	Do you see anything on the menu that strikes your fancy? Lobster?
string a line	create a story, make up a story	He was stringing you a line. A dog wasn't driving the car.
string along	pretend that you believe, go along with	When Franz talks about shark fishing, I just string along.
string bean	thin person, bean pole	You string bean, Kenny! You're too skinny to hit the ball!
string of good luck	a series of lucky events, lucky streak	He isn't the best pitcher. He's just having a string of good luck this season.
strip	remove all your clothes, full Monty , in the buff	"I'd like to see you naked." "Okay. I'll strip if you will."
strip mall	a row of stores with a small parking lot in	Does the Langdale strip mall have a video store?

	front	
stripped	(See bare bones)	
stroke of genius	a very intelligent idea, a unique solution	Using laser light for surgery - now that's a stroke of genius.
stroke of good luck	a fortunate event, a lucky break , the fickle finger of fate	Then, by some stroke of good luck, a car horn scared the lion and it ran away.
stroke your ego	cause you to feel confident or proud	Compliments are wonderful because they stroke your ego.
strung out	ill or weak because of drug abuse, hungover	When she's strung out on cocaine she won't talk to her family.
stubblejumper	grain farmer, Saskatchewan folk	My uncle is a stubblejumper. He owns a farm near Kuroki.
stuck on	focused on, obsessed with	Jack is stuck on Vicki, but she doesn't care about him.
stuff it	put it away, forget it , shove it [B]	I don't want her money. She can stuff it!
stumbling block	obstacle, problem	A strip of land is in the way of peace. It is the stumbling block.
stump me	ask me a question I cannot answer, puzzle me	The question on the names of the Great Lakes stumped me.
such a card	quite a joker, such a clown	Greg tells the funniest stories. He is such a card!
suck	an immature person, wimp	Chad, that suck! He tells his mother everything we say.
suck	is a poor quality, is not acceptable, shabby	You chose to cheat your friend? That sucks!
suck eggs	go, leave, have a bad experience, up yours [B]	When I told him not to swear, he said, "Go suck eggs, man."
suck it up	get up and do it, be strong, do not be a quitter	"I can't do it, Kate. I've searched everywhere and I can't find it." "Suck it up, John. I'm counting on you to define that idiom!"
suck off [B]	(See give head)	
suck the hind tit [B]	receive less than others, not get as good service, the short end of the stick	Who is sucking the hind tit of government services? Some people say it's the seniors.
suck up to	be nice for personal gain,	Why is Ken sucking up to me? Does he expect a raise in pay?

	brown nose [B]	
suckbucket	student's briefcase, valise	T think Zen carries a suckbucket to impress the teachers.
sucked in	deceived, cheated, led to believe , taken in	"You believed his story about working late at the office?" "Ya, I got sucked in."
sucker	a person who is gullible; easy to persuade	"Who will buy that painting?" "Oh, some sucker will come along."
sucker you	fool you, cheat you, taken >/q>	When you walk along the midway, don't listen to the men who want you to throw balls or darts. They're just trying to sucker you. Hear?
sucks	is poor quality, does not satisfy me	This radio sucks! I can't get my favorite station!
suffer a setback	lose a game, fail a test, become injured or ill	Italy's soccer team suffered a setback losing to Ireland.
suicide pass	(See a suicide pass)	
suit yourself	you choose, choose what you like	"I prefer tea." "Suit yourself."
suits you	looks good on you, becomes you	Red and black suit you. You look great in those colors.
Sunday best	best clothes, glad rags	Father was in his Sunday best - in his three-piece, navy suit.
sunset years	senior years, over 65, golden years	Will you still love me when I'm old - in my sunset years?
super-duper	very large, exciting or powerful, totally awesome	After class, Julie went to the cafe and ordered a super-duper sundae with a cherry on top.
super mint	excellent, the best quality	The photograph of the baby is super mint! It's excellent!
supercharge	boost the power, hop up , tweak	We supercharged the engine in a Datsun 510, doubling its power.
superstar	very talented athlete or performer, the best player	Hockey's superstars include Richard, Howe, and Gretzky.
sure as hell	very sure, certain, a sure bet	If you leave food around, the bears will come - sure as hell!
sure as shit	certain to happen, predictable, a foregone conclusion	Robert will come, sure as shit. He comes every day.
sure bet	(See a sure bet)	
sure thing	(See a sure thing)	

surf the Net	survey the Internet or global computer network	Olga is surfing the Net again - looking for a boy in the US.
swallow that	believe that, buy that , eat that	He said the company is bankrupt, but don't swallow that!
swallow your pride	do not let your pride stop you, control your pride	Swallow your pride. Accept the offer to return to your old job.
swear by	believe in a product and say that it is good	Joel swears by Chrysler cars. He's driven a Dodge for years.
swear like a sailor	use vulgar language, use four-letter words , the air was blue	Grace won't take her boyfriend to church because he swears like a sailor.
swear off	quit using, abstain from	Zack has sworn off beer until Christmas. He's quit completely.
sweat bullets	worry, be very concerned or afraid or nervous	I was sweating bullets when I heard your plane went down.
sweat it	(See don't sweat it)	
sweat it out	wait and worry, on pins and needles	While the jury discussed a verdict, the prisoner was sweating it out.
sweater girl	girl with big breasts who wears a tight sweater	Jody was the sweater girl in our class. She was sexy.
sweep under the carpet	hide problems, cover mistakes	Don't sweep your problems under the carpet. Try to solve them.
sweep you off your feet	impress you, cause you to love them quickly	Andre is very charming. He will sweep you off your feet.
sweet on	like, love, got a crush on , stuck on	You act kind of funny when Barb is here. Are you sweet on her?
sweet spot	(See the sweet spot)	
sweet tooth	a need to eat candy, a craving for sweets	A piece of dark chocolate will satisfy my sweet tooth. Yum!
sweeten the pot	add more good things, make it worth more	If we sweeten the pot with a trip to Paris, we'll sell more tickets.
sweetie pie	dear, darling, honey	How are you, sweetie pie? It's so good to see you! So good to hug you!
swell	great, wonderful, (often used sarcastically)	"How was your vacation?" "Oh swell. It rained every day."

swelled head	feeling too proud, let it go to your head	If I win the talent contest, I promise not to get a swelled head.
swift	intelligent, smart, bright	I'm not very swift when I try to do calculus. I usually fail.

T

tail between his legs	running away in defeat or fear, retreating quickly	When the bear followed me, I ran with my tail between my legs!
tail lights	gone, departed, could not see me for dust	When I heard the police siren, I was tail lights. I was gone.
tail wagging the dog	(See the tail wagging the dog)	
tailgate	drive too close to the car in front, on his tail	The instructor told me not to tailgate - to leave more space.
take a back seat	say you are not as good, play second fiddle	You are good at chess. Don't take a back seat to anyone!
take a boo	look at, take a look	Take a boo with my telescope. See the dust on the moon?
take a bow	bow to the audience, show you like applause	The crowd is clapping because you played well. Take a bow.
take a break	rest for a few minutes or days or weeks	You've been working hard. Do you want to take a break?
take a bullet	accept blame or injury to protect someone	Pat said she was responsible for our mistake - she took a bullet.
take a chance	gamble, try your luck	I'm going to take a chance and buy gold. It's a gamble, but... .
take a dive	plan to lose, throw a game	The boxer was paid to take a dive. He allowed his opponent to win.
take a drive/trip	travel, go for a drive, go on a trip	They take a drive in the country every Sunday afternoon.
take a dump [B]	shit, drop a log [B], take a shit [B]	I looked out the window and saw a dog taking a dump on my lawn.
take a flight	go, leave, take off	If you don't like the way I live, you can take a flight.
take a flight	leave by plane, travel on a scheduled airline flight take off	We're taking WestJet Flight 703 out of Toronto on Friday.
take a gander	look at, feast your eyes , take a boo	Take a gander at that valley! Just look at it!
take a guess	guess, try to answer, hazard a guess	"How old are you?" "Take a guess."
take a hike	go, leave, get lost	When her old boyfriend moved in with us, I told them to take a hike.
take a joke	not be mad if the joke is about you, a good sport	Let's tell the story about Steve getting lost. He can take a joke.
take a leak [B]	urinate, take a pee [B], take a whiz	We asked the bus driver to stop so we could take a leak.
take a load off	sit down, grab a	Jim pointed to a chair and said, "Take a load off your feet."

your feet	chair , have a seat	
take a look	look at, see that, take a boo	Take a look at that pumpkin! It's monstrous!
take a pee [B]	urinate, take a leak [B], take a whiz	"Where can I take a pee?" she whispered to her friend.
take a picture	photograph, take a picture	In Regina, he took a picture of the statue of Louis Riel.
take a piss [B]	urinate, take a leak [B], take a pee [B]	A drunk was taking a piss in the alley behind the hotel.
take a poke at	punch, hit with your fist	First he pushed Tom, then he took a poke at me.
take a poke at	say something negative in a humorous way	The speaker took a poke at women who want everything men have.
take a poll	record opinions, find out how people will vote	Take a poll before the election so you can predict the winner.
take a powder	leave quickly, flew the coop , take a hike	"Where's Louis?" "He took a powder when he heard the sirens."
take a risk	(See take risks)	
take a round out of	defeat in a fight, win a fight	Johnny is a tough guy. He took a round out of Pete, you know.
take a shine to	like, show interest in	At the age of four, Raj took a shine to the piano. Now he's a great pianist.
take a shit [B]	have a bowel movement, take a dump [B]	She wrote a book that explains how to take a shit in the woods.
take a shot	criticize or insult, put down , take a poke at	When he spoke about abortion, he took a shot at the government for not changing the laws.
take a shot	shoot a gun at, aim and shoot a rifle	Uncle was looking for a target, so he took a shot at a tin can.
take a snap shot	(See take a picture)	
take a stand	say what you believe, state your position, take sides	The teacher doesn't want to take a stand on the Young Offender Act until we've written our essays.
take a strip off	scold, lecture, give you hell	The foreman took a strip off me for driving too fast. He was mad.
take a whiz	urinate, take a leak [B], take a pee [B]	I have to take a whiz before we get on the plane. I'll be right back.
take action	act in a deliberate way, act with a purpose	Before I take action, I'll ask Bing if he was aware of the rules.
take advantage of	act at the best time, seize the opportunity	I took advantage of the low price of gasoline. I bought 500 litres.

take advantage of	hurt or abuse someone who trusts you	I feel very angry toward people who take advantage of children.
take after	have similar traits, have the same personality	Kyle is calm; he takes after me. Kris is active, just like his dad.
take after	chase, try to catch	If he catches the football, you take after him as fast as you can.
take by storm	rush in, win by force, overwhelm	The Vikings landed on the beach and took the village by storm.
take calls	answer the phone, receive calls	Karen isn't taking calls because she's in a meeting.
take care	be careful	Take care. See you tomorrow.
take care of	care for someone or something, look after	I'll take care of Taea while you go shopping. I'll stay with her.
take care of business	do what needs to be done, do my job	"You scored a beautiful goal!" "Just taking care of business."
take chances	live dangerously, risk something valuable, play with fire	Don't take chances with our savings. We worked hard to earn that money.
take charge	be in control, supervise	Jim will take charge while I'm away. He'll be your supervisor.
take cover	hide, find a safe place	If the soldiers begin shooting, you guys take cover.
take drugs	use drugs, do drugs	When I take that drug, I feel sick at my stomach.
take effect	have an effect, cause a change	In two minutes the drug will take effect and you will feel sleepy.
take exception to	be upset about, object to, complain about	Vern will take exception to any questions about ethnic origin.
take five	rest for five minutes, take a break	We've been working hard this morning. Let's take five.
take for granted	expect, assume	His support cannot be taken for granted. We must ask him.
take heart	have courage, be strong	When we had troubles, Grandpa said, "Take heart, my children."
take him down a peg	push him to a lower place, get off your high horse	Ali was too proud. Somebody had to take him down a peg.
take him out	defeat him, eliminate him	Wei entered the tournament, but Jo took her out in the first round.
take in	make smaller, tighten	These pants need to be taken in at the waist. They're too large.
take in	attend, visit	When you come to Calgary, be sure to take in the Stampede.
take it	endure it, accept it, stand it	He treats you very badly. Why do you take it?
take it	understand it is true, believe it is this way	I take it you want the whole class to write a report. Is that right?

take it and run	accept the offer and be happy, be satisfied	He offered to pay \$200 for the damage, so I took it and ran.
take it back	not mean to say it, withdraw what you said	I said you were a turkey, but I take it back. You're a rat!
take it easy	do not try so hard, do not work so hard	When you jog, take it easy. Rest often.
take it easy on	be less demanding, go easy on	When you train the dogs, take it easy on Taffy. She's just a pup.
take it for a spin	drive it, test drive it	Al has a new motorcycle. I hope he lets me take it for a spin.
take it in stride	continue without delay, cope with	Lilian is so steady. If there's a problem, she takes it in stride.
take it like a man	be brave when hurt, do not complain about problems	They told him not to cry when he was hurt - to take it like a man.
take it or leave it	take this offer or refuse it; no bargaining	I'll give you \$150 for the sofa - take it or leave it.
take it out on	express anger toward an innocent person	Vince gets angry at work; then he takes it out on his kids.
take it personally	believe you are being attacked or accused	He was criticizing the whole class; don't take it personally.
take it the wrong way	misunderstand, feel bad; no offense, but...	He stares because he is curious. Don't take it the wrong way.
take it to heart	believe it is said to you, feel it is meant for you	When he said we'll burn in hell, Ella cried. She took it to heart.
take it with a grain of salt	do not believe all of it, some of it is not true	When Brian talks, take it with a grain of salt. Believe very little.
take its course	develop naturally, go through a process, willy-nilly	We can control many parts of our environment, but the weather just takes its course.
take leave of your senses	act like a fool, not think clearly, off your rocker	If you wear your bathing suit to church, people will think you've taken leave of your senses.
take me seriously	be serious about me and what I say and do	I'm not joking about going to a psychic. Please take me seriously.
take my hat off to	show respect for someone, praise a person's work	I take my hat off to Roger. He has promoted business in our town.
take my head off	shout at me, say angry words to me	You don't have to take my head off when I ask where you're going.
take my place	sit or park where I	Mommy, he took my place! He's sitting in my seat!

	usually sit or park	
take oath	say that something is true, give my word of honor	He took an oath that he is the child's father. I believe him.
take off	leave by plane, depart on a plane	Our plane takes off at 10:35. We have to go to the airport.
take off, eh	go, leave, beat it , buzz off , get lost	When he asked for my phone number, I said, "Take off, eh."
take offense	be hurt, feel offended	Jan takes offense easily. Don't be critical of her poetry.
take on	fight, challenge	Mac wanted to take on Ted, but Ted didn't want to fight.
take on	agree to do, accept a responsibility	I'm very busy. I can't take on any more work right now.
take on	employ, hire, hire on	AmCorp is taking on workers. Should we apply for a job?
take on a new light	have a new meaning, see a different meaning	The music takes on a new light if you know the composer.
take out	court, date, go out with , see	He was taking her out when they went to college. They were lovers.
take-out restaurant	a restaurant that serves food to be taken outside	There's a take-out restaurant. Let's buy some food and go to the park.
take over	do someone's job, become the new manager	Please take over the bookkeeping while I'm away. Thank you.
take pains	try hard, take extra time or care	Mr. and Mrs. Wilson take pains to find families that are truly in need.
take part in	join, be a worker or a participant	She takes part in many activities, including gardening.
take place	happen, occur	The race will take place at the university track at 10 a.m.
take possession	receive the keys as the new owner	"We bought a house in Parkland." "When do you take possession?"
take revenge	hurt one who hurt you, get even	If your car is stolen, report it to the police. Don't take revenge.
take risks	accept challenge and change, welcome uncertainty, push the envelope	By taking risks we can discover our potential - what is possible!
take sides	support one person or group in an argument	The mayor refused to take sides in the fight to save the hospital.
take solace	find peace, find comfort	It was a bad fire, but I take solace in the fact that no one died.
take that	you deserve that, you have it coming	Take that, you devil! And that! I'm very angry at you!
take the blame	receive the blame, accept the blame, take the rap	Sometimes innocent people offer to take the blame for crimes.

take the bull by the horns	control the problem, be firm, take charge	If the class is noisy, the teacher must take the bull by the horns.
take the bus/plane	ride on the bus or plane, catch a plane	Lee never takes the bus. He prefers to ride his bicycle.
take the cake	is the worst or the weirdest or the funniest etc.	Of all the people I've met, you take the cake! You're the wildest!
take the chill off	make the room warmer, start the furnace/fireplace	An electric heater will take the chill off in the evening.
take the flack	listen to the complaints, take the heat	When children cause trouble, their parents take the flack.
take the heat	listen to the questions from the police or public	Vern took the heat, but Al stole the drugs. They blamed Vern.
take the pulse	discover the feelings of the people	Before you change the flag, see how people feel. Take their pulse.
take the rap	receive the blame, take the blame	Jeremy took the rap for the crime. He alone was sent to prison.
take the stage	go onto the stage, be the performer on the stage	When Bob Goulet took the stage we heard some great singing.
take the stand	sit in the witness chair in a courtroom	You witnessed the crime, so you will have to take the stand.
take the trouble	do extra work, do special tasks, take pains	Maria always takes the trouble to bake my favorite pie.
take this job and shove it [B]	I quit, you can keep this job	Jim said to the boss, "Take this job and shove it! I'm outa here!"
take time to smell the roses	use some time to relax and enjoy the scenery	Yes, pursue your goals, but take time to smell the roses.
take umbrage	feel hurt, feel offended, take offense	If you refuse her invitation to her party, she'll take umbrage.
take up	begin a hobby or activity, learn a skill	First, Alice took up karate. Then she learned how to meditate.
take up cudgels	pick up weapons, prepare to defend or attack	We may have to take up cudgels against people who invent and spread viruses on the Internet.
take up the slack	do somebody's work, fill in	When I'm away, Hal takes up the slack. He does my job.
take with a grain of salt	(See take it with a grain of salt)	
take you down a peg	(See knock you down a peg)	

take you for all you've got	take all your money by suing you or cheating you	If she divorces you, she could take you for all you've got.
take you in	give you shelter and food, take care of	Will your relatives take you in if you lose your job?
take you to court	sue you, bring a lawsuit against you	If you don't pay for the damage, they could take you to court.
take you to task	ask you to explain, haul you up on the carpet	Did Reverend Klinck take you to task for drinking beer? Did he tell you drinking is a sin?
take you to the cleaners	defeat you badly, win by many points	If you play checkers with Lars, he'll take you to the cleaners.
take your lumps	endure bumps and hits, suffer through injuries	To play hockey, you have to learn to take your lumps.
take your pick	choose one, say which one you prefer	You can have Coke or Pepsi. Take your pick.
take your pulse	measure your heart rate, check your pulse	When you visit the health clinic, the doctor will take your pulse.
take your seat	sit in your chair or desk, be seated	Judy, please take your seat so we can begin the exam.
take your time	do not rush, do it when you have enough time, no rush	"When do you need it?" "It's not urgent. Take your time."
take your sweet time	you are too slow, you could work faster, pick up the pace	"You took your sweet time to do this job. It could have been done much faster!" "Yes, but would it have been done well?"
take your turn	act or speak when your name is called, it's your turn	You're up to bat, Buddy. Take your turn, knock it outa here!
take your word for it	believe what you say, not ask for proof, the benefit of the doubt	You say you are eighteen. Since you don't have your ID card, we'll have to take your word for it.
taken	cheated, ripped off	If he paid \$1500 for that car, he got taken.
taken for a ride	tricked, deceived, taken in	We were taken for a ride. We lost thousands of dollars.
taken in	deceived, fooled, taken for a ride	I was taken in by their ads. I believed what they said.
takeoff on	(See a takeoff on)	
takes one to know one	(See it takes one to know one)	
takes two to tango	(See it takes two to tango)	

talk a mile a minute	talk fast, talk quickly	Mimi talks a mile a minute. It's hard to understand her.
talk about	if we are talking about, if you want to discuss	Talk about cold! Last winter it was -43°
talk away	continue talking, talk and talk	The baby was talking away, but no one could understand her.
talk back	reply without respect, lip off	In China, kids don't talk back to their parents, do they?
talk big	brag, exaggerate, promise a lot	Bert talks big before a game. He's more humble afterwards.
talk into	persuade, convince	Try to talk him into buying a new car. His Fiat is rusty.
talk is cheap	talk is not action, saying is easier than doing	He says he's going to pay his debt, but talk is cheap.
talk it over	discuss it, hash it over	I don't agree with you, but let's talk it over before we decid
talk it up	talk with enthusiasm, tell people about it	If we want to build an arena, we have to talk it up with the people.
talk shop	talk about jobs, talk about what we do at work	I don't like to talk shop when we have visitors. It's too boring.
talk the leg off the lamb of God	talk a lot; persuasively; have the gift of the gab	Minerva was a talker. She could talk the leg off the lamb of God!
talk through your hat	talk without logic, say unbelievable things, hot air	If you tell Dad about building a house in outer space, he'll say you're talking through your hat.
talk to the hand	I am not listening to you, I am not interested in your comment	"But he hit me first!" "Talk to the hand."
talk turkey	discuss a fair deal, negotiate seriously	If the owner really wants to sell, he'll talk turkey.
talk your ear off	talk too much, talk all the time	Polly is only three years old, but she can talk your ear off.
talk your head off	talk a lot, say too much	You can talk your head off, but I won't change my opinion.
tall one	(See a tall one)	
tall tale	a story that is partly true, an exaggerated story	Fishermen love to tell tall tales. They lie a little, eh.
tangle with	fight against, have a fight with	I wouldn't want to tangle with Vince. He's strong - and mean!
tank	a drunk, an alcoholic, lush , wino	Percy - that tank! He drinks a case of beer every day.
tank	(See in the tank)	
tanked/tanked up	drunk, polluted , sloshed , wasted	After an evening at the tavern, the sailors were tanked.

tar with the same brush	(See paint with the same brush)	
taste of his own...	(See give him a taste of his own medicine)	
teach an old dog...	(See you can't teach an old dog new tricks)	
teach you the tricks of the trade	teach you how to do it, teach you the easy way, learn the ropes	Welcome to the company, Ken. Paul will work with you and teach you the tricks of the trade.
team player	an employee who works well with other employees	Team players - that's what we need in our company.
team up	play together, form a team	If you team up with Lana, we can play bridge, okay?
tear a strip off	scold, lecture, criticize, give you hell [B]	Kasan's father tore a strip off him for missing a day of school.
tear around	go fast, run here and there, drive around	When Ty was young, he liked to tear around town in his car.
tear me apart	criticize me or my work, find all my faults	If you waste tax dollars, the voters will tear you apart.
tearjerker	a sad story, a story or song that causes tears, move you to tears	Have you seen For Whom The Bell Tolls? It's sad - a real tearjerker!
teed off	upset, cross, ticked off	She was teed off about the errors in the balance sheet.
teed up	ready to operate, ready to use	"Is your presentation ready?" "Yes. All teed up, ready to go."
teeny-weeny	very small, tiny, itsy-bitsy	Look at its teeny-weeny tail! It's so cute!
tell a soul	(See won't tell a soul)	
tell all	tell everything you know, pour out your soul	In a job interview, I answer their questions, but I don't tell all.
tell him a thing or two	tell him he caused a problem, tell him off	If Sid took my keys, I'm going to tell him a thing or two.
tell him off	tell him you are angry, tell him he is wrong	If he mentions my toupee once more, I'm going to tell him off.
tell him where to get off	tell him what you think of him, tell him off	If he complains about the meals, tell him where to get off.
tell him where to go	tell him to go to hell [B], tell him off	If he criticizes the way I drive, I'll tell him where to go!
tell me	tell me another	You say the spaceship took you away. Sure. Tell me another

another one	excuse, tell me another lie	one.
tell me straight	(See give it to me straight)	
tell on	tell a secret, tell about a crime, squeal	Will Robbie tell on us? What if he tells the police we did it?
tempest in a teapot	(See a tempest in a teapot)	
tempt fate	act without caution, act as though you are immortal, don't push your luck , take chances	To swim with sharks is dangerous; to do it alone is to tempt fate.
ten-four (CB radio)	yes, I hear you, okay	"See you in Memphis, big fella." "Ten-four, good buddy."
tender age of	(See the tender age of)	
test drive	drive to evaluate, try it out	I test drove the new Harley on Saturday. What a bike!
test the water	check people's feelings, take a poll	Wilson always tests the water before he introduces a budget.
test your metal	test your strength or will or skill, run the gauntlet	If your team is losing by three runs, the bases are loaded, and you are the final batter - that will test your metal!
TGIF	Thank Goodness It's Friday, I am glad it is the last day of work this week	"Remember, we're going to a party tonight." "Yes! TGIF!"
thank goodness	I am thankful or relieved, thank heavens	Thank goodness you're here. We were worried about you.
Thank Goodness It's Friday	(See TGIF)	
thank heavens	thank the gods, thank goodness	When we phoned Mom, she said, "Thank heavens you're safe!"
thank your lucky stars	(See you can thank your lucky stars)	
thanks a bunch	thanks very much, thanks a lot	When I deliver the groceries, she says, "Thanks a bunch, Teddy."
thanks a million	thanks very much, thanks a lot	Thanks a million for all you've done for us. We do appreciate it.
that a boy/that a girl	good work, well done, 'at a boy , 'at a girl	Whenever I get a good grade, she says, "That a boy, Reid!"
that is that	(See and that's that)	
that takes the	that is the	I've seen big pumpkins, but that takes the cake! It's fifty

cake	strangest or loudest or wildest etc.	pounds!
that'll be the day	that will never happen, not on your life	Me? Wear a ring in my nose? That'll be the day!
that'll be the frosty Friday	that day will never come, don't hold your breath	Canada become part of the US? That'll be the frosty Friday!
that's a corker	that is unusual, that is amazing	"The baby weighed 12 pounds." "Wow, that's a corker!"
that's a crock (of shit) [B]	that is not true; bullshit ; crap	A Mustang is faster than a Corvette? That's a crock!
that's all she wrote	that is the end of the story, there is no more	At the end of the lesson he said, "And that's all she wrote. Any questions?"
that's cool	that is good/fine/OK, that is groovy	When we gave Fonzie a leather tie, he said, "That's cool."
that's his bible	that is his rule book, code or main reference	The Oxford English Dictionary - that's her bible.
that's life	that is the way life goes, c'est la vie	Whenever Maurice has bad luck, he says, "Ah, that's life."
that's stretching it	that is adding to the story, stretching it	Did he say there were fifty flying saucers? That's stretching it.
that's that	(See and that's that)	
that's the spirit	good work, good attitude, way to go	"That's the spirit," the Captain shouted as we scrubbed the deck.
that's the ticket	that is the answer, that is the solution	I said, "Can we share the job?" Mr. Tse said, "That's the ticket!"
that's the way the ball bounces	that is fate, that's life	If Jon got the job, good for him. That's the way the ball bounces.
that's the way the cookie crumbles	that is fate, that is the way things happen	You didn't win the prize? That's the way the cookie crumbles.
the acid test	the ultimate trial for someone's credibility	Your readiness to support me during the examination was the acid test of our relationship.
the age of majority	the age when you can vote, between 16 and 21 years, come of age	Dad said that when I reach the age of majority I can buy my own car!
the air was blue	there was much swearing, someone said bad words, swear like a sailor	When Dad discovered the dent in his Cadillac, the air was blue!
the apple doesn't fall far	kids are like their parents; a chip off	I looked at the father, then at the son, and I thought, The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

from the tree	the old block ; like father, like son	
the apple of his eye	his favorite girl, the girl he desires	Susie was Don's sweetheart, the apple of his eye.
the balance of power	the deciding votes; votes that cause the winner, tip the scales	He will try to get the support of the workers because they hold the balance of power.
the ball's in your court	you speak or act now, it's your turn	She offered to pay \$1900 for your car, so the ball's in your court.
the be-all, end-all	the best, the greatest, his nibs , world beater	Brian believes he's the be-all, end-all in politics, but wait until he loses the next election.
the bee's knees	the best, superior, the cat's meow	Kay was voted best citizen. Now she thinks she's the bee's knees.
the benefit of the doubt	fair judgement when some of the facts are not known, take your word for it	If money is missing, we give you the benefit of the doubt. We assume you didn't take it.
the best-laid plans of mice and men go oft astray	plans are not guaranteed, plans sometimes do not work out	If this boat sinks, we'll say, "The best-laid plans of mice and men go oft astray."
the best of both worlds	the best parts of two cultures or styles etc., two heads are better...	If you have Italian design and German engineering, you have the best of both worlds, eh.
the best things in life are free	the sun, the stars, the ocean, etc. are free; Mother Nature belongs to all of us	We went on a camping trip and discovered that the best things in life are free.
The Big Apple	New York City, New York, USA	Guess what! My friend and I are going to live in The Big Apple!
the big cheese	the boss, chief cook and bottle washer , head honcho	If you've got a complaint, see the big cheese - our manager.
The Big O	Olympic Stadium in Montreal	We watched Diane compete in the pentathlon at The Big O.
the big 0	zero, nothing, zip	You won a car. I got the big 0.
the big picture	all parts together, the whole plan, can't see the forest...	Look at the big picture. Doing two jobs will have a negative effect on your family.
the bigger they are the harder they fall	we can beat the big guys, big players fall harder, mind over matter	"Look at all their big players!" "Don't worry. The bigger they are, the harder they fall!"
the bitter end	the end of a long struggle, the end of a difficult time	On a ranch you work till a job is done. You stay till the bitter end.

the blind leading the blind	the leader is ignorant or incompetent	With Filbert as President, it's the blind leading the blind.
the bottom fell out	the project stopped, the business failed, the wheels fall off	When the price of oil dropped, the bottom fell out of the oil industry in Alberta.
the bottom line	the final number, the conclusion	The bottom line is this: we can't afford to buy another store.
the breaking point	the time you cannot go on, the point where you quit	My job was so stressful I reached the breaking point. I had to quit.
the brush-off	refusal, rejection	The first time he asked her for a date, she gave him the brush-off.
the buck stops here	I am responsible for what we do - no one else; pass the buck	"The buck stops here," the new manager said to us. "We don't blame others for our problems."
the bum's rush	being chased away, run out of town	If you tell us to pay more tax we'll give you the bum's rush.
the burbs	the suburbs; outlying residential districts	That's Jan's dream: two children and a home in the burbs.
the burning question	the main question, what we all want to know	Who drove the car into the lake? That's the burning question.
the butt of the joke	the person who is laughed at, the goat	Frank is so sensitive. He hates to be the butt of a joke.
the call of duty	the feeling that you have to work, duty calls	When the group needs a secretary I answer the call of duty.
the calm before the storm	the quiet time just before anger or an attack	The enemy is planning an attack. This is the calm before the storm.
the can	toilet, washroom, the john , the loo	Who's in the can? Please hurry! I have to go!
the cart before the horse	backwards, back to front	Having dessert before dinner is putting the cart before the horse.
the cat's ass [B]	the best, number one , the bee's knees	Since Val won the beauty contest, she thinks she's the cat's ass!
the cat's meow	somebody special, a hotshot	When Vi wears diamonds, she thinks she's the cat's meow.
the cat's out of the bag	the secret has been told, people know the secret	We know about your affair with Brad. The cat's out of the bag.
the crack of dawn	(See at the crack of dawn)	
the crunch	the difficult time, the day we have	The crunch is coming - when we have one salary instead of two.

	less money	
the crux of the matter	the main point, the real issue	Uncle Bert is too old to drive the car. That's the crux of the matter.
the customer is always right	satisfy the customer, agree with the customer	Now let's discuss an old saying: The Customer's Always Right.
the cutting edge	the latest technology, state of the art	Compact discs are no longer the cutting edge in recorded music.
the day of the family farm	the time when most farms were family owned	The day of the family farm is nearly over. They can't survive.
the devil makes work for idle hands	if a person is not busy he will do evil things, work ethic	Protestants believe children should be busy because the devil makes work for idle hands.
the devil you say	that is amazing, how about that , you don't say	"I caught a thirty-pound trout." "The devil you say!"
the dickens you say	that is unbelievable, gadzooks , say what	"Ping, you won a car!" "The dickens you say!"
the downside	the negative side, the disadvantages, the bad points	The downside of abortion is that some women use it as a method of birth control.
the dying seconds	the last few seconds in a game	The score was tied 3 - 3 in the dying seconds of the third period.
the early bird gets the worm	the one who arrives first gets the reward etc.	I want to go to the sale at 8 a.m. The early bird gets the worm!
the end-all, be-all	(See the be-all, end-all)	
the end justifies the means	any method is fine if the result is good	If a person steals food to survive, does the end justify the means?
the end of the line	the time to leave, the place to get off	When the group began to gossip, it was the end of the line for me.
the eye of a needle	the hole in a needle, the opening for the thread	The hole in the tube was smaller than the eye of a needle.
the eye of the storm	the center of the storm, the middle of the storm	The eye of the storm is directly over Lake Simcoe.
the F-word	fuck [B], friggin	Mommy, Mommy! Charles said the F-word!
the family jewels	the male genitals (the source of future progeny)	Sure I wear a jockstrap - to protect the family jewels!
the fat hit the fire	the trouble got worse, people began fighting	Kate accused Maude of lying - that's when the fat hit the fire.

the fickle finger of fate	the chances in life, the way life changes unpredictably, that's life	Our lives were saved because a dog barked. We were saved by the fickle finger of fate.
the fifth column	the column in a newspaper that tells about the media	The fifth column often comments on the need for fair reporting.
the first leg	the first part (of a journey), a leg up	The first leg will take us to Paris. Then we'll go on to Rome.
the first pancake is always spoiled	the first attempt or product is usually a failure	When Mr. Putin heard about the problems in the Olympics under the new president, he said, "The first pancake is always spoiled!"
the full Monty	fully nude, completely naked, stark naked , strip	"Should I take off all my clothes?" "Yes, we want the full Monty!"
the gift of the gab (the gift of gab)	the ability to talk, a way with words	Bev can speak to the parents. She has the gift of the gab
the gloves are off	the fight is beginning, play hardball	The candidates have insulted each other. The gloves are off!
the goat	the person who is blamed for a problem	Ken is the goat, but all he did was open the door for the students.
the going gets rough	the task becomes harder, it is a rocky road	In the second year, you study law. That's when the going gets rough.
the going rate	the standard price or fee, the usual price	The going rate for car repairs is about \$60 an hour.
The Golden Rule	Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.	If everyone lived by The Golden Rule, you may not like the way you are treated.
the gospel truth	the real truth, as true as the gospel	I opened the package to count the cookies - that's the gospel truth!
the grass is greener on the other side of the fence	things look better from a distance, it is natural to desire a neighbor's things	When you look at other homes, the grass is often greener on the other side of the fence.
The Great One	Joe Gretzky, "Gretz"	The Great One was the heart of the Edmonton Oilers.
The Great White Hope	Caucasian boxer who could win the heavyweight title	In the 1970s, George Chuvallo was The Great White Hope.
The Great White North	Canada, the true north...	Millions of Americans enjoy their holidays in The Great White North.
The Grim Reaper	an executioner; a person who decides your fate, position, grades,	Old Mason was The Grim Reaper. He showed no mercy when he failed students.

	etc.	
The Group of Five/The Regina Five	artists K. Lockhead, A. McKay, D. Morton, T. Godwin, R. Bloore	The Group of Five are famous for their bold, abstract paintings.
The Group of Seven	Canadian painters who formed a group in 1917	Do you know the names of the artists in The Group of Seven?
the handwriting is on the wall	the message is clear, the conclusion is obvious	I tell my students the handwriting is on the wall: learn how to learn.
the hard way	the difficult method, the rocky road	If we plan, we can avoid doing our work the hard way.
the heat is on	there is pressure to win, we must succeed	When you compete for a career position, the heat is on.
the hell you say	I do not believe it, get out, go on	Harper won the election? The hell you say!
the in-crowd	a few special people, a clique	Cleo's part of the in-crowd - the girls who play on the basketball team.
the in's and out's	knowledge and experience, knowing the ropes	He knows the in's and out's of the car business. He's experienced.
the inside story	the personal story, the story that is not published	Greg knows the inside story on the Lawson murders. He's married to Marcia Lawson.
the inside track	being close to the person who has power, Bob's your uncle	If your uncle works at Sears, you should have the inside track on the new job in Men's Wear.
the jig's up	we know what you do, we know your secret	The jig's up, ladies. We know why you buy those vibrators.
the john	the toilet, the biffy , the can	Where's the john? I have to wash my hands.
the joke is on you	you are the one we are laughing at, play a joke	You got the book with blank pages. The joke's on you!
the key to success	the most important factor, best way to succeed	He said the key to success in business is customer service.
the knock against	his worst fault, his main problem	Phil is a great teacher. The only knock against him is his temper.
the lap of luxury	a lifestyle that includes the finest house etc.	Flo married a rich realtor and now lives in the lap of luxury.
the last of it	the end of it, no more of it	We've had a week of -40 weather. I hope we've seen the last of it.
the last straw	one too many problems, the one	The break-in was the last straw. We decided to move.

	that ruins it	
the last word	the most informed statement, the most knowledge	The last word in media is Marshall McLuhan (1911-1980). His ideas are still quoted, still respected.
the last word	the last statement in a discussion or argument	"You always want to have the last word, don't you. Well not this time! There!"
the laughing stock	the person everybody is laughing at	If you ride a camel to work, we'll be the laughing stock of the town.
the lay of the land	(See get the lay of the land)	
the life of Riley	a good life, a life with choices, the best things in life are free	David quit his job, bought a small farm, and he's living the life of Riley!
the life of the party	a lively, funny person who causes people to laugh	Jerry was the life of the party - singing, joking and laughing.
the lights are on but nobody's home	the eyes are open but lifeless, not all there	"Hello! Hello, Pat! His lights are on but nobody's home. Ha ha."
the lion's share	the largest part, the biggest piece	Thanks to the mothers for doing the lion's share of the work.
the living daylight	the life, the consciousness	When that dog barked, it scared the living daylight out of me.
the living end	the very best, the greatest, the most beautiful	Have you heard K.D. Lang sing? She's the livin' end.
the long and the short of it	everything I know, the whole story	He ended his report with, "That's the long and the short of it."
the long arm of the law	the police, police methods	Thanks to the long arm of the law, a thief's in jail and I have my car.
the loo	the toilet, the can , the john	I'll see the kitchen later, thanks. Where's the loo?
the Lord helps those who help themselves	if you work to help yourself God will help you	If you pray, remember, the Lord helps those who help themselves.
the lowdown	the facts, the real story	Did you get the lowdown on how he died? What really happened?
the luck of the draw	the chance that your name or number will be chosen	Plan your future. Don't depend on the luck of the draw.
the luck of the Irish	the good luck of Irish people	When Kerry wins a prize, he says, "Aye, it's the luck of the Irish."
the makings of	the potential to become, the ability to develop	Look at Debi dance. She has the makings of a ballerina.
the man in the	the person	When hockey players fight, the linesman is the man in the

middle	between two enemies	middle.
the Man in the Moon	a myth that the moon is the face of a man	"Who will help me find my dog?" "I know. The Man in the Moon!"
the middleman	a person who buys from the producer and sells to the merchant	If we can buy from the producer, we can save the money we pay to the middleman.
the moment of truth	the time when you receive a very important message	The moment of truth has arrived. My grades are in this envelope.
the more the merrier	if more people come, we will have a better party	Tell everybody the party's at my place - the more the merrier!
the most	the greatest, the best etc., way cool	You are the most, man. You paint great stuff - like it's real!
the naked eye	without binoculars or field glasses	We can see Mars with the naked eye. We don't need a telescope.
the nitty-gritty	very important matters, the crunch	The nitty-gritty of an election is the vote itself - the numbers!
the odd one	one of a few remaining, few and far between	"Do you ever see any buffalo?" "Oh, the odd one."
the odds-on favorite	the one who is favored to win, the one to bet on	Orlando was the odds-on favorite but they lost the series.
the old college try	a good effort, trying hard like a college student	Let's give it the old college try, boys. We can win this boat race!
the old man	father or husband, my old man	Jenny said, "I'll ask the old man if I can use the car."
the once-over	(See give it the once-over)	
the one that got away	the fish that got away, the friend you lost	Have I told you about the one that got away? Her name was Lana.
the past is slipping by without a trace	in order to have a significant past we need to create a significant present; the present is the past and vice versa	If you are dissatisfied with your life, it is because you are a spectator, not a player, and the past is slipping by without a trace!
the Peter Principle	people are promoted to a job they cannot do well	Our store manager is an example of the Peter Principle. He's hopeless!
the pick of the litter	the best pup/kitten/cub of	In the Bentley family, Max was the pick of the litter. At least he was the best hockey player.

	the litter, (compare) the runt of the litter	
the picture of health	looking very healthy, fit as a fiddle	Rick looks very well these days. He's the picture of health.
the pill	a contraceptive pill, a contraceptive drug	Bev has religious reasons for not taking the pill.
the pit of my stomach	bottom of my stomach, deep in my belly	From the pit of my stomach came a growling sound. I was hungry.
the pits	poor quality, not good value	The music was the pits. The violins played badly.
the point of no return	a time when it is too late to stop or turn back, change horses in...	Our offer to purchase the business has been accepted. We've reached the point of no return.
the pope's nose	the tail of a roasted chicken	The pope's nose is too greasy. I prefer a piece of breast meat.
the powers that be	the people in power, the power brokers	I applied for a liquor license, but the powers that be said no.
the price you have to pay	what you must endure or pay or lose	Loneliness is the price you have to pay for being famous.
the proof of the pudding is in the eating	do not judge until you test the finished product, do not jump to conclusions	She drew a cartoon of a boy with a plum on his thumb. Then she wrote The proof of the pudding...
the rabbit died	according to myth, a sign that a woman is pregnant	When Pop heard I was pregnant he said, "So the rabbit died, eh."
the real McCoy	the real thing, the genuine one	This painting is the real McCoy. It's the original!
the rest is gravy	the rest is free, the rest of the money is profit	When we get the grain check, we pay our bills, and the rest is gravy!
the rest is history	the rest of the story is well known; you know the rest; that's all she wrote	Fleury took a pass from Suter, went around a defenceman, and the rest is history.
the right stuff	effective skills; the right words or actions	Harry is persuasive. He has the right stuff to become a salesman.
the road to hell is paved with good intentions	good intentions achieve nothing without action, actions speak louder...	Convert your charitable feelings into action! The road to hell is paved with good intentions!

The Rock	Newfoundland, Canada; (on the east coast)	We know a girl from The Rock. Her name is Sherry Sooley.
The Rock	a Federal prison on Alcatraz, a rocky island in San Francisco Bay	Do you remember Birdman of Alcatraz? Burt Lancaster plays a lifer who escapes from The Rock by swimming across the bay.
The Rock	a prison on Riker's Island, New York; in the slammer	After Willie left The Rock he vowed to go straight.
the room is so small you have to go outside turn around	the room is very small; so small you could barely swing a cat	It's not a large apartment. The bathroom is so small I have to go outside to turn around.
the root of the problem	the cause of the problem, the reason for the problem	Students don't do enough reading - that's the root of the problem.
the runaround	an indirect answer, pass the buck , what a rigmarole	I complained about the dryer, but they gave me the runaround. They blamed the delivery man.
the runt of the litter	the smallest and weakest in a group of animal siblings born at the same time	When it comes to mathematics, I am the runt of the litter. My scores on math tests are very low.
the salt of the earth	common people; honest, hard-working people	The Swensons are plain, decent people - the salt of the earth.
the school of hard knocks	life's hard lessons, learning from mistakes, roll with the punches	Teachers taught me what I should know; the school of hard knocks taught me what I must know.
the shit hit the fan	people become angry, somebody starts a fight	It was a good party until Ed started a fight. Then the shit hit the fan!
the short end of the stick	the worst job, the least pay, dump on	When I work with Ken, I always get the short end of the stick. He gives me the hard jobs.
the sin bin (hockey)	the penalty box, cool your heels	For tripping, hooking or holding you get two minutes in the sin bin.
the sky isn't blue	something is wrong, there is a problem, clouds on the horizon	One look at Jenner's face told me the sky wasn't blue. "What's wrong?" I asked.
the spice of life	things that make life exciting	Romance - for many people, it's the spice of life!
the spitting image	one who looks like someone, a dead ringer	Patty is the spitting image of her mother - same face, same hair.

the squeaky wheel gets the grease	the person who complains loudest gets service	Our clerks put up this sign: The squeaky wheel gets the grease!
the straight dope	the truth, the facts, get to the point	The cop said, "Gimme the straight dope, Shorty. I haven't got time for your stories today."
the straight goods	the truth, the facts, straight talk	Gimme the straight goods - the truth, that's all.
the strong, silent type	a quiet and rugged-looking man	Doris loves men like Jeff - the strong, silent type.
the sweet spot	the best spot to touch, the spot that feels good	Keep rubbing. When you find my sweet spot, I'll purr like a kitten.
the tail wagging the dog	minority controlling the majority	If criminals get more rights, the tail will be wagging the dog
the take	the cash, the amount of money received	The take from the New Year's dance was over \$2000.
the talk of the town	what everybody is talking about, a hot topic	If a preacher has an affair with a hooker, it's the talk of the town.
the tender age of	the young age of, still wet behind the ears	He was the tender age of three when his mother died.
the third degree	careful questioning, on the carpet	If I'm late, I get the third degree. Mom asks me a lot of questions.
the tide turned	there was a change, the turning point	The tide turned when the baby began to nurse. He grew stronger.
the tip of the iceberg	a small part of it, about one-tenth of it	This invoice is only part of the debt - the tip of the iceberg.
the tricks of the trade	skills of an occupation, learn the ropes	I know the printing business. I'll show you the tricks of the trade.
the turn of the century	the beginning of a new century: the year 2000	By the turn of the century we will know the aliens who visit earth.
the turning point	the second or minute when things go better or worse, tip the scales	When Tanya hit the ball over the fence - that was the turning point in the game.
the underground	the hidden actions of those who fight a law or an enemy	Some Canadians fought the GST through the underground.
the upper hand	the advantage, get the jump on	Because you have graduated from college, you have the upper hand.
the way I see it	my view of it, my opinion	The way I see it, men and women aren't equal physically, eh.
the way to a	feeding a man	"Do you believe the way to your heart is through your

man's heart is through his stomach	good food will cause him to love you, beauty is only skin deep	stomach?" "No, but you are a great cook!"
the way you hold your mouth	it is a mystery; it could be the shape of your mouth; hold your mouth...	"Why does the lock open for you but not for Joan?" "It's the way I hold my mouth."
the wheels fall off	it breaks, it fails, fall apart	When the coach is away, our team loses. The wheels fall off!
the whole ball of wax	all related things, all that jazz , the whole nine yards	Being in love means commitment, sacrifice, patience, understanding - the whole ball of wax.
the whole caboodle	(See kit and caboodle)	
the whole nine yards	including all the work, doing the whole job, the whole ball of wax	My goals include a degree, career, marriage, children - the whole nine yards.
the whole shebang	everything, every bit/piece/person	When the cable broke, the whole shebang fell in the river.
the whole shooting match	everything, every bit/piece/person	Wagon, horses, load - the whole shootin' match disappeared.
the whole works	the whole building, all the equipment, everything	The warehouse and stock - the whole works burned in the fire.
the wolf is at the door	poverty is coming, keep the wolf...	A month after my husband lost his job, the wolf was at the door.
the wolf knocking	(See the wolf is at the door)	
the world is your oyster	the world is small beside your talent and skill	With imagination - our greatest gift - the world is our oyster.
then and there	immediately, at that time and place, on the spot	She didn't wait for an explanation. She left him, then and there, and never came back to him.
there are two sides to every story	two people tell different stories of the same event, compare notes	If you compare Mary's story with Sam's, you'll know there are two sides to every story.
there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so	nothing is good or bad in and of itself; humans impose their morality on objects, actions and events	Hamlet, the Prince of Denmark, says to Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, "There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so."
	William Shakespeare, <i>Hamlet</i> , Act 2, Scene 2	
there you go	you are correct, there is your	"Everything is green - the grass, the trees. There's a green bird!" "Well, there you go."

	example, how about that	
there's a catch to it	there is a hidden cost or condition	If we buy the bed, we get a TV? There must be a catch to it.
there's many a slip twixt the cup and the lip	it is easy to spill what you are drinking; it is easy to make mistakes	On the side of the beer mug were these words: <i>There's many a slip twixt the cup and the lip.</i>
there's more than meets the eye	part of the story has not been told	In a government scandal, there's always more than meets the eye.
there's more than one way to skin a cat	there are many ways to do it, I know another method	For math problems, there's more than one way to skin a cat.
there's no love lost	they do not like each other, bad blood , hold a grudge	There's no love lost between Jay and Pete. They've been fighting since they were boys.
there's no tomorrow	we have to win today; if we lose, we are out; do or die	The Bruins will be eliminated if they lose tonight. There's no tomorrow.
there's no two ways about it	there is only one answer; cannot have two meanings	We have to get you on that plane. There's no two ways about it.
there's not much to choose between them	they are nearly equal, it's a toss-up	A Ford or a Mercury - there's not much to choose between them.
there's nothing to it	it is easy to do, it's a snap	I can solve this math problem. There's nothing to it.
there's nothing to it	it is not true, it is a lie	I heard that Pearl had left Carlos, but there's nothing to it.
there's one born every minute	there are lots of people who will believe anything, there are lots of suckers	"Only a sucker would buy this car." "Right, and there's one born every minute."
there's something fishy	there is something wrong, there is something strange	There's something fishy about a 1970 car with only 5000 km.
there's something rotten in the state of Denmark	something is wrong, something is strange, there's something fishy	Father knew I was tricking him. He said, "Something is rotten in the state of Denmark."
these parts	these parts of the country; neck of the woods	In these parts, folks don't like federal politicians.
thick	(See a little thick)	
thick as a	slow to	We're all thick as a brick in at least one subject, eh?

brick	understand, slow to learn	
thing-a-ma-bob / thing-a-ma-jig	name for a strange part, what-cha-ma-call-it	If I can get the thing-a-ma-jig in the right hole, this car may start.
things are looking up	we are feeling positive, life is better	Now that Vic has a job, things are looking up. We feel positive.
think better of it	change my decision, decide not to do it	We were going to buy a trailer, but we thought better of it.
think nothing of it	my help was nothing, no problem , not at all	"Thank you for helping us find our lost puppy." "Think nothing of it."
think outside the box	think in new ways, imagine, big-sky thinking , think tank	Our methods are not working. We need different, innovative ideas - we need to think outside the box.
think over	think more about, consider	I'm going to think over what you said about keeping the baby.
think straight	think clearly, be rational	I'm so tired I can't think straight. Let me rest; then we can talk.
think tank	people thinking together, big-sky thinking , brain storm	Our company think tank will solve the problem.
think the world of	admire greatly, worship the ground...	Samson thinks the world of you. He would do anything for you.
think through	think in steps, think carefully	Before you go to the manager with an idea, think it through.
think up	imagine, create	My story is finished. Now I have to think up a title.
third degree	(See the third degree)	
this mortal coil	the difficulties of life on earth, vale of tears	When your soul departs this mortal coil, will you welcome the transformation, or will you cling to the physical state?
this one is on me	I will pay for this one (drink, lunch, etc.)	"This one's on me," Mr. Kirby said as he paid for my lunch.
thorn in my side	(See a thorn in my side)	
thrash	driven hard and fast, used carelessly	That car has been thrashed. Don't buy it.
threads	clothes, glad rags , rags	Hey, Lucy. Nice threads! I love your jacket.
three-bagger	(See a three-bagger)	
three sheets to the wind	very drunk, plastered , pissed to the gills	The Captain was three sheets to the wind - staggering.
three slices short (of a full	mentally disabled, one brick short...	If you order worm soup, they'll think you're three slices short.

loaf)		
through the grapevine	through gossip, bush telegraph	"How did you know I moved?" "I heard it through the grapevine."
through the mill	used a lot, nearly worn out , put you through the mill	These jeans have been through the mill. They're ragged.
through the roof	(See go through the roof)	
through the wringer	experienced a lot of personal problems	Hey, I'm tough. I've been through the wringer a few times.
through thick and thin	during good and bad times, for better or worse	My dog Pal stays with me through thick and thin. He's a true friend.
throw a curve	confuse, deceive, surprise	Dad threw a curve at me when he asked if he could borrow \$1000.
throw a game	deliberately lose a game, cause your team to lose, take a dive	They said that Red threw his last game of pool, but I think he's too honest to do that.
throw a kiss	kiss your hand and wave, blow a kiss	When Madonna threw a kiss to her fans, they cheered.
throw a monkey wrench into the works	wreck a project, monkeywrenching , piss in the pickles	The report that coffee causes cancer threw a monkey wrench into our plans to import coffee.
throw a party	invite people to a party, have a party	Connie throws the best parties. Everybody has a great time.
throw a tantrum	show your bad temper, make a scene	When I refused to buy candy for Reggie, he threw a tantrum.
throw away	put in the garbage, throw out	I threw away those old magazines. I hope you didn't want them.
throw caution to the wind	live or act carelessly, not be cautious	Let's throw caution to the wind and buy ten dresses!
throw chunks	vomit, puke, barf , hurl , woof your cookies	One look at those oysters and she started throwing chunks. Yuk!
throw cold water on	discourage, cause you to lose interest	Don't be negative. Don't throw cold water on our travel plans.
throw down your arms	stop fighting or arguing, bury the hatchet	It's time to throw down your arms and forgive him.
throw good money after bad	spend more on a failure, repair a poor product	If we fix that TV again, we'll be throwing good money after bad.
throw in the towel	quit fighting, give up	Don't throw in the towel. One more year and you'll graduate.
throw insults	say rude things,	When you don't get what you want, you start throwing insults.

	insult someone	
throw me for a loop	confuse me, it phased me out	The question on parliamentary procedure threw me for a loop.
throw on a dog for you	cook a wiener for you, make a a hotdog for you	Hal was cooking wieners on the barbecue. "Can I throw on a dog for you?" he asked.
throw out	put in the garbage, discard, throw away	Do you want these old magazines, or should I throw them out?
throw some light on	explain, give information, shed a little light on	Martin, can you throw some light on the DNA? Explain it to us?
throw that in	mention that, suggest that	Don't forget to add the sales tax - just thought I'd throw that in.
throw the baby out with the bath water	throw away something good with the waste, discard everything	Keep the good subjects when you revise the course. Don't throw the baby out with the bath water!
throw the book at	punish to the maximum, come down hard	Drunk drivers deserve the full penalty. Throw the book at them!
throw up	vomit, puke, barf , ralph , upchuck	The baby will throw up if you bounce him after he's eaten.
throw you	cause you to forget or stumble	Don't let the large crowd throw you. Focus on your music.
throw you to the dogs	let you fight alone, let you fight the bad guys	Let us help you. The pimps will throw you to the dogs.
throw your weight around	use power to scare you, power trip	Bud throws his weight around - tells everybody what to do.
throw yourself at him	try too hard to impress him, push your love on him	Be a little reserved, not so obvious. Don't throw yourself at him.
thrown in	added to a list, recipe, etc.; included afterwards	The weather will be cloudy, with a shower or two thrown in.
tick over	running well, working well, hit on all cylinders	Sandro tuned the motor, and now it's ticking over beautifully.
ticked off	a little upset, annoyed, teed off	Fred gets ticked off at people who throw butts out the window.
ticketed	known as, named, labeled	If you do something funny, you'll be ticketed as the team clown.
tickety-boo	operating well, A-OK	After they gave him insulin, everything was tickety-boo.
tickled pink	happy, very pleased	Aunt Sophia was tickled pink to receive a photo of the family.
tiddly	neat, tidy, clean and shiny, spiffy	The ship is ready for inspection. Everything is tiddly.
tide me over	supply me for a few days, provide	Jane gave me a few dollars to tide me over until I get paid.

	money until payday, last me	
tide turned	(See the tide turned)	
tie in	connect, relate	Can you tell me how lasers tie in? How do lasers apply to surgery?
tie into	scold, lecture, give you hell [B]	When we were alone, he tied into me. He said I caused the problem.
tie one on	drink a lot of liquor, become very drunk	At Cayla's wedding, Uncle Ben tied one on. He got really drunk.
tie up	tie a string or piece of rope around	If you tie up the parcel I'll take it to the post office.
tie up loose ends	finish a project, complete the details of some work, finishing touch	"Have you finished the survey?" "Just about. I have to tie up some loose ends and print the report."
tied to your mother's apron strings	still dependent on mom, needing your mom's help	He has to ask his mother. He's still tied to her apron strings.
tied up	busy, unable to help	I'm tied up right now. I'm busy with a client.
tight-ass [B]	stingy person; tight fisted	Mason is a tight-ass! He collects rent from his old grandmother.
tight race	close race, down to the wire	It was a tight race for the mayor's position. Kutz won by ten votes.
tight spot	uncomfortable position, between a rock and a hard place	At the interview Vic was in a tight spot. They asked him, "Why were you dismissed from three jobs?"
tight/tight fisted	not generous, unwilling to spend, cheap	People say he's so tight he'd sell a gift and bank the money.
tighten our belts	not spend as much, be careful with our money	We'll have to tighten our belts when Stan goes on pension.
till hell freezes over	until the end of time, until the end of the world	You can wait till hell freezes over but they won't pay their bill.
till the cows come home	for a long time, for days or weeks	A letter from Dave? You'll be waiting till the cows come home!
till you're blue in the face	until you are very tired, until you look sick	You can train a flea till you're blue in the face, but he won't learn.
time and again	many times, repeatedly	I've told that boy time and again not to fight, but he won't listen.
time flies when you're having fun	time goes quickly when you are playing, how time flies	Ho looked at his watch, yawned and said, "Time flies when you're having fun, eh."
time is money	time is valuable,	Employers who pay hourly wages know that time is money.

	time is equal to money	
time is of the essence	it is important to work as quickly as possible, make hay while...	When you're paying \$75 an hour for a lawyer's services, time is of the essence.
time off	days off work, holidays	I've been working too hard. I think I need some time off.
time on your hands	time to relax or do what you wish, time to kill	If you have time on your hands, read the novel Fifth Business.
time out	stop for a minute to discuss or plan	We need a time out to look at the map. I think we're lost.
time ran out	there was no more time allowed for the game etc.	Time ran out before I could complete the exam.
time stands still	everything seems to slow down or stop moving, slo mo	When the towers went down, time stood still.
time to kill	time to relax or rest, kill time	We had some time to kill while the car was being repaired.
time to time	(See from time to time)	
time's a wasting	we are wasting time, we should be working	Time's a wasting. Let's finish our work and then rest.
time's up	there is no more time for the test or game etc.	The coach checked his watch and said, "Time's up. Stop running."
times were hard	it was a time of poverty, hard times	It was 1850. Times were hard in Sweden then.
tin ear	unmusical ear, unable to appreciate music	With my tin ear, I couldn't say if she was singing flat.
tin Lizzie	car, old car	You can park your tin Lizzie over there beside the barn.
tip a few	drink a few beer etc., bend your elbow	Chuck used to tip a few when he was younger. He drank with us.
tip of my tongue	(See on the tip of my tongue)	
tip of the hat	a compliment, a bit of praise, recognition, here's to	A tip of the hat to Junko for his contribution. Thank you, Junko!
tip of the iceberg	a small part of it, about one-tenth of it	This invoice is only part of the debt - the tip of the iceberg.
tip the scales	change or influence a decision, the upper hand	If you speak two languages, it could tip the scales in your favor when you apply for a job.

tip the scales at	cause the scale to go up, weigh in at	Elmer tips the scales at 135 kilos. He's a heavyweight.
tip your hand	reveal your plan, show your strategy	Don't tip your hand in a game of chess. Surprise the opponent.
tipsy	a little bit drunk, slightly drunk, buzzed	After her third glass of sherry, Mona was a little tipsy.
tired of	bored, not interested	I'm tired of that song. I hear it every morning.
tired out	tired, weary, dog tired	When our visitors left, I was tired out. I slept for hours.
tit for tat	equal response, an eye for an eye	Gerry hit Ross. Then Ross hit Gerry, and it was tit for tat.
titch	(See just a titch)	
tits and ass (T & A) [B]	sexual stimuli for men, cheesecake	The men's parties have a lot of T & A - dancing girls.
tits in a wringer	(See get your tits in a wringer)	
tits up [B]	dead, not operating, kaput	The tractor's tits up again - the clutch is broken.
to a fault	doing it too much, go overboard	May gives most of her money to charity. She's generous to a fault.
to a man	every man or person, not one person disagreed	We asked the team who should be coach. To a man, they chose you.
to a T	perfectly, accurately, down to a T , to perfection	That guy looks exactly like Liam! It's Liam to a T!
to be perfectly honest	to tell you the truth, to tell you exactly how I feel, as a matter of fact	"Your cat's up in the tree again." "To be perfectly honest, I don't care. Let him come down alone."
to beat the band	with lots of energy, like crazy , like mad	Aunt Jemima was making pancakes to beat the band.
to blame	at fault, guilty	Who's to blame for starting the fire? Who did it?
to boot	in addition to, plus	We'll trade you the car for the truck and give you \$500 to boot.
to coin a phrase	to create a new phrase, to make up a phrase	To coin a phrase, "Life is just book of idioms!"
to-do	(See make a big to-do)	
to each his own	we like different things, one man's garbage...	She likes the Rolling Stones, but he likes Mozart - to each his own.
to go	remaining, left to do	We've cleaned five rooms. Just one to go.
to go	to take with you	One large pizza - to go, please.
to heart	(See take it to heart)	
to hell and	a long distance	"Where do you live?" "To hell and gone across the lake."

gone	away, far away, all around Robin Hood's barn	
to hell with that [B]	that is not a good idea, no way	"You could plead guilty." "To hell with that!"
to perfection	perfectly, without a flaw, to a T , to the nth degree	"You can imitate Elvis to perfection!" "Thank you. Thank you very much."
to the best of my knowledge	I believe this is true, as far as I know	To the best of my knowledge, Barrie and Bonnie are twins.
to the max	to the greatest amount, groaty to the max	You should see this video. It's grungy to the max!
to the nth degree	to the very last detail, to the max	If you have an accounting problem, give it to Michael. He analyzes problems to the nth degree.
to top it off	to complete it, to finish it	To top it off, they presented us with Olympic pins.
toast	in a lot of trouble, catch hell [B], history	Ferris, if you drive your father's Porsche, you're toast.
toe the line	do what you are told to do, follow the rules	The Military expects you to toe the line - to do as you are told.
together	happy, successful; get it together , with it	Cathy is really together. She's knows how she wants to live and she's doing it.
toke up	smoke marijuana, smoke pot	Does it matter if some of our politicians used to toke up?
token gesture	(See a token gesture)	
ton of bricks	(See like a ton of bricks)	
tone down	make softer or nicer; not so harsh	"What do you think of the letter?" "I'd tone it down. It's too harsh."
toney neighborhood	a district that has expensive houses	The Kitigawas bought a large house in a toney neighborhood.
tongue in cheek	fooling, joking, kidding	Most of what Bob said was tongue in cheek. He was joking.
tongue-lashing	(See a tongue-lashing)	
tons	lots, very much/many, a holy pile	There were tons of people at the wedding - and tons of food!
tonsil hockey	conversation, a chin wag	They were just standing around playing tonsil hockey so Jimmy walks up and says, "Whatcha doin' girls?"
too bad	a little bit sad, unfortunate	Too bad Annie won't be home when I visit. I'd like to see her.
too big for his britches	too proud, cocky , swelled head	I promise not to get too big for my britches if I win the award.
too deep for me	too complicated, too complex	The DNA theory is too deep for me. I can't understand it.
too far gone	not able to stop a	Several doctors tried to treat the cancer, but it was too far gone.

	disease, a goner	
too hot to handle		too dangerous, hot goods, hot stuff
Trine dropped him because he was too hot to handle. He was sexy but scary!		
too little too late	not enough effort or work when it was needed, make hay while...	The Roughriders scored two touchdowns in the fourth quarter, but it was too little too late. They lost.
too many chiefs and not enough Indians	too many directors and not enough workers, too many cooks...	Everybody tried to be the boss. We had too many chiefs and not enough Indians.
too many cooks spoil the broth	too many managers cause problems, too many chiefs...	The structure failed because it was designed by a group of architects. Too many cooks spoil the broth.
toodles/toodle-oo	bye, goodbye, ciao , so long	"Toodle-oo," she said, smiling. "I must go now."
tool around	play, fool around , goof off	The students were tooling around because they had no assignment.
toot your own horn	brag, talk about your own success	Since Ted won the bowling trophy he's been tooting his own horn.
tooth and nail	(See fight tooth and nail)	
top dog	boss, leader, head honcho	Kruger is top dog now, but he could lose the next election.
top drawer	excellent, first class	Amy's report is top drawer. It deserves a high grade.
top it off	finish it, add the last piece or statement	He topped it off by saying we would get a big bonus this year.
top it up	fill it to the top, fill it to the mark	Check the oil every week and top it up if necessary.
top notch	very good quality, first class	Claret Sol is a top notch wine, but it's very dry.
top of the morning	good morning, have a good morning, the best of the morning	Old Tweedsmuir would say, "Top o' the morning to you," as we walked to school.
top secret	very private information, not public, it's not a state secret	This computer program is top secret. Don't show it to anyone!
top that	do better than that, improve on that	"Top that!" the farmer said, holding up a six-pound potato.
toss it around	discuss it, consider it	We like your idea. Can we toss it around for awhile? Discuss it?

toss-up	(See it's a toss-up)	
total stranger	(See a total stranger)	
totally awesome	excellent, fantastic, far out	The Band was totally awesome! They were excellent!
totem pole	(See low on the totem pole)	
touch a drop	drink a drop of liquor, have a drink of liquor	Steve was a heavy drinker, but he hasn't touched a drop in years.
touch and go	between life and death, nip and tuck	I recovered from my heart attack, but it was touch and go for awhile.
touch base	contact again, keep in touch	Touch base with me in a month or so. Call me about May 10.
touch it with a ten-foot pole	reply, answer, comment on it, beat around the bush	If anyone in your audience asks a question about religion, don't touch it with a ten-foot pole.
touch of	(See a touch of)	
touch off	start an argument or a fight, set off	His remark about gun control touched off a heated discussion.
touch on	speak briefly about, mention	Ms. Lee spoke on sales, then touched briefly on service.
touch up	add details, make small changes	I touched up the painting in a few places. Does it look better?
touch wood	hoping that our good luck continues	We've never had a flat tire on this car - touch wood.
touch you	cause you to feel love or sorrow or regret	Did Mom's letter touch you? Do you feel sorry for her?
touched	(See touched in the head)	
touched in the head	a bit crazy, a bit off , funny in the head	People will think you're touched in the head if you wear that Superman suit to work.
touchy	sensitive, ready to argue, edgy	Barb is kind of touchy about her weight. Don't comment on it.
tough act to follow	(See a tough act to follow)	
tough bananas	it is a problem for you, too bad , tough luck	"I had to walk to school!" "Well, tough bananas!"
tough call	(See a tough call)	
tough customer	a determined person, one who fights hard	Remember John Ferguson? He was one tough customer.
tough going	(See heavy going)	
tough luck	that is bad luck for you, tough bananas	"I lost \$100 betting on Tyson." "Tough luck, guy."
tough on me	makes me work	My supervisor is tough on me - never satisfied with my work.

	hard, hard on me	
tough row to hoe	(See a hard row to hoe)	
tough sledding	hard work, slow progress, heavy going , rough going	We've had tough sledding on our building projects. Rainy weather has caused a lot of problems.
tough tarts	(See tough bananas)	
tough times	hard times	When Sue gave birth to twins and Dave lost his job, they lived through tough times.
tough titty	(See tough luck)	
toughen up	become tougher, grow stronger	The army will toughen him up. They'll develop his stamina.
tower of strength	(See a tower of strength)	
toy with	not be serious about me, not take me seriously	I love her, but she's just toying with me - playing with me.
track record	list of achievements, summary of career work	Lou's track record is excellent. She was top seller last year.
trade insults	insult each other, say rude things to each other, mudsling	When the two men couldn't agree on the cause of the problem, they began trading insults.
trade secret	a business secret, a special recipe or formula	I won't tell how Paula makes her pizza. It's a trade secret.
traffic jam	traffic that is not moving, many vehicles on one road	I was late for class because of a traffic jam. Honest!
train of thought	(See lose my train of thought)	
tranny	transmission of a car or truck	When you buy a used car, check the condition of the tranny, eh.
trash	wreck, ruin, ratch	That puppy trashed one of my slippers - chewed it to pieces!
trash the place	wreck a room or building, a bull in a china shop	If you invite the Casey boys, they'll trash the place.
trendy	fashionable, at the beginning of a trend	That's a trendy coat she's wearing. I've seen it in fashion magazines.
trial and error	learn by correcting errors, hit and miss	We learned to make pizza by trial and error. We gradually improved.
trial balloon	proposed program, planned policy, pilot project	If you want to know public opinion, send up a trial balloon and listen to what they say.
trial run	doing the steps to see if your procedure is	Let's do a trial run to see if we know how to make espresso coffee.

	correct, try it out	
trickle-down economics	a system that depends on government spending to help the economy	Private enterprise is better than trickle-down economics because profit motivates people.
tricks of the trade	(See the tricks of the trade)	
tried and true	tested and proven, reliable, true blue	When Sven chops wood, he uses a Sandvik axe. It's tried and true.
trifle with me	be careless about my feelings, mind games , toy with me	When John forgot that he asked me to go to the dance, I felt he was trifling with me.
true blue	loyal, faithful	Moe is true blue. We've been good friends for forty years.
true colors	real beliefs, true values, principles	In the debate on abortion we'll see her true colors - her beliefs.
try it	try to do it, try your hand at	After I sing the song, you try it. See if you can sing it.
try it on	wear a garment to see if it fits	If you like that dress, you can try it on in one of our fitting rooms.
try it out	use it for awhile, test it, test drive	This is our new life-time pen. Would you like to try it out?
try me	ask me, see what I say; challenge me, find out	"You wouldn't call the police, would you?" "Just try me."
try out	try to become a member of a team	Let's try out for soccer this year. Let's play on the team.
try that	try to do that, pull that	When I reached for the phone, the thief said, "Don't try that."
try that on for size	see if you like that, consider that	This TV has a 48" screen. Try that on for size.
try your darndest	try very hard, bend over backwards , go the extra mile	I try my darndest to be fair to customers, but some are never satisfied.
try your hand at	try to do, try it	Would you like to try your hand at washing dishes? It's fun!
try your luck	see if you can win, you take a chance	They won a prize. Do you want to try your luck?
tub of guts	fat person, lard butt	Santa? Why, he's just a tub of guts in a red suit!
tube head	a person who watches TV a lot, couch potato	In the winter he's a tube head - always watching hockey on TV.
tube him	leave him, drop him	He was a bore so I tubed him.
tubular	nice, fun, cool	The lounge was totally tubular, a great place to take her friends.
tuckered out	short of breath, panting, puffing	Timmy was tuckered out after jogging with his father.
tump	tip, roll, flip	Andy! Slow down, man. You gonna tump over!
tune in	adjust the tuning knob on a radio or receiver	The announcer said, "Tune in tonight at 8 for our Talk Show."

tune me out	stop listening to me, not pay attention to me	If you speak in a boring way, students will tune you out.
tune up	improve the operation, improve performance	After Fred tunes up the Mercedes the motor will run smoother.
tuned in	able to understand, on the same wavelength	If you're tuned in, you know who I've been talking about.
tunnel vision	looking straight ahead, not seeing other directions	Our president has tunnel vision. He believes in only one plan.
turf it	cut it, delete it, throw out	If students don't enrol in the program, we'll have to turf it.
turkey	fool, dumbo , jerk	You turkey! Why did you put Jello on my pizza?
turn a blind eye	see a problem but not act, look the other way	The teacher knows that I come in late, but she turns a blind eye.
turn a profit	profit from, make money	It will be a year before we turn a profit on this new product.
turn about is fair play	you get what you give, what goes around...	If you give pain you'll feel pain. Turn about is fair play.
turn down	refuse, not accept	Sal turned me down when I asked her to go to a movie. She refused.
turn in	give to the manager, hand in	When you leave our company, please turn in your uniform.
turn in	go to bed, crash , hit the hay	I'm going to turn in now. I'm very tired.
turn into	become, change into, convert	If you eat any more hotdogs you'll turn into a wiener!
turn of the century	(See the turn of the century)	
turn-on	something that excites or arouses you	Her voice was a turn-on for me. She has a sexy voice.
turn on a dime	turn sharply, turn quickly, do a 180	An Alfa Romeo has excellent steering. It can turn on a dime.
turn on you	turn against you, change from friend to enemy	If you preach your religion, they may get mad and turn on you.
turn out	happen, develop, end up	How did your cake turn out? Is it a good recipe?
turn out	attend, show up	Only 40% of the population turned out to vote.
turn over a new leaf	begin living by a new set of rules or values	Since Bob stopped drinking he's turned over a new leaf.
turn the air blue	(See the air was blue)	
turn the corner	achieve part of a goal, progress toward a goal	Lan was very ill, but she's turned the corner. She's recovering.

turn the other cheek	accept hurt twice, not fight back	He is a passive man. He will turn the other cheek instead of fight.
turn the other way	look away or ignore, look the other way	When I come in late, he turns the other way. He tries not to notice.
turn the tables on	begin to defeat the person who was defeating you, mount a comeback	When I learned how to return his serve, I turned the tables on him and won the set.
turn ugly	become uncivilized, begin fighting	When Buddy insulted Ted's wife, things turned ugly.
turn up	attend a meeting, show up	Only fifteen people turned up at the Block Parents' meeting.
turn up	be found, be seen	We can't find the ring now, but I'm sure it will turn up soon.
turn up your nose at	say it is not good enough, reject it	If you turn up your nose at country music, you may lose some friends.
turn you around	help you begin a new life, turn over a new leaf	His new friends helped to turn him around. He's much nicer now.
turn you on	arouse you, cause you to feel excited	"What turns you on?" "Good books and nice girls."
turn your back on	turn away from, reject, turncoat	When he became president, he turned his back on his friends.
turn your crank	interest you, inspire you	Classical music turns his crank. He likes the great symphonies.
turn your stomach	make you feel sick, cause you to feel ill	Watching you eat those oysters turns my stomach. Yuk!
turn yourself in	walk into a police station to tell them what you did, own up	If you tell your counselor about the shooting, he'll advise you to turn yourself in.
turncoat	one who goes to work/fight/play for the opposing side, traitor	That turncoat! He went to work for the competition - Sears.
turning point	(See the turning point)	
turnout	the number of people, the size of the group	There was a good turnout at the Writers' Club today: 20 people.
tweak	increase the power, hop up , supercharge	If we tweak the engine in this old Cortina, we'll have a sports car.
twerp	small child or person, knee high to a grass...	Ricky is just a twerp. He can ride on Grandpa's knee.
twig to that	think of that, realize that	His uncle Ralph is the Premier! I just twigged to that.
twiggy	slim person, as slim as a twig on a	Kim is a gymnast. She's slim and agile - a real twiggy.

	branch	
twilight years	senior years, over 70, golden years	Grandma wants to keep her own home during her twilight years.
twinkle toes	a dancer, a person who dances with great skill	I saw you dance at the Junior Ballet concert. You're a real twinkle toes!
twist my arm	persuade me, convince me	I really don't like pie, but if you twist my arm, I'll have a piece.
twist of fate	the way fate works, the way things happen	Then, by a twist of fate, a plane flew over and the pilot saw us.
twist your words	change the meaning of what you say, put a different slant...	When she gave her testimony in court, the lawyer tried to twist her words to mean something else.
twit	fool, an airhead , dipstick	What a twit! He thinks a busboy is a kid who rides the bus!
two abreast	two people standing or walking side by side	The children were walking two abreast on the way home.
two bits	25¢, twenty-five cents, a quarter	Can you lend me two bits? I have to phone home.
two cents' worth	opinion, comment, chime in	Want to hear my two cents' worth? Want my opinion?
two-fisted attack	strong verbal attack, much argument, fight tooth and nail	If you protect the wolves, you can expect a two-fisted attack from the ranchers.
two for one	two products for the price of one	Want a milk shake? We can buy two for one at Toy's Ice Cream.
two heads are better than one	listen to more than one opinion	"Let's ask Alice first. Two heads are better than one."
two left feet	awkwardness, poor coordination	When it comes to dancing, I have two left feet. I stumble a lot.
two pee holes in the snow	small holes, tiny holes	He looks very tired. His eyes are like two pee holes in the snow.
two sides to every story	(See there are two sides to every story)	
two's company, three's a crowd	two people are happier than three, the third person is not welcome	Jill asked, "Can I invite Ginger?" Jack replied, "Two's company, three's a crowd."
typo	error in typing, nitpick	The interviewer said my letter of application has a few typos.

U

U-turn	turn and go the opposite direction, do a 180	The driver of the truck made a U-turn and drove back into town.
uh-huh	yes, yep	"Do you want a piece of cake?" "Uh-huh."
uh-uh	no, nope	"Have you done your homework?" "Uh-uh."
under a spell	controlled by a spirit or magic, cast a spell	She danced when she saw the cat. She seemed to be under a spell.
under arrest	stopped and taken away by the police, busted	"Jean, you are under arrest." "What for, sir?" "For stealing a loaf of bread."
under control	order restored, control returned	The prisoners caused a riot, but things are now under control.
under fire	being asked many difficult questions	After your speech, you will be under fire from reporters.
under his own steam	by himself, without help	Although Don was injured, he left the field under his own steam.
under my belt	completed, finished	With an accounting course under my belt, I can do the bookkeeping.
under my breath	whispered, not spoken loud enough to hear	When the teacher asks questions, I often answer under my breath.
under my care	cared for by me, look after	The house is under my care until the owner returns from Europe.
under my nose	easy to see, close and visible, in plain view	Isn't that the way! I've been looking for a partner all my life, and then I found Lila - she was right under my nose all the time!
under my skin	in my thoughts, in my feelings	I can't stop thinking about Paul. I've got him under my skin.
under my wing	having my protection and help and guidance	I am Anna's guardian. She'll be under my wing until she's 18.
under oath	after promising to tell the truth in court, cross my heart and...	At the trial you will be asked to tell your story under oath.
under pressure	feeling of too much to do, feeling a lot of stress	Gabor is under a lot of pressure now. He's working at two jobs.
under the influence of alcohol	partly drunk, buzzed	Is he under the influence now? Is he drunk?
under the table	hidden, not recorded, not above board , on the side	"Do you get paid for bringing customers to the store?" "I don't get a check - just a little money under the table."
under the weather	not feeling well, ill, sick, not feeling myself	Dan's been under the weather lately - sick with the flu.
under the wire	just before the end, before closing, just in time	"Did you receive my application?" "It arrived on the last day of the competition, just under the wire."
under way	started, commenced	The concert is under way. The band is playing O Canada.
under wraps	secret, not advertised, on the QT	I know the name of the winner, but I have to keep it under wraps until tonight.
under your thumb	under your control, doing your wishes	Willie is under your thumb now. He does what you tell him to do.
underdog	the player or team that is not likely to win	The Sharks are underdogs this year. People say they won't win.

underhanded	not legal, not according to rules, not above board	Some people say the government was underhanded in dealing with the Indians.
unsung hero	great person who has not been honored or praised, behind the scenes	The mothers of the graduates are the unsung heroes. The mothers are Homework Supervisors!
until you're blue...	(See till you're blue in the face)	
up a storm	(See sing up a storm)	
up against	competing against, trying to defeat	"Who were you up against?" "Gaetan Boucher, the Champion."
up against it	poor, not able to pay the bills, hard up	We were up against it that year. The crop had failed, we had lots of bills, and none of us had a job.
up and coming	starting to develop ability, showing potential	Lisel has won six junior trophies. She's an up-and-coming athlete.
up and running	operating, working	Andre is repairing the copier. It will soon be up and running.
up for grabs	available, can be bought	The estate will be sold by auction. Even the antiques are up for grabs.
up for it	ready, prepared to play, pumped	Tonight's game is important. Every player has to be up for it.
up for sale	advertised for sale, on the market	The Wongs must be moving. Their house is up for sale.
up front	at the beginning, level with beforehand	He was up front with me. He told me about the interest charges first.
up in arms	angry, ready to fight, hot	The smokers are up in arms about the no-smoking bylaw.
up in smoke	burned, destroyed by fire	The barn went up in smoke before the fire truck arrived.
up in the air	not decided, not settled	They aren't sure who killed the President. It's still up in the air.
up on	aware of, informed about, on top of	Are you up on the latest computer games? Have you played UFOX?
up shit creek [B]	in a bad situation, in a fix	If we lose our matches, we're up shit creek. We need a campfire.
up the ante	increase the payment, increase the deposit	If they up the ante to \$50, I won't enter the hockey pool this year.
up the creek	in a predicament, in difficulty, in a jam	Without insurance, you could be up the creek if there's a fire.
up the stump [B]	pregnant, a bun in the oven	She didn't use a contraceptive, so she's up the stump again.
up the wahoozey	a lot, more than needed, coming out of our ears	The Burnsides are so rich they have money up the wahoozey!
up to	planning, doing	What are you up to? Are you planning another fishing trip?
up to date	recent, current	The radio reports events as they happen. The news is up to date.
up to it	have enough energy to do it, up for it	"Would you like to play another game of badminton?" "No, I don't think I'm up to it."
up to my ears	have too many, coming out of our ears	You're selling books? I'm up to my ears in books!
up to no good	doing bad things, causing problems	Tom's up to no good these days - stealing drugs and selling them.

up to par	good enough to pass, up to a standard	This woodwork is not up to par. It's below our standard.
up to scratch	good enough, up to par	The cloth in these jeans is poor quality. It's not up to scratch.
up to snuff	good quality, measure up	We expect quality photographs - every picture must be up to snuff.
up to something	trying to make a deal, planning a joke	David is up to something. He has a look of mischief in his eye.
up to speed	at normal speed, feeling healthy again	Tim's recovered from his surgery but he's not up to speed yet.
up to you	your choice, your decision	Whether you go or stay is up to you. It's your decision.
up with	support it, this is good	Millie was waving a flag and shouting, "Up with fluoride!"
up your alley	what you like to do, what interests you	Sewing - that's right up your alley. It's one of your hobbies.
up your sleeve	hidden, ready to use if asked	When I write an exam, I like to have a topic up my sleeve.
up yours [B]	I hope you have an accident, screw you	When she told him to get out of the house, he said, "Up yours!"
upchuck	vomit, puke, barf , hork	Please hand me the paper towel. Baby upchucked on my sweater.
uphill battle	difficult work, rough going , tough sledding	We've asked the government to protect children's rights, but it's an uphill battle all the way.
upon my word	believe me, this is the truth, honestly	Upon my word, I don't know why they hate me so.
upon the words offhandedly spoken	upon words spoken casually or carelessly, offhand	Upon the words offhandedly spoken by a lover we often rely, only to feel the sweetness of their promise disappear.
upper crust	upper class, high class, aristocracy	Kurt acts like upper crust because his ancestor was a German baron.
upper hand	(See the upper hand)	
upset the apple cart	cause a major problem, stop progress	You will upset the apple cart if you tell your folks we're moving.
upside	positive side, good news	If war has an upside, it would be that it's good for the economy.
uptalk	ending statements with your voice rising slightly, inflecting the tone of your voice upwards	Uptalking sounds weak - like the speaker lacks confidence.
uptight	tense, nervous, not relaxed, worried sick	"What are you uptight about?" "I'm not sure. It could be fear of losing my job."
use up	use all of it, use all you have	We've used up all the shampoo. Please buy some more.
used to	accustomed to, having felt it often	Lynn is used to being alone. Henry is away from home a lot.
useless as a fifth wheel	(See as useless as a fifth wheel)	
useless as the tits...	(See as useless as tits on a boar)	
user friendly	easy to learn or use, easy to operate	Cars with automatic transmission are user friendly - easy to drive.

Uzi	(See pack Uzis)	
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V

vale of tears (valley of tears)	a place of trials and troubles, life on earth, this mortal coil	Brothers and sisters, our burden is heavy tonight - heavy with the passing of dear Jesse, who has departed this vale of tears.
vamoose	leave quickly, go, get going , hit the road	We better vamoose, my friend, or we'll be late for our appointment.
variety is the spice of life	a variety of experiences makes life interesting, to each his own	On the sign above the door were these words: GENERAL STORE <i>Variety is the spice of life!</i>
vegetate (veg out)	not do anything, be a couch potato	After work he just vegetates - just sits there and says nothing.
VIP	V ery I mportant P erson, big boys , big wig	Only the VIP's - the president, and members of the board - are invited to the dinner.
virgin territory	untouched or unexplored area	The island was virgin territory. There were no signs of humans.
virtual reality	a "real" experience created on a computer	Virtual reality allowed me to experience space travel.
visit a spell	visit for awhile, set a spell	Well hello, Charlie. Come in and visit a spell.
vote of thanks	an expression of thanks from a group, tip of the hat	When our president spoke, she gave a vote of thanks to the volunteers.

W

wack	hip-hop slang word meaning bad	That book is wack. I can't understand it.
wacko	crazy, bonkers , spinnny	If I eat worms, will people think I'm wacko?
wacky	silly, foolish, kooky , nutty as a fruit cake	Lucy sometimes does wacky things - like, one time she sent ice cream in the mail.
wait a minute	pause for a short time, think about this, hold it	Wait a minute. Before we visit Doris, let's phone her.
wait a sec	wait for a second, wait up	Wait a sec, Mag. I'll be right there.
wait around	wait to see what will happen, hang around	Let's wait around and see if the bird returns to its nest.
wait for the other shoe to drop	wait for the final step, wait for the conclusion, leave me hanging	He said he'd make two changes. First, he resigned. I'm waiting for the other shoe to drop.
wait on customers	serve customers in a restaurant or store	Please wait on the customers in the lounge. Take their orders.
wait on tables	(See wait on customers)	
wait on you hand and foot	serve you, bring everything you want, suck up to	Anna says she's tired of waiting on you hand and foot. She won't be your slave anymore.
wait up	wait for me, wait until I catch up	Danny, wait up. I want to talk to you.
wait up for	not go to bed until the kids come home at night	Mom always waits up for us when we go to a party.
wait with bated breath	wait with suspense, want to know what happens	We waited with bated breath for news of the fallen climber.
wake up	awaken, rouse from sleep	On Saturday I usually wake up around noon. I sleep in.
wake up	be alert, stop daydreaming	Wake up, Walter. It's your turn to deal the cards.
wake up and smell the coffee	be more aware, get with it	You don't know about the Net? Wake up and smell the coffee!
wake-up call	(See a wake-up call)	
wake up on the wrong side of bed	(See get up on the wrong side of bed)	
wake with a start	wake suddenly, jump out of bed	I woke with a start when Santa Claus landed on our roof.
walk	not have to pay a fine or go to jail, get off	They couldn't prove that Don was guilty, so he walked.
walk a straight line	walk without staggering, show that you are sober	If you can't walk a straight line, don't drive a vehicle.
walk down	walk along, walk on	We walked down the road to the lake. It was a nice day for a walk.
walk of life	lifestyle, occupation, vocation	People from all walks of life eat at Fabio's Restaurants.
walk on eggshells	be very careful, on tenterhooks , watch your step	Your son is so afraid of making a mistake he's walking on eggshells.

walk the plank	be forced to jump overboard or be killed, be forced to leave or quit	If you get caught stealing from the company, you'll have to walk the plank.
walk the talk	do what you talk about doing, practice what you preach	If we advise people to recycle, we should recycle. We have to walk the talk.
walk through	read or perform slowly, practice slowly	At our first rehearsal we walked through the first act of the play.
walk-through	inspect the house you are buying just before you become the owner	The day before we moved into our new home, we did a walk-through with the real estate agent.
walk up	walk along, walk on, walk in	They walked up and down the hall, waiting for the doctor.
wall flower	a girl who is not invited to dance, no shrinking violet	I won't go to the party because I feel like a wall flower when the boys don't ask me to dance.
want a piece of me	want to hurt me, want revenge, have at me	I wrote a letter to the local paper criticizing the hockey team. Now everybody wants a piece of me.
want it so bad I can taste it	want it very much, die for	I want that trophy. I want it so bad I can taste it.
want to make something of it	do you want to argue or fight about it?	Yes, I did kiss Millie Watkins. Wanna make something of it?
warm up	begin to exercise, exercise slowly	To warm up, she walks about a kilometer; then she jogs.
warmed over	warmed on a stove, reheated	For supper we had warmed-over waffles. They tasted okay.
warped sense of humor	thinking that weird things are funny	If you laugh at cruelty, you have a warped sense of humor.
wash	(See a wash)	
wash down	wash by letting water run down, hose it down	If the kids play in the bathroom I'll have to wash down the walls.
wash it down	drink to help you swallow, drink after eating	Have a donut - and some coffee to wash it down.
wash it off	spray water to clean it, hose it off	If you spill latex paint, you can wash it off with water.
wash out	become clean, clean up	"Will this stain wash out?" "Yes, if you use bleach."
wash-out	(See a wash-out)	
wash your hands of it	not be involved anymore, withdraw from a project	If you don't believe in the union, wash your hands of it.
washed up	ruined, unable to continue in business	I can't believe Max is washed up. He was a successful businessman.
wasn't born yesterday	wise from experience, been around	Pat can survive in the workplace. She wasn't born yesterday.
WASP	White Anglo-Saxon Protestant	Don's a WASP and I'm a WASP, but we have different beliefs.
waste no time	hurry to do it, do not delay	After the meeting, I left. I wasted no time leaving that dirty city.
waste not, want not	if you do not waste, you will not be needy	Melinda's motto is Waste Not, Want Not. She's very efficient.

wasted	drugged, natural high , stoned	He acts weird when he's wasted. Drugs do strange things to him.
wasted	badly injured, bruised, beat up	Tom was wasted by the C-Train Gang. He's in the hospital.
watch me like a hawk	watch me carefully, on my case , watch your every move	I couldn't do anything. The teacher was watching me like a hawk!
watch out	be careful, look out	Watch out! There's a truck!
watch out for	watch and care for, keep an eye on	Jamie, you watch out for Cathy. Hold her hand at the crosswalk.
watch over	care for, protect, look after	"Who watches over you, Kari?" "My Guardian Angel, that's who."
watch over like a mother hawk	watch carefully and protect, keep an eye on	She's a good babysitter. She watches over Katia like a mother hawk!
watch your every move	watch to see if you do something wrong, watch me like a hawk	If the police think you are a suspect, they watch your every move.
watch your language	do not swear, do not use crude language	Watch your language. There are children in the room.
watch your P's and Q's	be polite, mind your manners	At the banquet, remember your manners. Watch your P's and Q's.
watch your step	watch where you step, be careful	Watch your step, Grandfather. The sidewalk is icy.
watch your step	stay out of trouble, keep your nose clean	The referee told me not to fight. "Watch your step," he said.
water-cooler talk	office news, gossip	I believe water-cooler talk - unless it's about me.
water down	add water to make it weaker, dilute	The cherry drink is too strong. It should be watered down.
water under the bridge	the past, history	That failure is water under the bridge. Let's not live in the past.
watering hole	bar, pub, licensed premises	The St. Louis Hotel is Ralph's favorite watering hole.
watershed mark	(See mark a watershed)	
wax eloquent	speak beautifully, make a speech using nice words	When we talk about art, Uncle Jonas begins to wax eloquent.
wax poetic	become poetic, begin to recite poems	Whenever you read the Psalms, Andy begins to wax poetic.
	Wax is also an intransitive verb. In one sense it means to increase, as in <i>the moon waxes full this evening</i> , and in another sense to pass into a mood or state. In the latter sense we can understand the phrase <i>wax poetic</i> (or <i>eloquent</i> , <i>lyrical</i> , <i>philosophical</i> or <i>sarcastic</i>) and this raises doubt about its status as an idiom, i.e., it can be taken literally. The <i>Canadian Oxford Dictionary</i> suggests that wax has a Germanic origin: <i>wachsen</i> (to grow). The	

	interesting thing about this relationship is that <i>wachsen</i> never has an attribute, i.e. neither <i>wax poetic</i> nor <i>grow old</i> translate.	
way cool	very nice, very cool	His voice is way cool, eh. I love listening to him.
way out (away out)	not close to the answer, wrong by a large amount	Your guess was way out. My age is 49, not 41.
way out of line (away out of line)	very inappropriate, not acceptable	When the teacher hit you, he was way out of line.
way to go	good work, good for you , good going	When Kelly scores a goal, we yell, "Way to go, man!"
way you hold your...	(See the way you hold your mouth)	
weak-kneed	not strong in character, lacking will power	Marvin yields to temptation, but I wouldn't say he's weak-kneed.
wear down	become dull or weak, use until worn	Confinement in a prison began to wear down his spirit.
wear off	not have as much effect, not affect as much	The effects of the drug began to wear off, and the pain returned.
wear out	use until thin or full of holes, shabby	If you wear out your gloves, we'll provide a new pair.
wear out your welcome	stay or visit too long, not be welcome anymore	If we stay more than three days, we'll wear out our welcome.
wear the pants	make the decisions, control everything	Betty wears the pants in the Cheong family. She's the boss.
wear your heart on your sleeve	show your emotions, reveal your true feelings	If you wear your heart on your sleeve, he'll know you love him.
weasel word	vague or ambiguous word (used intentionally)	Show that contract to your lawyer. She can find the weasel words.
weather the storm	survive a crisis, live through tough times	Pat lost his job and I had surgery, but we weathered the storm.
weed out	remove, delete, get rid of , turf it	We have to weed out the courses that people don't need, such as Caring For Your Polar Bear.
weigh in at	measure the weight of a person, tip the scales	Teddy weighed in at one hundred kilograms. He's a heavy man.
weirdo	strange person, pervert, creep	This weirdo started following us around the park. It was scary!
wekabi	personal evil spirit, personal devil	His wekabi told him to steal the statue of the Ethiopian ruler.
well heeled	wealthy, rich, well off	The Clarks were well heeled, wealthy enough to hire servants.
well hung [B]	having a large penis and testicles	That stallion is well hung. He's very well equipped.
well off	wealthy, well to do	Ken's family is fairly well off. They can afford a few luxuries.
well taken	true, significant	Your statement is well taken. The Canadian family has changed.
well to do	wealthy, rich, loaded	Many well-to-do families send their children to private schools.
went	(See go through the roof)	

through the roof		
went to bat for	(See go to bat for)	
went under	(See go under)	
went wild	(See go wild)	
wet behind the ears	(See still wet behind the ears)	
wet the bed	urinate while in bed, urinate during sleep	Some kids wet the bed because they have emotional problems.
wet your whistle	have a drink, quench your thirst	If you're thirsty, have some apple cider to wet your whistle.
whack	a lot, a bunch, tons	A million quid? That's a whack o' money, my friend.
whack off [B]	(See jerk off)	
whale of a game	(See a whale of a game)	
what a brain	what an intelligent person, what a bright girl	What a brain! She got 98% on her math test.
what a dish	what a beautiful girl, cute chick	Wynona Rider - what a dish!
what a rigmarole	what a process, what a a hassle	To get a refund, I had to answer 50 questions. What a rigmarole!
what a rush	what a thrill, what a great feeling	After riding in Paul's Corvette, Rita said, "What a rush!"
what came over me	what happened to me, what caused me to change	I couldn't remember my name. I don't know what came over me.
what-cha-ma-call-it	what do you call it, thing-a-ma-jig	To finish the job, I need a what-cha-ma-call-it. A trowel!
what did I do to deserve this	why am I being punished? no rest for the wicked	Working in the sewers, I thought, "What did I do to deserve this?"
what gives	what is happening, what's going on	Jerry walks in and says, "What gives? Where is everybody?"
what goes around comes around	you get what you give; our actions are passed on until they return to us	Wise folks have learned that you eventually get what you give - what goes around comes around.
what if	(See what-if)	
what-if	plan, theory, hypothesis	We did a what-if on the computer to see when the world will die from pollution.
what in tarnation	what is this? what the hell [B]	What in tarnation? Where did you get that dinosaur?
what in the name of heaven	what is that? what's going on	You built a gazebo? What in the name of heaven is that?
what in the world	what is happening, what is it?	What in the world is that? It looks like a space ship!
what it boils down to	what it really means, the bottom line	What it boils down to is this: we don't have enough money.
what the	where did it go? how do you	What the dickens did you do to your hair? Who cut it

dickens	explain it?	off?
what the hay	who cares? why worry?	The hood blew off my car, but what the hay - who needs a hood?
what the heck	why bother? it does not matter	Bing and Ko are getting married. What the heck! I don't care.
what the hell [B]	why? how? what the heck	What the hell is he doing with my diary? Where did he get it?
what the Sam Hill	what happened, what the hell , what is it?	What the Sam Hill did you do to my bike? The gears won't shift.
	<i>Sam Hill</i> is considered to be a soft replacement for <i>hell</i> or <i>damn</i> .	
what was I thinking of	why did I do that? I wish I had not done that	I got my head shaved! What was I thinking of!
what you don't know won't hurt you	if you do not know about a problem, you do not worry	Don't tell Dad I'm gay. What he doesn't know won't hurt him.
whatever floats your boat	(See float your boat)	
what's cooking	what is happening, what's going down	What's cooking with the kids? They're too quiet.
what's eating you	what is bothering you? are you upset?	What's eating you, Darryl? You look kind of mad.
what's going down	what is happening, what is going to happen, down the pike	The students want to know what's going down - where the teacher went.
what's going on	what is happening, down the pike , what's going down	I want to know what's going on. Who wrote this note?
what's good for the goose is good for the gander	rules that apply to the wife also apply to the husband, tit for tat	If you need a holiday, so do I! What's good for the goose is good for the gander.
what's-his-face	what is his name, I cannot remember his name	Nobody can park here, not even old what's-his-face - the judge.
what's in it for me	what will I receive? how will I benefit?	Before I give you the information, what's in it for me. Do I get paid?
what's new	what is new in your life? what is happening	"Hi, Pearl. What's new?" "Lots. I have a baby!"
what's the big idea	why are you doing that? who said you could do that?	What's the big idea? Who said you could chop down that tree?
what's the poop	what is the news? what did you hear? what's going down	When Holly wants to know what happened, she says, "Well, what's the poop?"
what's up	what is happening what is the latest news?	Bugs Bunny says to Elmer Fudd, "A bee 'n a bee! What's up, Doc?"
what's what	what is the truth, what are the facts, the straight goods	I want to know what's what before I go to court. I want to know what happened.
what's your beef	what is your complaint? why are you upset?	What's your beef, Mark? I can see that you're upset.
what's your poison	what do you like to drink? which liquor do you like?	Come over to the bar and I'll buy you a drink. What's your poison?

wheatbelt	wheat-producing area, breadbasket	Farmers in the wheatbelt pray for rain for their crops.
wheeler-dealer	a person who is good at making sales and deals, a wheeler-dealer	Cliff is a wheeler-dealer in the energy industry. He brings buyers and sellers together.
wheels	vehicle (car, truck etc.), set of wheels	Jeff, can I borrow your wheels? My sister needs a ride to the mall.
wheels fall off	(See the wheels fall off)	
when in Rome, do as the Romans do	when you are a visitor do the same things as your hosts do	When I visit an Asian country, I learn the customs, and do as the "Romans" do.
when it comes to	when this is the topic, when we talk about this	When it comes to cars, I like GM. I would buy a Chev or a Pontiac.
when it rains it pours	when it comes we get too much, feast or famine	"Tonight we don't have enough chairs for everybody." "When it rains it pours!"
when push comes to shove	when people fight, when the fighting begins, when the going gets tough	The workers are demanding a fair wage. When push comes to shove, we may have to call the police.
when the chips are down	when the right decision must be made, when you must win	When the chips are down - when we are losing - we play better. We need to be challenged.
when the crunch comes	when there is less money, when the economy fails	When the crunch comes, we'll have our mortgage paid off!
when the dust settles	when the fight is finished, when it is calm again, when the lights go on	Abortion is a serious issue, but when the dust settles, women will be able to choose.
when the going gets tough	when there are problems, when progress is difficult	When the going gets tough, we need people with a good attitude.
where angels fear to tread	where even the angels fear to go, where danger is	They were using a ouija board - going where angels fear to tread!
where do they get off they get off	where do they get the right? how come?	Where do they get off telling me to slow down? Who asked them?
where it's at	where important things are happening, where the action is	China - that's where it's at today. Their society is changing; their economy is growing.
where the rubber hits the road	where the theory is tested, when the action begins; the nitty-gritty	In the workplace, you apply what you've learned - that's where the rubber hits the road.
where there's a will, there's a way	when we are determined we find a way to succeed, when the going gets tough	The manager of the charity held up this sign: WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY!
where's the loo	where is the bathroom? where is the can?	When Bev is looking for a bathroom she says, "Where's the loo?"
whet your appetite	improve your appetite, cause you to be hungry	How about an aphrodisiac to whet your appetite?

whew	expression of relief after escaping danger, thank goodness	Whew! That was close! I nearly lost my false teeth!
whip you	defeat you, beat you in a game, wipe you	Jason says he can whip you in a game of tennis. Can he beat you?
whip you into shape	help you become fit, improve your fitness	These aerobic exercises will whip you into shape.
white elephant	a purchase that was not used, a useless object	Should we take the statue of Stalin to the White Elephant Sale?
white knuckles	a tense feeling, acute worry	Driving through fog is scary - it's white knuckles all the way.
white lie	a small lie, a fib	"You said you were 39, not 40." "Yes. I told a white lie."
whiz	urinate, pee, piss, [B] have to go , take a leak [B]	A few minutes after the concert began, my daughter whispered, "Mommy, I have to whiz."
who cares	does anyone care, does it matter, so what	"So my car pollutes the air - who cares?" "I do. I care."
who do you think you are	do you think you are famous? do you think you are a superstar?	You said Hi Dubbya to President Bush! Who do you think you are!
whole hog	every effort, all your energy, gung ho	When I play racquetball, I work hard. I go whole hog.
whole shebang	(See the whole shebang)	
whole shooting match	(See the whole shooting match)	
whore blossom	pimple, cold sore, zit	Every time I eat shortbread, I get whore blossoms on my chin.
whup you	defeat you in a fight or game	Ali said, "I can whup you with one arm tied behind my back!"
whup your ass	defeat you badly, win decisively, wipe you	On the chessboard you can defeat Gilles, but on the racetrack he'll whup your ass!
why in the name of...	why, why in the world	I want to know why in the name of heaven she bought that gun.
why in the world	why, why is it? for the life of me	Why in the world would anyone want to live in the desert?
wicked	exciting, terrific, cool	"Wicked!" Dawn said when she saw my haircut. "It looks great."
wide awake	fully awake, alert	After the bear stuck his head in our tent, I was wide awake.
wild	exciting, awesome, rad	"Do you like my new shirt?" "Ya, man. It's wild."
wild about	like a lot, crazy about , mad about	I'm just wild about Harry, but he doesn't care about me.
wild and woolly	uncivilized, like an animal	When cowboys are on the range, they become wild and woolly.
wild goose chase	(See a wild goose chase)	
willy-nilly	whether you want it or not, without choice	I continue to receive junk mail - willy-nilly - like it or not!
wimp	weak person, chicken	Tiny Tim is not a wimp, but he looks thin and weak.
wimpy	weak, lacking courage, like a wimp	Sean acts kind of wimpy, but he's a strong, decisive leader.
win big	win a big prize, win a lot of	You can win big with Lotto 649. You can win millions!

	money	
win by a nose	barely win, win by one point or part of a second	In the final race, we won by a nose. Our boat was just in front.
win going away	win by going ahead near the end of a race or game	Scoring four goals in the third period, the Leafs won going away.
win the hearts	win the approval, cause people to like you	Elvis won the hearts of the crowd when he sang Love Me Tender.
wind up	conclude, finish, end up	What time will the meeting wind up? When should I pick you up?
wind up	see this result, see that ending, end up	If you are a strong leader, you could wind up as our president.
windbag	a person who talks a lot, a person who brags	Kerry is bragging about Ireland again. What a windbag!
winded	(See out of breath)	
window of opportunity	(See a window of opportunity)	
window on the world	the place where you can see the world	For some people, TV is their only window on the world.
wing it	improvise, change your plans, play it by ear	If I am asked strange questions at an interview, I wing it. I give the best answers I can think of.
wingding	wild party, bash	We went to Happy Harry's wingding. It was a great party.
wingnut	a person who acts crazy, a nut	Jerry, you wingnut! How did you get that horse in the elevator?
wingy	wild, crazy, wacko	Leon drove his car into the lake again. That guy is really wingy!
winner take all	the winner of the game gets all the money	Bert said, "Let's play one more game of poker, winner take all."
winning isn't everything; it's the only thing	winning is the only thing that matters, get it straight	It was Vince Lombardi, a football coach, who said, "Winning isn't everything - it's the only thing."
winning streak	winning game after game, make a clean sweep	The Expos have won nine games - their longest winning streak.
wino	an alcoholic, a drunk, in the tank	See that wino over there. He used to be the president of GASCO.
wipe out	lose control of a car/bike so that it spins or rolls	Larry wiped out on the last corner. His car is in the ditch.
wipe that smile off your face	stop smiling, do not smile, cut it out	Rick, tell Peter you're sorry and give him a big kiss. Gail, wipe that smile off your face.
wipe you	defeat you by many points, blow you away	Tran has won every spelling contest. She'll wipe you.
wired	very excited, pumped	Jay didn't sleep last night. She's really wired for her exam today.
wired for sound	ready to operate, prepared for use	"Is the hall decorated and ready?" "Yep. It's wired for sound."
wise to us	know what we are doing, onto us	Your husband knows you're seeing me. He's wise to us.
wishful thinking	believing it is true because you wish it was true	Roy says that he is going to marry Dawn, but it's wishful thinking.
wishy-	not able to decide, saying yes	I like you because you're decisive, because you're not

washy	and no	wishy-washy.
with all my heart	with all my feeling	I love Canada with all my heart.
with bated breath	with worry and tension, with suspense, leave me hanging	With bated breath, they waited for news of the men who were trapped in the mine.
with bells on	happy to come, ready to have fun	I'd love to come to your wedding. I'll be there with bells on!
with his tail between his legs	running away in fear, retreating like a coward, run for the hills	When he saw the bear, he turned around and ran with his tail between his legs.
with it	informed, sophisticated, cool , in the know	In the fashion world, Brad's really with it. He knows fashion.
with the naked eye	without binoculars or a telescope	The comet cannot be seen with the naked eye. It is too small.
with wings	to take out, to take with you, to go	"Can I take your order?" "I'll have a Big Mac, a large fries and a Coke - with wings."
within earshot	close enough to hear, under my breath	Lil was within earshot of the radio during the newscast. She heard it.
without a doubt	for sure, without question	Without a doubt, Toyota has the best record. It's the most reliable.
without a full deck	mentally unbalanced, one brick short...	At times he acts strange - like he's playing without a full deck.
without a hitch	without a problem, smooth sailing	Except for one flat tire, the trip went without a hitch.
without a stitch of clothes on	nude, naked as a jay bird , stark naked	She stood there, ankle deep in water, without a stitch of clothes on.
without a word of a lie	without any lies, the gospel truth	Without a word of a lie, that fish was five feet long.
without batting an eye	without pausing, looking calm and natural	Without batting an eye, she gave him a false name and address.
without question	certain, no doubt	Lee sang best, without question. She has an excellent voice.
without turning a hair	without a sign of fear or stress, cool , without batting an eye	Without turning a hair, Adriana told them she was Madonna's manager!
wolf down	eat quickly, inhale	The boys wolfed down their lunch and ran out to play soccer.
wolf in sheep's clothing	(See a wolf in sheep's clothing)	
wonder of wonders	amazingly, surprisingly, lo and behold	Wonder of wonders, you're on time! It's a miracle!
wonky	dizzy, confused, woozy	After falling off the horse, Pedro was feeling a little wonky.
won't see you stuck	will help if necessary, will not refuse firmly, leave the door open	"Will you judge our pie contest?" "I'd rather not do it, but I won't see you stuck."
won't tell a soul	will not tell anyone, keep it to yourself	You can tell me your secret. I won't tell a soul.
woof your	vomit, puke, barf , hork	If you eat bananas, anchovies and cheese, you'll woof

cookies		your cookies.
woozy	feeling a little bit sick in your stomach, wonky	I've had the flu and my stomach is still a bit woozy.
word for word	quoted exactly, verbatim	He repeated her message word for word - exactly as she had said it.
word is good	you can believe it, you can count on it	Arturo's word is good. You can believe what he says.
word is out	I have heard, people are saying, rumor has it	Word is out that you're moving to Denver. Is it true?
word of honor	solemn promise, take oath	He gave me his word of honor that he will pay me on Friday.
word of mouth	(See by word of mouth)	
word to the wise	(See a word to the wise)	
wordsmith	(See a wordsmith)	
work	is right, is fine, is appropriate	Plaintive - that's the right word! It works!
work cut out for	a lot of work to do, difficult tasks to do, a hard row to hoe	If you want to be a chartered accountant, you have your work cut out for you.
work ethic	belief that you must work; that work is good for you	Do you believe that Canadians have a strong work ethic?
work it out	solve it, try to agree	My teacher and I disagree about my grade, but we can work it out.
work my buns off	work hard every day, work your ass off [B]	I work my buns off while he sits around and makes phone calls!
work my fingers to the bone	work so hard that I become thin and weak	I worked my fingers to the bone to help my kids get an education.
work of art	beautiful painting or carving etc.	Every rug she weaves is a work of art.
work off	exercise to reduce stress or emotion or fat	Cycling is a good way to work off stress.
work out	succeed, go as planned, pan out	Did the recipe work out? Did the cake taste good?
work out	exercise to become fit or to prepare for competition, workout	Come down to my exercise room. I'll show you where I work out.
work the room	move around the room trying to meet people who can help you in your career or business, shmooze	We watched Tony work the room - glass in hand, smiling and chatting with anybody who might become a client or an ally.
work things out	discuss a problem and find a solution, work it out	Maria and Paulo had a fight, but they worked things out.
work to rule	do only as much work as you have to do, draw the line	The teachers are working to rule because they are not satisfied with their salaries.
work up a sweat	work or exercise hard, perspire, break a sweat	When I skip, it takes me ten minutes to work up a sweat.
work up a thirst	become thirsty, work or play until you are thirsty	Digging trenches at midday, the men soon worked up a thirst.
work your ass off [B]	work very hard, work my buns off	Why do you work your ass off for such a small salary?
work your buns off	work hard, work steadily	If you work your buns off, you can learn these idioms!

workaholic	one who loves to work; who is addicted to work	Gary is a workaholic. He even works on weekends!
worked up	excited, upset	Now, Dad. Don't get worked up about the war. Don't get upset.
workout	exercising, practicing a sport, weight training, work out	I feel good after a workout - after jogging or swimming.
world beater	a person who tries to be the best in the world, set the world on fire	My coach said, "You don't have to be a world beater. Just be the best you can be."
world is your oyster	(See the world is your oyster)	
World Wide Web (www)	a network of computers in all parts of the world, Internet	Some people use the Web to find information; others use it to find friends.
worldly wise	knowing how to survive, having street smarts	You've lived on the streets of LA. You're worldly wise. You're hip.
worlds apart	not close to agreement, very different	Israel and Palestine are neighbors but they're worlds apart.
worn out	(See wear out)	
worn out	very tired, bushed	Whew! I'm worn out from all that walking! How far did we walk?
worried sick	very worried, extremely anxious	Velma is worried sick about her son. He's using cocaine.
worse for wear	(See none the worse for wear)	
worship the ground she walks on	love her very, very much; crawl on my hands... , mad about her	"Does Anthony love Cleopatra?" "He adores her. He worships the ground she walks on!"
worth their weight in gold	worth a lot, invaluable, priceless	Our volunteers are worth their weight in gold. They help us in ways that money can't buy!
wouldn't be caught dead	would not like to do it, would rather die than do it	Have you seen Lulu's miniskirt? I wouldn't be caught dead in that.
wouldn't miss it for the world	I would rather attend it than see the world	"Are you coming to my wedding?" "I wouldn't miss it for the world!"
wouldn't say shit if her mouth was full of it [B]	would not say a bad word, would not swear	Vi is so sweet. She wouldn't say shit if her mouth was full of it.
wound up	excited, pumped	Before Nadia sings, she gets all wound up. She can't relax.
wow	oh, awesome, gee whiz	Wow! I can see every star in the universe tonight.
wrap around his finger	controlled by him, on a string	I do whatever she wants. She's got me wrapped around her finger.
wrap it up	finish it, end it, bring to a close	They played some new songs but they wrapped it up with a hit.
wrap up	end, conclude	The Olympics wrap up on Sunday. Closing ceremonies are at 1 p.m.

wrap-up	closing, conclusion	During the wrap-up, the speaker thanked everyone for coming.
wrap your mind around	understand, comprehend, get your mind around	Val's niece is also her half sister. Wrap your mind around that!
wreak havoc	damage, destroy, lay waste , trash the place	If the workers get mad, they'll wreak havoc in the warehouse. They'll wreck the place.
write it off	say it is a financial loss, call it a business expense, deduct it from income	Don't worry about the cost of my plane ticket. I can write it off as a business expense.
write up	record in writing, prepare a written account	I've been asked to write up a list of the winners for the newspaper.
writer's block	being unable to think of something to write	I told the teacher I couldn't do the paper because of writer's block.
written all over your face	showing on your face, body language , read you	When you heard that Italy lost the World Cup, disappointment was written all over your face.
written in blood	like a law, binding, cannot be changed	Now that his name is written in blood, he's a member of our gang.
written in stone	written in final form, like a commandment	Our agreement isn't written in stone; it can be changed.
wuss	weak person, chicken , wimp	"Who is the most famous wuss?" "Mr. Bean?" "Right!"
wysiwyg	what you see is what you get (if you are lucky)	The printer is supposed to print what you see on the computer screen - wysiwyg!

X

X Generation	(See Generation X)	
x marks the spot	look for x, begin at x, x is important	Someone had written on the map "X marks the spot where we were abducted by aliens."
x-rated	for adults, for a mature audience	<i>Born Loose</i> is an x-rated video. It contains nudity and sex.
XL	extra large or very large, extra luxury or extra power; shirt - size XL, car - 300XL	"This shirt is marked XL. What does that mean?" "It means extra large. On cars, XL means extra luxury or power."

Y

ya	yes, yep , yo , uh-uh	"Did you graduate from high school?" "Ya. I got a diploma."
yada	idle talk, chatter, yak	He's always talking - yada, yada!
yak	talk a lot, visit, a chin wag	When I went to bed, Kate and Mom were still yakking away about the children.
yawner	(See a yawner)	
yellow	lacking courage, afraid to defend, chicken	Some fans think he's yellow because he doesn't fight.
yellow belly	a coward, a person who is afraid to do something	Smith, you yellow belly! Jump in the water and swim!
yeow	oh, wow , yikes	Yeow! That stove is hot!
yep	yes, uh-huh , ya , yo	"Do you like country music?" "Yep. I like the hurtin' songs."
yeppers	yes, afraid so , uh-huh , ya , yo	"Do I <i>have</i> to come home by 9?" "Yeppers, that's what we agreed."
yikes	oh, gee , gosh , yeow	Yikes! There's a spider on me!
yin yang	an opening or space, everywhere, all over hell's half acre	Australia has too many rabbits. They have rabbits coming out of their yin yang.
yo	yes, hello, I hear you, okay	When they call to you, just answer, "Yo!"
yokel	(See local yokel)	
yonder over there	the direction I am pointing, that direction, that way	You're looking for wild geese? They're yonder over there, feeding in the corn fields.
you and the horse you rode in on	you and your horse go, both you and your horse, screw you and the horse	"Did you say I should leave?" "Ya, you and the horse you rode in on. Git goin!"
you bet your boots	believe it, certainly, you can count on it	The cowboy said, "You bet your boots I'm going to the rodeo."
you betcha	that is correct, right; you got it	When I asked, "Are you coming?" she said, "You betcha."
you can bet your bottom dollar	you can be sure of it, you can bet your last dollar on it	If Terry knows about the dance, you can bet your bottom dollar he'll be there.
you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink	you can provide what they need but you cannot force them to use it	We provide information, but I wonder if they read it. You can lead a horse to water... .
you can run but you	you can run away but you	When I told a priest I was going away to forget

can't hide	cannot hide from your past or your problems	my past, he said, "You can run, but you can't hide."
you can thank your lucky stars	you were lucky, be thankful you are safe	He can thank his lucky stars that a doctor was there. He nearly died.
you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear	you cannot improve the quality of junk; cannot make gold from iron	When Hal put a Mercedes star on his Ford, I said, "You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear."
you can't sell anybody if you don't love everybody	you will be more successful if you have love in your heart	"So you're going into sales?" "Yes. Do you have any advice?" "Well, a saying from Beverly Hills Cop may be helpful in sales - or any occupation: You can't sell anybody if you don't love everybody!"
you can't teach an old dog new tricks	old dogs and old people do not like to change or learn, die hard	Our senior employees don't like computer training - you can't teach an old dog new tricks.
you can't tell a book by its cover	the cover or surface does not reveal its contents, beauty is only skin deep	If you buy a car because it looks nice, remember this: you can't tell a book by its cover.
you don't miss the water till the well runs dry	you do not appreciate some things until they go away or become extinct	Now we have only memories of our song birds. You don't miss the water till the well runs dry.
you don't say	that is surprising, how about that	"We have ten kids," the man said. "You don't say!" my mom replied.
you got it	you have the answer, you are doing it right	"You got it, kid!" the coach said. "That's the way to score!"
you had to be there	to understand, you should have been there with me; it was funny then	When I said, "Goo!" everybody laughed and clapped. I guess you had to be there.
you have to be good to be lucky	people with ability cause their own good luck, prepare like crazy	Athletes don't wait for good luck. They try to improve, knowing you have to be good to be lucky.
you need money to make money	you have to spend money to make a profit, nothing succeeds like...	If I had money, I would invest in real estate. It's true that you need money to make money.
you reap whatsoever you sow	you will see the long-term effects of your actions, chickens come home...	Youthful passion can produce a lifetime of consequences. We reap whatsoever we sow.
you snooze, you lose	if you are not alert you will lose an opportunity, seize the opportunity	Store clerks sometimes charge too much for a product. If you snooze, you lose.
you're full of it [B]	you are a liar, you are full of shit [B]	If you think I'm joining that cult, you're full of it.
you're kidding	you are joking, you are not serious	You're kidding. Jen wouldn't take off her clothes and climb a tree.
you're not kidding/ you aren't kidding	you are right, you are not joking	"It's really cold today," Jen said. "You aren't kidding!" he replied.
you're on	you have a deal, you have a date	When she suggested they go out for dinner, he said, "You're on."
you're only as good as your last shift	you are judged by your most recent work, don't rest on your laurels	If you believe that you're only as good as your last shift, you should do your best every day.
you've got to be kidding	you must be telling me a joke, get out of town,	"The manager wants me to give him a massage every afternoon." "You've got to be

	you're kidding	kidding!"
young at heart	feeling or thinking that you are young, youthful	Sarah is over sixty, but she's young at heart.
your goose is cooked	(See goose is cooked)	
your lip	your sharp words, your bad replies	I don't want any more of your lip, Son. Don't say no to me.
your number is up	the time has come, it is your turn to die	When your number's up, you go. That's how I feel about dying.
your own worst enemy	hurt yourself, shoot yourself in the foot	If you use cocaine, you'll be your own worst enemy.
your turn	your chance, your try	The clerk said, "Wait your turn. Wait until I can serve you."
yours truly	me, myself, the writer or speaker	The announcer said, "This is yours truly, Danny Burrows, saying goodbye for now."
yoyo	fool, dipstick , jerk , nerd	I was parking my car when this yoyo on a motorcycle started driving in circles around me.
yuk	awful, gross, ugly	When Jenny cooks beef liver, the kids say, "Yuk!"
yum	it tastes good, I like it	Yum! This soup is good!
yummy	delicious, tasty	I don't like J-Bars, but the kids think they're yummy.
yuppie	young, upwardly-mobile, professional person	The yuppies are buying BMW's, but can they afford them?

Z

zap	heat in the microwave oven, nuke	I zapped my hotdog. It was ready in 30 seconds!
zig when you should zag	move the wrong way, move left instead of right	I had an accident because I zipped when I should've zagged.
zilch	zero, none, nothing, diddly-squat , nada , zip	"How much did you win?" "Zilch. Not a penny."
zinger	strong statement, sarcastic words, get off a few good ones	Randi says kind things, except for the occasional zinger. Like today, she called Tom a beast.
zip	close, shut tight	Mom told me to zip my lips while the preacher is talking.
zip	go quickly, run	After we deliver the flowers we can zip over to the bank.
zip/zippo	nothing, zero, nada	The Smiths have paid nothing on their account - zippo.
zipperhead	business person, administrator	What musicians hate is to have a zipperhead controlling the arts.
zit	pimple, blemish	I'm not going to the party because I have zits on my face.
zonked	tired, exhausted, falling asleep	After playing soccer in the park, I needed a rest. I was zonked.
zoo	(See it's a zoo in there)	
zoom	the sound of fast-moving cars	Zoom go the cars on the autobahn! Zoom, zoom!
zoom in	move the camera closer, magnify the subject	Now zoom in for a photo of the baby. Get a close-up of her face.