

## MISC

<b>Pull yourself up by the bootstraps</b>	To accomplish something without outside help.	My grandfather was poor, but he pulled himself up by the bootstraps and started his own business.
<b>Mind one's p's and q's</b>	To be polite.	We're going to the Queen's party, so please mind your p's and q's.
<b>Make a mountain out of a molehill</b>	To make a big deal out of something small.	It's okay. We can wash your shirt. Let's not make a mountain out of a molehill.
<b>Pass the buck</b>	To push responsibility onto someone else.	I complained to the waiter, but he brought the manager over, then he called the owner. No one wanted to take responsibility. They kept passing the buck.
<b>Pot calling the kettle black</b>	When someone with a problem complains about someone with the same problem.	John's complaining about Bill's messy room, but that's just the pot calling the kettle black.

---

## MISC 2

<b>Thick as thieves</b>	A very close group of people.	Pat and her friends are as thick as thieves.
<b>Jump on the bandwagon</b>	To like something just because others like it.	After the Yankees won the World Series, everyone jumped on the bandwagon and became a fan.
<b>To darken someone's doorstep</b>	When someone arrives unannounced and unwanted.	Strange Uncle Bill darkened our doorstep last week. No one had even seen him in a year.
<b>The real McCoy</b>	The real thing.	You've only tried canned tomato soup before. This stuff is the real McCoy.
<b>People in glass houses shouldn't throw stones</b>	People who have problems shouldn't criticize others.	Jane was mocking Jim for forgetting his papers, but she's made mistakes too. People in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.

## GREEK AND ROMAN

It's all Greek to me	I didn't understand any of it.	Frank started talking about Star Wars, but it was all Greek to me.
When in Rome, do as the Romans	When you're around people with a strange custom, you should follow along with the custom.	I spent the day in Ms. Chun's class. She makes her students raise both hands when they have a question. So I went along with it. When in Rome...
Beware of Greeks bearing gifts	Be suspicious when enemies give you gifts	Bill is always mean to me, but then he offered me his milk. I should remember to beware of Greeks bearing gifts. The milk was rotten!
All roads lead to Rome	There are many routes to the same goal.	My mom became a teacher right after college, but my dad spent several years trying different jobs before teaching. All roads lead to Rome.
Rome wasn't built in a day	Large accomplishments don't happen quickly	I know it'll take time to finish this painting. After all, Rome wasn't built in a day.
To fiddle while Rome burns	To be irresponsible during an emergency.	I saw a baby fall over, but her mom kept chatting on the phone. It was like she was fiddling while Rome burned!

---

## WATER

Wet behind the ears	New at something	I just started playing guitar last week. I'm still wet behind the ears.
Go with the flow	To go along with what others are doing	I don't care what we do. I'm just happy to be with you guys. I'll go with the flow.
Across the pond	In England (across the Atlantic ocean)	My dad is on a trip for work. He's across the pond.
Don't throw out the baby with the bathwater.	When you're getting rid of the bad parts, don't lose the good parts.	I was getting rid of the junk in my drawer and almost threw out a credit card. I nearly threw the baby out with the bathwater.
To throw a wet blanket on something.	To take away another's excitement.	Everyone was celebrating, but Jim came in and complained about the noise. He really threw a wet blanket on the party.

## MOUTHS

My lips are sealed	To promise not to tell a secret.	You can trust me with the secret. My lips are sealed!
To have a sweet tooth	To enjoy candies.	I know I shouldn't have dessert, but I have such a sweet tooth!
Swallow your pride	To agree to do something humiliating but necessary	I finally swallowed my pride and admitted I was wrong.
Tongue in cheek	In a joking way	I got a 99% and my mom said, tongue in cheek, "Why can't you be perfect!"
To whistle Dixie	To be calm when one should be worried	I realized our project was due in two days! My group said they weren't worried, but I think they're just whistling Dixie!

---

## BITES

Once bitten, twice shy	After one has been hurt in some way, they'll be more careful the next time	I'll never grab the pan with my bare hands again. Once bitten, twice shy!
To bite off more than you can chew	To take on more responsibility than you can handle	I agreed to plan a party, but still have to do my homework. I think I bit off more than I can chew!
To bite the hand that feeds you	To insult the person who takes care of you	I don't want to complain too much about my parents. I'd be biting the hand that feeds me!
Bite your tongue	To hold back from speaking to avoid an argument	When my brother was bragging about his report card, I had to bite my tongue.
Bite the bullet	To do something you've been avoiding.	I finally bit the bullet and cleaned the rest of my room.

## NAMES

Tom, Dick, or Harry	Any regular person	Every Tom, Dick, or Harry will want to buy our new phone.
John Doe	An unknown person	We're on the hunt for the John Doe that robbed the pizza store.
Johnny Come Lately	A person who is new at something that others have done for a long time	Sure, he's good at basketball, but he's really just a Johnny come lately. We've been playing together for three years.
John Q. Public	All regular people.	What will John Q. Public think about the website's new design?
Rob Peter to pay Paul	To take from someone just to pay another person back	I owed money to my mom, so I borrowed money from my dad to pay her back. Now I owe money to my dad! I just robbed Peter to pay Paul.

---

## ABOVE AND BELOW

Above board	Everything is done according to the rules	I want to make sure that this business is all above board.
Above the law	To think the rules don't apply to you.	Ever since Jenny was voted class president, she thinks she can do whatever she wants. She thinks she's above the law.
Below the belt	An insult that is more hurtful than necessary	John was arguing with me, and then he made fun of my Pokemon card collection. That was really below the belt.
A notch above	Something that is especially better than the rest	Your essay was the best in the class. It was a notch above the rest.
To fly below the radar	To avoid drawing attention to oneself	When I moved to the new school, I flew below the radar until I met some people I knew would be my friends.

## FOOD 1

All sizzle and no steak	Many promises, but nothing real is delivered.	When my older brother brags about starting a band and recording a song, I know it's all sizzle and no steak.
Don't cry over spilled milk	Don't make a big deal about small things	My hot dog fell onto the ground, but I decided not to cry over spilled milk.
Didn't cut the mustard	Didn't meet the requirements.	Sorry, but your application just didn't cut the mustard.
Brownie points	Special recognition from a boss	I scored some brownie points when I remembered my teacher's birthday!
Small potatoes	Something that is not a big deal	I made the city's baseball team, but that's small potatoes. I want to play professionally!

---

## FOOD 2

Acquired taste	Something that takes time to get used to.	My Uncle's jokes are weird, but he's funny once you spend some time with him. He's a bit of an acquired taste.
Like two peas in a pod	Two people who really get along well.	Stephanie and Jenny are always together. They're like two peas in a pod!
Salad days	One's younger days	Sometimes my grandpa likes to talk about his salad days when he played quarterback for his high school football team.
Soup to nuts	From pieces to final product	I built my house from soup to nuts.
Sour grapes	When someone makes fun of something, but they are really jealous	Mark said he doesn't like my new game, but I think it's just sour grapes.

## FOOD 3

A square meal	A nutritious meal	Rather than just eating snacks, I had a square meal with meat and vegetables.
Eat like a bird	To eat a small amount	When I go to a restaurant, I only order a small salad. People say I eat like a bird.
Too many cooks in the kitchen	So many people are involved in a decision that it takes too long and the result isn't good.	Everyone tried to help me decorate my room, and now I don't like any of it. There were just too many cooks in the kitchen.
Selling like hotcakes	Selling very well	The new 3D game system is selling like hotcakes!
To eat one's heart out	To be jealous	When I scored a 100%, I knew the other students were eating their hearts out!
Feast or famine	When there is either too little or too much of something	There were no rainy days last month, but now we've had six in a row! It's either feast or famine!

---

## FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Cool as a cucumber	Not upset by anything	Even when the class is wild, my teacher doesn't get upset. She's as cool as a cucumber.
The apple of my eye	Something that is the most important to someone	My grandma always calls me the apple of her eye. I guess I'm her favorite!
When life gives you lemons, make lemonade	Always make the best of a situation	I only got socks for Christmas, so I guess I'll turn them into puppets and film a movie! When life gives you lemons, make lemonade!
Heard it through the grapevine	To hear rumors	I heard it through the grapevine that you're having a party next year. I wish you had told me directly.
Apples and oranges	An unfair comparison	When my parents try to compare me to my sister, I tell them that it's apples and oranges. We're just two different people.

## SALT

Take it with a grain of salt	Don't necessarily believe it	Take everything John says with a grain of salt. He tends to exaggerate.
Attic salt	Intelligence	You got your attic salt from your grandfather.
Rub salt in your wounds	To make make a bad situation even worse.	I failed my history test, and then, to rub salt in the wound, I slipped on the wet grass on the way home.
Salt of the earth	Hard working, honest people	The people in this small town are the salt of the earth.
To be worth your salt	To be worth what it cost to get you	The new employee showed she was worth her salt when she found the missing data.

---

## EGGS

Nest egg	A large amount of money saved up, often to buy a house	I've been saving money since I was six, so I have a nice nest egg.
Walking on egg shells	To be extra careful around someone because they're angry	We were walking on eggshells because mom had a bad day at work.
You can't make an omelette without breaking some eggs	You can't accomplish anything important without making sacrifices.	We need to fire ten employees to save money. It's tough, but you can't make an omelette without breaking some eggs.
A bad egg	One person out of a group who behaves poorly.	The Smith's youngest son is always acting out. He's simply a bad egg.
Don't count your chickens before they're hatched.	Don't assume something will work out well until it actually happens.	Even though the game had five minutes left, our team started celebrating. Then the other team came back! They shouldn't have counted their chickens before they hatched.

## DESSERT

Eat humble pie	To be humbled	I was so sure that I was right that I started acting mean to everyone. Then they proved me wrong. I had to eat humble pie.
Just desserts	Fair consequences for bad behavior	After rudely bragging about his skateboarding skills, Phil wiped out in front of the school. He got his just desserts.
Take the cake	To be the clear winner	All of the paintings were great, but Susie clearly took the cake.
Icing on the cake	An extra benefit	Getting straight A's was awesome, but when my parents took me to my favorite restaurant, it was icing on the cake.
The proof is in the pudding	Actually using something proves if it's good or not	I've heard that the new ride is the best, but I won't believe it until I try it. For me, the proof is in the pudding.
Have your cake and eat it too	To try to do everything, even though it's impossible	She wants to play pitcher and catcher, but that's like having your cake and eating it too.

---

## BODY PARTS

An arm and a leg	Very expensive	My new car cost me an arm and a leg!
Break a leg	Good luck to actors	Before going on stage, I told Jane to break a leg.
Head in the clouds	Not paying attention	Anthony! Did you even heard what I said, or was your head in the clouds?
An eye for an eye	To receive a punishment equal to the crime	After I accidentally knocked Bill's milk over, he spilled mine as well. He told me it was "an eye for an eye."
Go belly up	To go out of business	I loved the yogurt store by my house, but it's gone now. It went belly up.



## HANDS AND FINGERS

All thumbs	To be extremely clumsy	I couldn't get my shoes tied. I was all thumbs!
Green thumb	People with green thumbs are good at gardening	My vegetable garden is really taking off thanks to my green thumb.
Caught red-handed	To be seen committing a crime in the middle of the act.	I tried to sneak an extra cookie, but my mom walked in and I was caught red-handed.
Hat in hand	To be begging for assistance	I had to go to my dad, hat in hand, and beg for some extra allowance.
Work my fingers to the bone	To work exceptionally long and hard on something	I have so much homework due tomorrow, I'm going to have to work my fingers to the bone!

---

## HANDS 2

Wash one's hand of something	To get rid of a responsibility out of frustration	Fine! I don't agree with it, but if you want to do that, go ahead! I'm washing my hands of this.
Throw down a gauntlet	To issue a challenge	When my teacher said no one could get two perfect scores in a row, it was like she threw down a gauntlet. I knew I could do it!
Roll with the punches	To deal with problems well	I admire my sister. Even when she gets a bad grade, she rolls with the punches and doesn't get upset.
A slap on the wrist	A mild punishment	Since it was the first time I had ever been in trouble, the principal only took away one recess. It was just a slap on the wrist.
Midas Touch	To make things perfect with a touch	Carly has the Midas Touch! Everything she tries comes out perfectly.

## FEET

Two left feet	To be clumsy when dancing	Whenever I dance, I step on my own toes! I've got two left feet.
To get cold feet	To back out at the last minute, usually from getting married	It was ten minutes before my wedding and I started to get cold feet.
To drag your feet	To make excuses, trying to avoid doing something.	When it was time for the dentist, I pretended to look for my hat, but was really dragging my feet.
Hold your feet to the fire	To pressure someone to do something	I'm going to hold your feet to the fire until you agree to come to my party.
Put your foot in your mouth	To realize you accidentally said something offensive	I was talking about how I don't like blue shirts when I realized Jim was wearing one! I really put my foot in my mouth.

---

## NOSES

Nose to the grindstone	To work hard	I'm going to keep my nose to the grindstone and finish this essay tonight.
Right on the nose	Perfect	My answer was right on the nose! I got the best score in the class.
Pay through the nose	To pay too much	I think I paid through the nose for this game. I just saw it for half the price.
Cut off your nose to spite your face	To overreact to a situation and end up hurting yourself	When my boss made me work an extra hour, I decided to quit! Now I need money and realized that I cut off my nose to spite my face.
Look down your nose at someone	To think you're better than another	That rich old banker looked down his nose at me, just because I'm not dressed as well as him.

## FLIES AND FLYING

Fly in the ointment	A small problem that ruins something	Everything was great about our field trip except the smelly bus we rode. It was the fly in the ointment.
Fly by the seat of one's pants	To improvise	When I gave my speech, nothing went according to plan. I had to fly by the seat of my pants to get through it.
Fly off the handle	To overreact	When I told her the bad news, Jen really flew off the handle. She was very upset.
On a wing and a prayer	To get through something just on luck	I had been sick for a week, then forgot to study for our test, but I got through it on a wing and a prayer.
A fly on the wall	To observe something unnoticed	I wish I could have been a fly on the wall at the meeting between my teacher and parents.

---

## BUGS

Bee in your bonnet	Something uninteresting that a person has become obsessed with	Jill has a bee in her bonnet about keeping her car safe. She's always buying new alarms and is constantly worrying.
Bee's knees	Something that is excellent	The new Spiderman movie is the bee's knees! I loved it.
Don't let the bed bugs bite	Sleep well	Good night, Jimmy. Don't let the bed bugs bite.
Snug as a bug in a rug	To be very comfortable	Once I got under my new blankets, I was as snug as a bug in a rug.
Ants in your pants	To keep moving around	Sit still, Sara! Do you have ants in your pants?

## BIRDS 1

As scarce as hen's teeth	Very unusual	This type of coin is as scarce as hen's teeth!
A little bird told me	Someone told me, but I want to keep them anonymous.	A little bird told me that you've been shopping for my birthday present.
A feather in my cap	A great accomplishment	Getting 100% on this math test was a feather in my cap.
A swan song	A final performance.	The band's swan song was a performance on the top of The Empire State Building.
A canary in a coal mine	A way to predict when things are about to go wrong.	When a company's CEO quits, it's like a canary in a coal mine.

---

## BIRDS 2

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush	Something that is certain is better than something that is a possibility	My friend is always saying that next month he'll have better Pokemon cards than me, but a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
An albatross around the neck	A problem that keeps holding one back	That joke he made about the principal in kindergarten keeps causing him problems years later. It's an albatross around his neck.
Birds of a feather flock together	People who are similar will form a group	Isn't it weird that we all have the same favorite movie? I guess birds of a feather flock together!
Kill two birds with one stone	To take care of two problems at once	Let's go to the grocery store. I can finish my shopping and buy a birthday card. I'll kill two birds with one stone.
Eat crow	To admit one was wrong	I was so sure about the answer, but I was wrong. I shouldn't have been so rude about it, because now I have to eat crow.
The chickens have come home to roost	The consequences of bad choices have finally happened	We kept telling him that if he cheated he would be caught. Now the chickens are coming home to roost.

## DUCKS

Like a duck to water	Learning a skill quickly and naturally	Can you believe this is the first time John's played piano? He's taken to it like a duck to water.
Get your ducks in a row	Get yourself organized	We're leaving for the airport in an hour! Make sure to get your ducks in a row.
Like a sitting duck	Very vulnerable, without protection	Anybody can find us if we sleep in our front yard. We'll be like sitting ducks!
A lame duck	An elected person whose term is ending and who will not be reelected. They often lack power.	Since we elected Sue as our next president, Jim has become a lame duck and can't get anything done.
Just ducky	Pleasant and happy	I was feeling just ducky on my day off.

---

## GEESE

What's good for the goose is good for the gander.	If it's good enough for one group, it's good enough for another (a gander is a male goose).	If your brother will eat it, you can too. What's good for the goose is good for the gander.
Your goose is cooked	You are in big trouble	When my mom caught me sneaking a cookie, I knew my goose was cooked!
To kill the goose that lays the golden egg	To destroy something to get a quick gain, even though it was creating long-term benefits.	I made \$100 a day playing guitar until I sold my guitar for \$500. I guess I killed the goose that laid the golden egg.
Wild goose chase	A hunt for something that's impossible to find	I searched the house for my hidden presents, but my parents hid them at the neighbor's. It was a wild goose chase!
All his geese are swans.	He exaggerates how good things are.	He bragged about his children, but all his geese are swans.

## THE MOON

Once in a blue moon	A very rare event	I only eat Chinese food once in a blue moon.
Over the moon	Extremely excited	When I found out that my parents bought me a TV, I was over the moon!
Ask for the moon	To ask for too much	I'd like to help you, but you're asking for the moon.
Promised the moon	To promise too much	I wanted to make this a special event, but I think I promised the moon.
Many moons ago	A long time ago	Oh, I met your mother many moons ago.

---

## ANIMALS

I'll be a monkey's uncle	I'm surprised	I didn't think you'd remember to return this! Well, I'll be a monkey's uncle.
Elephant in the room	Something uncomfortable that no one wants to talk about	After Sam and Bill had a fight, no one wanted to bring it up. It was the elephant in the room.
Into the lion's den	To go into a dangerous situation	The principal wants to see me. I'm going into the lion's den!
Open up a can of worms	To accidentally reveal many problems	When my teacher started going through my desk, she really opened up a can of worms.
To have the tiger by the tail	To have hold of something that you can't control	I jumped onto the bully's back, but didn't know what to do next. I had the tiger by the tail.

## COWS AND BULLS

Cash cow	A product or business that makes large amounts of money.	Apple's iPhone has become a real cash cow.
Until the cows come home	Something will keep happening with no end in sight.	The party's going to go until the cows come home.
Grab the bull by the horns	Take on a difficult problem with confidence.	Tonight's homework looks tough, but I'm going to grab the bull by the horns and get it finished.
Like a bull in a china shop	Clumsy, awkward, or accidentally ruining a situation.	When my Uncle Jim dances, he knocks into everyone like a bull in a china shop.
Don't have a cow	Don't make a big deal out of something.	My friend got an 88% and started to get upset. I told him not to have a cow.

---

## DOGS

The tail is wagging the dog	The person in charge is being controlled by with less power.	When the two year old decides where to eat, the tail is wagging the dog.
His bark is worse than his bite	One may make threats, but won't take any action	I know he sounded mad, but his bark is worse than his bite.
In the dog house	In trouble with someone, often between a husband and wife	My dad's in the dog house because he forgot to get flowers on Valentine's day
Dog and pony show	When important people visit, and people must act differently than they usually do	The mayor visited our school and everyone dressed up and behaved perfectly. It was a dog and pony show.
If you lie down with dogs, you'll wake up with fleas	When you hang out with the wrong crowd, you'll end up just like them.	I don't like you going out with that group. If you lie down with dogs, you'll wake up with fleas.

## CATS 1

Fat cat	A powerful person who doesn't care about regular people	I don't want to vote for the mayor again. He's become just another fat cat.
Let the cat out of the bag	To reveal a secret	The principal let the cat out of the bag, we're going to have a school carnival!
More than one way to skin a cat	There's more than one way to get something done	It's okay if you use a different method as long as you get it done. After all, there's more than one way to skin a cat!
Cat got your tongue?	Asked when a person isn't speaking	What's the matter? You haven't spoken all night. Cat got your tongue?
To look like the cat that swallowed the canary	To look suspicious	Kim looks like the cat who swallowed the canary. I wonder what she just did.

---

## CATS 2

When the cat's away, the mice will play	When there's no one in charge, people will do whatever they want	I went to the store, but the employees were all goofing around because their boss was out. When the cat's away, the mice will play.
Like a cat on a hot tin roof	To be nervous and unable to stay still	When I waited to see my report card, I was like a cat on a hot tin roof.
Like herding cats	Trying to control an impossible situation	As the last day of school ended, I wanted to get a picture of everyone, but it was like herding cats.
Feed the kitty	To give money	If we want to rent the biggest bounce house, everyone needs to feed the kitty.
A grin like a Cheshire cat	A huge smile	I knew that she liked the gift when I saw her grin like a Cheshire cat.



## HORSES

Don't put the cart before the horse.	Don't do things out of order.	Your shoes go on after your socks, remember not to put the cart before the horse.
Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.	Don't analyze a gift, simply accept it thankfully.	Yes, Grandma bought you some pink pajamas, Billy, but don't look a gift horse in the mouth.
You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink.	You can prepare someone for success, but you can't do it for them.	I bought him a calculator, a math book, and a pencil, but he still got a D. I guess you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink!
Don't change horses in midstream.	Once you've made a decision, stick to it.	We decided to go to Canada for a vacation and we're not going to change horses midstream.
A dark horse	A contestant who does unexpectedly well in a competition.	That new student who won the school election was a real dark horse.

---

## HORSES 2

From the horse's mouth	Directly from the source	I know for sure that the test is tomorrow because Mrs. Jan told me. I heard it from the horse's mouth!
Chomping at the bit	Anxious to get started	The class knew it was the last day of school and they were chomping at the bit to get through it.
One trick pony	Someone who is only good at one thing	Jane juggles every year at the talent show. She's such a one trick pony.
Get on your high horse	When one acts better than others	Jeff is getting on his high horse again and telling us how we should have done everything.
Closing the barn door after the horse has bolted	To try to solve a problem after its already occurred	Outlawing Pokemon cards after some were stolen is like closing the barn door after the horse has bolted.

## PIGS

Turn a sow's ear into a silk purse	Turn something bad into something good	My shirt didn't fit well, so I cut it up and made it into something new, like turning a sow's ear into a silk purse.
Bring home the bacon	To earn enough money to make a living	Now that I have a job, I'm really bringing home the bacon.
Pork barrel	A law passed by a politician that really just brings money to his voters, helping him to get reelected.	This law to change school lunches is really just a pork barrel. It's all about bringing money into the city.
Pig in a poke	Something that you buy without seeing or trying it first.	I should have test-driven the car, instead I bought a pig in a poke.
Ham fisted	Clumsy	I was so ham-fisted that I couldn't get the Lego put together.

---

## FISH

Like shooting fish in a barrel	A very easy task	Beating this game is so easy, it's like shooting fish in a barrel.
A red herring	A clue that distracts from the real investigation	The author made Jim look like the criminal, but it was just a red herring.
To have bigger fish to fry	To have more important things to deal with	The police let the man go because they had bigger fish to fry.
Big fish in a small pond	To be really good at something, but without much competition.	I was the best basketball player in the town. When I went to college, I realized I had been a big fish in a small pond.
A fish out of water	Someone who feels out of place	When I went to middle school for the first time, I felt like a fish out of water.
Hook, line, and sinker.	Said when someone completely falls for a trick	I jokingly told Jill that the principal wanted to talk to her, and she fell for it hook, line, and sinker.

## WEAPONS AND FIGHTING

Bury the hatchet	To end an ongoing argument	We've been fighting for so long. Let's bury the hatchet and be friends again.
A loose cannon	Someone who is hard to predict and may cause problems	I don't want William to speak in front of a crowd because he's a loose cannon. I don't know what he will say!
Sweating bullets	To be extremely nervous	When I went into my first job interview, I was sweating bullets!
Double-edged sword	Something with advantages and disadvantages	Owning a fancy car is a double-edged sword. It's fast and looks beautiful, but I always worry that it will get stolen or scratched in the parking lot.
An axe to grind	A problem with another person that you want to deal with	I have an axe to grind with Susan. She broke my pencil and didn't get me a new one.

---

## SHIPS

Any port in a storm	During a time of danger, any place of safety is good enough.	I'm usually scared of Mr. Boid, but I ran into his class when those boys were chasing me. Any port in a storm!
A rising tide lifts all boats	Improving overall conditions will help everybody.	The players on the team have different abilities, but getting better equipment will help everyone. After all, a rising tide lifts all boats.
Davy Jones' locker	The bottom of the sea; where sailors go when they drown	When we kicked that pirate off our ship, he went to Davy Jones locker!
Like rearranging the chairs on the Titanic	Fixing a small problem during a major disaster.	Your essay is simply on the wrong topic, fixing your spelling mistakes is like rearranging the chairs on the Titanic!
Like ships passing in the night	Two people who meet only once, by chance, and never see each other again	I sat by the kindest person on the plane, but we were just like ships passing in the night.

## HALLOWEEN 1

Skeletons in the closet	Secrets from the past that one wants to keep hidden	It's true, I have some skeletons in the closet. I bought Justin Bieber's album the day it came out!
Whistle past the graveyard	To stay cheerful in a bad situation	Even though she was headed to the dentist's chair, Sara stayed calm and whistled past the graveyard.
Under my skin	Really bothers me	When my big brother calls me "little kid," it really gets under my skin.
Blood is thicker than water	Family is the most important thing	My friends invited me to a party, but it was my grandma's birthday and blood is thicker than water.
Made my blood run cold	To feel unusually scared	When I heard a scratching noise in the middle of the night, my blood ran cold.
Speak of the devil	Used when someone appears, just when you were mentioning them	Speak of the devil! John, we were just talking about you.

---

## HALLOWEEN 2

Dead ringer	A nearly exact duplicate	You're a dead ringer for Thomas Jefferson. You look just like him!
Blue blooded	Someone who is upper class	Those fancy blue-blooded people didn't want to get dirty in our sand-castle competition.
Too rich for my blood	Said when bets get too high in a game	Five hundred dollars? I'm out of this game, it's too rich for my blood
Get blood from a stone	To try do something very difficult	I tried to get an extension for my report from mean Mr. Boid, but it was like getting blood from a stone.
Devil's advocate	To take an opposing point of view, even though you don't believe in it	I agree with your point, but let me play devil's advocate.

## NUMBERS

A baker's dozen	Thirteen of something	I'm going to order a baker's dozen of muffins.
Fifteen minutes of fame	A brief period when someone becomes famous for something unimportant.	When my video went viral on Youtube, I had my fifteen minutes of fame.
The eleventh hour	The last chance to get something finished	I was working on my essay until the eleventh hour!
A catch-22	A bad situation that is impossible to get out of because it causes itself	In order to become an actor, I have to show experience, but I can't get experience until I become an actor!
A stitch in time saves nine	Taking care of problems before they happen will save time and money. s	I always double check my homework folder before leaving for school, since a stitch in time saves nine.

---

## SPECIAL NUMBERS 2

The whole nine yards	Include everything	I want you to have balloons, clowns, and horses at the birthday party. Let's go the whole nine yards!
800 pound gorilla	A powerful force	In the video game industry, Microsoft's XBox is an 800 pound gorilla.
Behind the eight ball	In a difficult position	Both of my friends want me to come over, and my parents have a special dinner planned. I don't know what to do. I'm stuck behind the eight ball.
It takes two to tango	Two people are responsible for a bad action	Don't blame her for talking you into skipping class. It takes two to tango.
Third wheel	A person who is out of place in a situation	When William realized he was going to the romantic movie with Greg and his girlfriend, he suddenly felt like a third wheel.

## RED

A red letter day	A wonderful, noteworthy day	Today we had an amazing breakfast, went to Disneyland, and then enjoyed a special dessert. It was a red letter day!
Paint the town red	To have a wild night out	For Billy's birthday, we're going to the pizza shop, the carnival, the ice cream store, and then to the movies. We're going to paint the town red!
To see red	To get angry	Whenever anyone makes fun of him, Sam begins to see red.
In the red	To be in debt	I'm worried about my dad's business. He's always in the red.
Red tape	Unnecessary rules to go through	Applying to work at the pizza shop sure has a lot of red tape. Look at all of these forms I have to fill out!

---

## FIRE

Out of the frying pan, into the fire	Out of one problem, but into another	Once I got away from the bullies, I turned the corner and a stray dog started chasing me! I was out of the frying pan, but into the fire.
Add fuel to the fire	To make a problem worse	All of the students were complaining about their homework, so when the teacher assigned a book report, it was like adding fuel to the fire.
Baptism by fire	To go through a difficult problem as a newcomer	On my first day working at the ice cream shop, we had a thousand customers! I went through a baptism by fire. Now I can handle anything!
Burn the candle at both ends	To work hard for a long time	With all this homework plus soccer practice and a boy scout meeting, I'll be burning the candle at both ends tonight.
To have several irons in the fire	To have many projects started	My company isn't making much money yet, but we have several irons in the fire.
A flash in the pan	Something that is only popular for a brief time	That new band is just going to be a flash in the pan.

## WEATHER

Every cloud has a silver lining.	All bad things have a good side.	Although I lost my car keys, now I'm getting more exercise! Every cloud has a silver lining.
Rain on your parade	To bring someone down when they are excited	Sorry to rain on your parade, but the water park you wanted to go to isn't open this week.
Steal someone's thunder	To outdo someone when they are making an exciting announcement.	I was showing off my new calculator, then Jill stole my thunder by taking out her new iPad!
On cloud nine	To feel extreme joy	I was on cloud nine when I saw the 100% on my math test!
Tempest in a teapot	A small problem blown into a big deal.	Everyone is complaining about the president's mistake, but it's really just a tempest in a teapot.

---

## TEMPERATURE

Blow hot and cold	To change one's mind back and forth	My dad wanted me to play baseball, then he got scared I'd get hurt, and now he wants me to play again. He keeps blowing hot and cold.
Break the ice	To get a conversation going among strangers	To break the ice, I asked everyone what their favorite movie was.
Burning daylight	Wasting the day	Let's get working guys! We're burning daylight.
The cold shoulder	To not talk to someone	John's giving me the cold shoulder because I made fun of his backpack.
Full of hot air	Describes someone who talks a lot but doesn't back it up	Melissa always says she's going to vacation in amazing places, but it never happens. She's full of hot air.

## DAYS OF THE WEEK

Monday morning quarterback	Someone who gives advice, judging a situation after it has already happened	It's easy to be a Monday morning quarterback and complain about how the party should have been planned. Why didn't you actually help plan it?
A Sunday driver	One who drives slowly and leisurely	I got stuck on the freeway behind a real Sunday driver.
Your Sunday's best	Your best clothing	I got ready to go to the restaurant wearing my Sunday's best.
Six ways to Sunday	Every possible way	I tried to get my computer running six ways to Sunday.
From here until next Tuesday	For a long time or distance	After I forgot my homework, my parents grounded me from here until next Tuesday.

---

## PLANTS 1

Can't see the forest for the trees	Paying too much attention to details and missing the big picture	If you stand so close to the painting, you can't see the forest for the trees.
The grass is always greener on the other side	Whatever you don't have seems better than what you do have	I bought an Xbox, but then wanted a Playstation. I guess the grass is always greener on the other side.
A rolling stone gathers no moss	Someone who doesn't settle in one place is unlikely to become wealthy	My brother keeps moving and changing jobs so he's always low on cash. After all, a rolling stone gathers no moss.
Come up roses	To turn out very well	I thought this group would be hard to work with, but now everything's coming up roses!
Gild the lily	To add to something that is already perfect	The essay was finished, but she began to gild the lily by changing the font around.



## PLANTS 2

Olive branch	An attempt to make peace	I knew she was mad at me, so I offered an olive branch by giving her my cookie.
Little strokes fell great oaks	Small actions can lead to great changes	Although the book was 500 pages long, I got through it by reading a few pages each night. After all, little strokes fell great oaks.
Shrinking violet	A shy person	My younger sister is a shrinking violet, she never talks when we have people over.
Beat around the bush	To avoid getting to the point	Stop beating around the bush and give me the bad news!
Nip it in the bud	To stop a problem before it even starts	When my dad saw me staying up just one minute past my bedtime, he made me go right to bed. He said he wanted to nip the problem in the bud.
Every rose has its thorn	Even great things have problems	My new game is great, but some of the sound effects are annoying. I guess every rose has its thorn.

---

## BRIDGES

Don't burn your bridges	Don't ruin friendships just because you don't need someone in the short term.	Even though you're moving to a new school, don't burn your bridges at your old school.
I've got a bridge to sell you.	I think that you'll believe anything.	If you think unicorns are real, then I've got a bridge to sell you.
Like a bridge over troubled water	Something that helps you get over difficult problems	My friend Jim always makes me feel better. He's a bridge over troubled water.
It's water under the bridge.	I've forgiven that problem we had.	Don't worry about that argument we had. It's water under the bridge.
Cross that bridge when we get there.	To worry about something only when it comes up, and not before	If we put the furniture this way, we might not have room for the Christmas tree, but we'll cross that bridge when we get there.

## CARDS 1

Up the ante	To increase what's at stake	They were playing for fun, but I decided to up the ante and play for money.
Ace up your sleeve	A hidden advantage	The other players thought they had me beat, but they didn't know I had an ace up my sleeve.
Stack the deck	To unfairly set up a situation so you win	I stacked the deck in our basketball game by picking all the best players first.
A card shark	Someone who is skilled at card games.	Irene makes a lot of money playing poker. She's a real card shark.
The trump card	A very powerful tool brought out at an important time	I had saved my most powerful player for the last moment of the game. You should have seen the look on their faces when I played my trump card.

---

## CARDS 2

A wild card	Someone or something that is unpredictable	I never know how my cousin Sally will act at family parties. She's such a wild card!
Not in the cards	Fortune didn't work out in one's favor	I wanted to land the big job, but it just wasn't in the cards.
The cards were stacked against me	The situation wasn't fair to me	The cards were stacked against me in that game! The other players were three years older!
Keep the cards close to the vest	To keep one's plans a secret	I don't know what he plans to do after he graduates. He's keeping his cards close to his vest.
A house of cards	A situation that could fall apart at any moment.	Jim realized that the company he worked at was really a house of cards.

## MONEY

A day late and a dollar short	Didn't quite make the cut	I wanted to get into Harvard, but was a day late and a dollar short.
Another day, another dollar	Used when someone is simply going to their job to make money, not because they enjoy it	"How was work today?" "Oh, another day, another dollar."
Penny wise, pound foolish	Smart with a little money, but wasteful with large amounts.	He spent a week trying to avoid paying \$1, but then treated himself to a fancy dinner! He's penny wise, pound foolish.
Put your money where your mouth is	To back up your speech with action	You think you're so good? Why don't you put your money where your mouth is!
From rags to riches	To go from poor to rich	The president's first job was a garbage man's assistant. Now he runs the country! He went from rags to riches.
In for a penny, in for a pound	After committing a little bit, you realize you've committed completely	I took my little sister to the carnival. Then she wanted food, rides, and a toy. In for a penny, in for a pound!
A penny for your thoughts	What are you thinking?	I noticed you've been very quiet. A penny for your thoughts?

---