

# **SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT**

**Selection, adaptation and editing of idioms in Modern English**  
**Подбор, адаптирование и редактирование идиом в современном**  
**Английском языке**

**для учащихся 10-11 классов КГУ Гимназии № 35**  
**Медеевского района г. Алматы**

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**Hope you will learn to understand and use many new idioms in English.**

**If you keep an open mind and play your cards right,**  
**your proficiency in English will soon be something to crow about!**

**Алматы,**  
**2025 год**

**What is an Idiom?** An idiom is a phrase which means something different from the meanings of the separate words that are a part of it. Usually it cannot be understood by the literal interpretation of the words that make up the expression. Used together, the words convey a meaning that is often unrelated to the individual words in the idiom. Some idioms have become so well worn that they are also clichés: overused or commonplace expressions. Some idioms are slang. They may be used to create an effect such as shock, irreverence or exaggeration.

**How the Idioms Were Selected.** The idioms have been selected because they occur frequently in native speech or in reading material used by English language learners. Many of them are not found in standard dictionaries. Approximately 400 idioms are defined, and this is only a small selection from the thousands of idioms that exist in English.

**How to Locate an Idiom.** As far as possible, the idioms are listed in alphabetical order by first word. The only "first" words not used to list expressions are the verbs *be* and *have*, articles (*the, a, some*), pronouns and possessives (*someone, one's*) and negatives (*no, not*). If you are unable to locate a particular idiom by what you think is its first or *key word*, try looking under another word that you think is an important word in the idiom.

**How Each Entry is Arranged.** The idiom is given first. If there is an alternate form of the idiom, with a slightly different structure but the same meaning, it is given in braces {} or parentheses (...) immediately after the idiom entry or on the next line. The expression is then followed by a definition of its meaning. After this comes one, two, or three examples in context. Every attempt has been made to vary the grammatical structure in order to demonstrate more than one way the expression can be used. For example, the tense or the verb form may be different in different examples. Similarly, an attempt has been made to vary the contextual situations in which the idiom is presented in order to demonstrate its range of usage.

**Occasionally an idiom has more than one meaning.** In such cases, all the meanings are given and the example sentences that correspond to the different definitions are pointed out. Where appropriate, the meaning is followed by notes. It may include information on the origin of the expression, grammatical restrictions, subtle connotations of meaning, synonyms, antonyms similar expressions, related expressions and expressions for comparison.

**Antonyms** are expressions which mean the opposite of the idiom entry. Idioms that might be mistaken as similar or interchangeable or which should be compared to the entry, for some other reason are used for comparison.

**The Use of Pronouns.** Some expressions take an object that is different from the subject, e.g. *I gave him a rain check*. In this case, the object pronoun in the idiom entry is someone: *give someone a rain check*. In other expressions, the object is always the same as the subject, as in *I'm keeping my fingers crossed*. Here, the object pronoun in the idiom entry is *one*: *keep one's fingers crossed*.

**Symbols That Accompany the Entries.** Some idioms are often, but not always, associated with a particular verb. For example, the expression *back to square one, (go)* is frequently used with the verb *go*.

Similarly, some expressions occur in one or more slightly different structures. The expression may or may not have a direct object after the verb. In cases like these, the expression is listed under its first word and the frequently used verb or optional object is included in parentheses.

Some of idioms, however, are slang, and although they might be used in everyday conversation and informal writing, as a rule they would not be used in formal or literary speech or writing.

Some expressions may have an alternate for one word without changing the meaning of the expression. An example is *sleep like a log/rock*. In this expression, the word *rock* is a common alternate for the word *log* and can be substituted for it without changing the meaning of the expression.

Certain expressions are listed and discussed together because, with a change of only one or two words, they take on the opposite meaning. An example is *slow [quick] off the mark*.

When the word *quick* is substituted for *slow*, it forms an idiom with the opposite meaning. Another example is *take [give someone] a rain check*. If *give someone* is substituted for *take*, the relationship is reversed.

## Aa

Ace up one's sleeve = to have an effective but hidden means to accomplish something = to have extra chance to win = иметь туз в рукаве



Achilles' heel = a person's weakness or the vulnerable spot in character = Ахиллессова пята, уязвимая точка



All hell to pay = to be in serious trouble; to be in Dutch; to be in hot water; to be in the doghouse = места мало не покажется

All kidding aside = to speak seriously = шутки в сторону

All thumbs = to be awkward = руки-крюки



All wet = to be wrong to the point of being silly = сказать что-либо "не в тему"

Apple of one's eye = a person loved above all = свет в окошке



Armed to the teeth = to be well-equipped with weapons = вооружён до зубов



At one's wits end = to be at a loss = not to know what to do = to be unable to think clearly = мапазм

At the drop of a hat = immediately; without reason = без причины и колебаний



At the end of one's rope = to be beside oneself; to be at a loss; go to pieces; go to extremes; fly off the handle = дойти до ручки



## Bb

Back to square one = to return to the beginning; back to the drawing board; start from scratch = вернуться на начало



Backhanded compliment = an evil hint; criticism = подкол

Bad blood = hatred = ненависть

Bats in one's belfry = harmlessly crazy or eccentric = крышу сорвало



Beat a dead horse = to argue or pursue a point or topic without the possibility of success; to keep to your point of view; to run smth into the ground; to be stubborn; to stay firm = быть упрямым; стоять на своем



Beat around the bush = to avoid speaking directly; to be a sulker = ходить вокруг да около

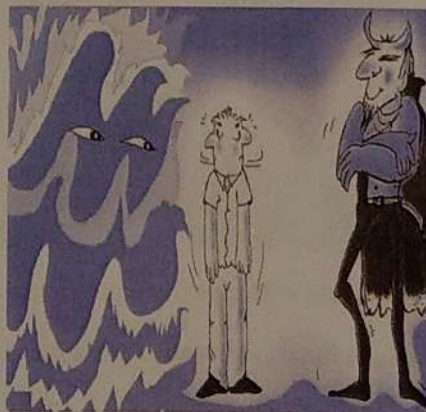


To hit below the belt = cruel and unfair = удар ниже пояса

Bend someone's ear = to talk to someone for a long time = присесть на уши

Bet one's boots = it's my bet; to be sure; bet one's bottom dollar = биться об заклад

Between the devil and the deep blue sea = between two different situations = меж двух огней



Big shot = a big head; an important person = влиятельный человек

Bird's-eye view = a broad view of something = с высоты птичьего полета

Bite off more than one can chew = to try to do more than you can do = сделать что-либо выше сил

Bite the bullet = to face a different situation; face the music; grin and bear it; take the bull by the horns = смотреть трезво на вещи



Bitter pill = hard pill to swallow; different and unpleasant reality = горькая правда

Black and blue = in a terrible moral or physical state; to be down in the dumps = быть в нокауте

Black market = a system of buying and selling illegal goods = черный рынок

Black out = to lose consciousness = потерять сознание

Blow off some steam = to express anger, usually noisily; fly off the handle = разозлиться до белого каления



Blow one's own horn = to boast; to brag; to show off = хвастаться

Blow one's stack = to become suddenly very angry; raise the roof; blow off steam = разозлиться

Blue = depressed; down in the dumps; down in the mouth = быть в депрессии, подавленным

Break the ice = to break an icy surface smooth; to make a friendly atmosphere = растопить лед недоверия

Bring home the bacon = to bring money into the household; to earn living; to be the breeder of the family = быть кормильцем



Bull in the China shop = to be clumsy; awkward = слон в посудной лавке

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Blue = depressed; down in the dumps; down in the mouth = быть в депрессии, подавленным

Blue blood = a person from a noble family = королевских кровей

Blue law = a law which prohibited the sale of alcoholic drinks = сухой закон

Boiling point = to make someone's blood boil = довести до точки кипения

Born yesterday = innocent and naive; wet behind the ears = молоко на губах не обсохло

Both feet on the ground = to be of sound and serious mind; realistic; not to have head in the clouds = трезвая голова

Bottoms up! = a call to drink; to empty one's glass; Cheers! = Выпьём!





Burn one's bridges = to ruin anything = сжигать мосты

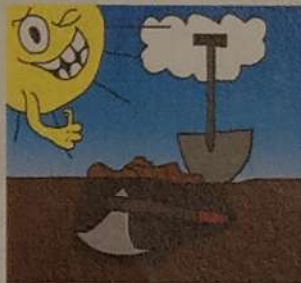
Burn the candle at both ends = to overwork oneself; to be exhausted = переработать



"Bob, you gotta slow down. This burning at both ends is gonna kill you!"

Burned out = to be worn out; exhausted; sick and tired = быть выжатым как лимон

Bury the hatchet = to end a dispute; to clear the air; to stop wars = зарыть топор войны



Butter someone up = to flatter someone; to please = подлизываться



Buy something for a song = to buy something for nothing = купить за бесценок

By the skin of one's teeth = by a very narrow escape; by a hair's breadth; close shave = на волосок от опасности

## Сс

Call a spade a spade = to speak plainly or directly about smth unpleasant; to talk shop; not to beat around the bush = называть вещи своими именами

Call someone's bluff = to challenge someone; to prove that smth is true = открыть кому-то глаза

Call the shots = to be in control; to give orders; to wear the trousers = править балом

Carry the ball = to be the leader = быть лидером

Cast pearls before swine = to fight a losing battle = метать бисер перед свиньями



Catch someone red-handed = to catch someone with stolen goods; to catch someone light-fingered = быть пойманным с поличным

Change horses in midstream = to change your mind in the middle of the way; Never give up! Go to the end! = коней на переправе не меняют

Chew it over = to think carefully and thoroughly = обдумать тщательно

Chicken out = to become too frightened to do smth; to get cold feet = сдавать позиции

Chip on one's shoulder = the sense of personal injustice; offense = держать затаенную обиду



Clear the air = to make the situation clear; bury the hatchet = сделать ситуацию ясной, зарыть топор войны

Climb on the bandwagon = blindly follow the crowd without thinking = быть ведомым, идти на поводу



Climb the walls = to lose temper; to go bananas; at the end of one's rope = выходить из себя

Close shave = a narrow escape; hair's breadth; by the skin of one's teeth = на волосок от смерти

Cock-and bull story = hoax; a story that can't be believed; a song and dance; pull the wool over one's eyes; to wind smb round your little finger = ложь, повесить лапшу на уши



Cold turkey = abruptly; immediately; at once = сразу же



Come full circle = to return to the starting point = вернуться на круги своя

Come home to roost = never dig up a pit for a person or you will fall in it = всё возвращается бумерангом



George, I need a better home  
to come and roost in at night...

Come off it = stop teasing = прекратить мучать

Come off it = stop teasing = прекратить мучать

Come out of one's shell = to stop being shy = раскрепоститься

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"You need to come out of your shell."

Come out smelling like a rose = to avoid blame that one deserves; to seem to be innocent; to escape unscathed; to avoid punishment = избежать наказания

Cook someone's goose = to ruin one's plans = разрушить планы

Cook up = to invent or plan smth dishonest = придумать что-либо нечестное

Cool one's heels = to retain sbm to wait = ждать

Cost a mint = cost a fortune; cost an arm and leg = стоить целое состояние

The cream of the crop = the best; first rate; blue blood = сливки общества

Crocodile tears = false tears; to pretend crying = лживые, крокодилы слезы



Cross one's fingers = to hope for luck = скрестить пальцы



Cry over spilled milk = to be unhappy because of a past event that can't be changed; to grieve over an emotional situation = плакать над разлитым молоком



Cry wolf = to raise a false alarm = поднимать фальшивую тревогу



To be a cup of tea = to be smb's liking = быть любимчиком

Cut no ice = to have no effect or impact = не произвести впечатления

Cut off one's nose to spite one's face = to dig a pit for yourself = навредить самому себе

Cut the mustard = to meet the standards; to be correspondent; to be appropriate for doing smth = быть достойным



Cut someone to the quick = to hurt or wound smb deeply = задеть за живое

## Dd

Dark horse = to have an ace up one's sleeve = иметь туз в рукаве



Dawn on someone = to see the light; to understand at last; finally to realise smth = осенить

Dead to the world = fast asleep = спать, как убитый; без задних ног

Do a slow burn = to be all hot over the collar = закипать

Do or die = neck or nothing; the time has come to act = пан или пропал

Do someone a good turn = to do someone favour = оказать любезность



Dog days = very hot days = жаркие дни



Dog eat dog = to be ruthless; competitive and fast-paced = поедать друг друга от  
безысходности



Dog-eared = well worn = изношенный

Dot the i's and cross the t's = to be very careful and attentive to detail; to adopt final  
decision = поставить точки над i

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"This is a very friendly small program. It dots the i's  
and crosses all the t's with mustaches."

Down and out = having no money, no job and no home; homeless = без денег,  
работы и дома

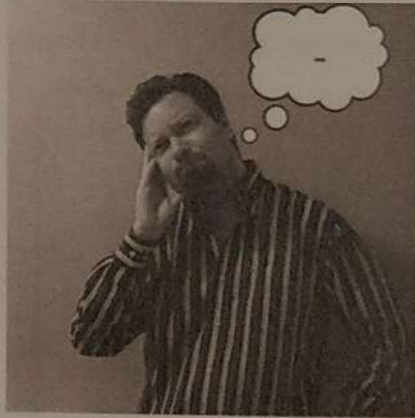


"One more 'Life is just a bowl of  
cherries' and I'll..."

Down in the dumps = to be unhappy and depressed; down in the mouth; blue = быть в  
печали и депрессии

Down to the wire = in time; to the deadline = в срок

Draw a blank = to be unable to remember = провалы в памяти



Draw the line at smth = to finish = подвести финальную черту

Dressed to kill = dress to make a strong impression; to be dressed extraordinary =  
убийственно одеться

Drop in the bucket = extremely small amount = капля в море



Dutch treat = each person pays for himself = за свой счет

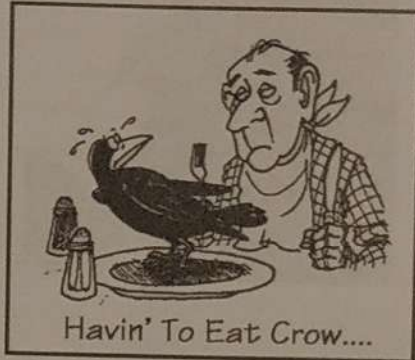
Dutch uncle = very sociable and communicative person = близко общаться; как  
родной

Died in the wool = to connaisseur = углубляться в вопрос



## Ee

Eat crow = to be modest; timid; shy; to eat humble pie = быть скромным



Eat one's hat = to bet; to bet one's bottom dollar; to bet one's boots = биться об заклад



Eat one's heart out = to suffer silently in a hopeless situation; to cry over spilled milk = страдать молча в безнадежной ситуации



Eat out of someone's hand = to be very tame; to lead someone by the nose; to wind smb round your little finger = есть с чьих-то рук

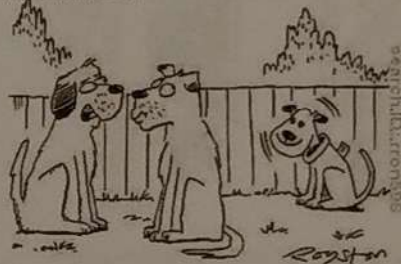


## Ff

Face the music = to see the truth in face; to confront unpleasant situation; bite the bullet; solve different problem = выложить карты на стол

Fair-weather friend = person who is loyal in good times but not when times are difficult = друг только в хорошие времена

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"He's really just a nodding acquaintance."

Fall for smth = to believe an unlikely story; to be deceived; cock-and-bull story; pull the wool over someone's eyes = заставить поверить в не правдивую ситуацию

Fall on deaf ears = turn a deaf ear; to be ignored = притвориться, что не слышишь



Fat cat = a rich but usually lazy person = богат, но ленив



Feather in one's cap = to have an exceptional achievement; to have smth to boost about; smth to crow about = иметь то, чем можно похвастаться

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"I brought in a big order and my boss gave me a feather for my cap."

Feather one's nest = to build up one's riches = богатеть

Feel smth in one's bones = to have a premonition; to feel by your skin = чувствовать кожей



Fight tooth and nail = to fight fiercely; to fight to blood = яростно сражаться



Fine kettle of fish = a terrible mess; the word "fine" is meant ironically = "прекрасный" чайник с рыбой

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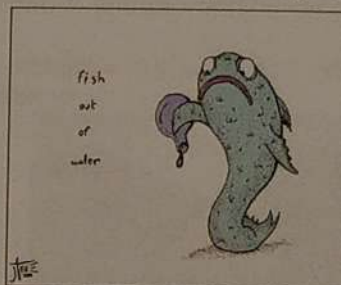


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"Here's your Chef's Surprise, sir - a fine kettle of fish."

First-rate = the best quality; top quality; top of the line = первоклассный

Fish out of water = out of one's element; out of place = не в своей тарелке



Fishy = suspicious = подозрительный

Fix someone's wagon = to pay back; give someone a taste of his own medicine = отплатить

Flat broke = to have absolutely no money; to go broke; to be extremely poor = разориться

Fly in the ointment = to have a disappointment = разочарование



Fly off the handle = to become suddenly very angry; blow one's stack; see red = разозлиться



Fly-by-night = undependable; untrustworthy = человек, которому нельзя доверять

Follow in someone's footsteps = to chop off the old block; to follow the same career = пойти по чьим-либо стопам



Food for thought = smth to think about; thought-provoking = пища для размышления



For a moment it looked promising, but unfortunately, things didn't work out.

Fool's gold = a cheap imitation; an illusion or unreal = золото дурака

For the birds = pointless; futile; a waste of time; crazy; mixed up; all wet; out of launch = бессмысленный, пустая трата времени

Forbidden fruit = smth that one cannot have = запретный плод

Get the green light = to get permission to proceed; get the go-ahead; to allow to continue = получить разрешение на продолжение



Get to the bottom of smth = to understand smth completely; to see the light at the end of the tunnel = увидеть свет в конце тоннеля

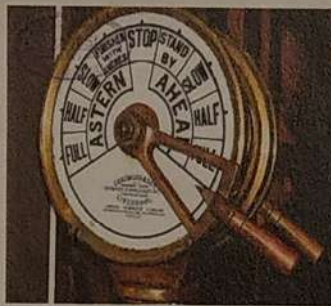


Forty winks = a nap; a short sleep, usually during the day = дремать



From the word go = from the beginning; from day one = с самого начала

Full steam ahead = to proceed with maximum power and speed = на всех парусах



## Gg

Get a handle on smth = to find a way to deal with a different situation; give up; finish = завязать

Get a leg up = to make a good start on some activity; to begin; to launch = начать что-либо

Get caught holding the bag = to be caught light-fingered; to make someone the scapegoat; to leave someone in the lurch = быть пойманным с поличным

Get cold feet = to be too scared to do smth; to fly off the handle; to be angry, irritated = разозлиться



get cold feet = become so nervous about starting something and that you don't do it.  
разозлиться

Get a hold of oneself = to keep yourself together; to keep your head cool; stop being emotional = держать себя в руках

Get a hold of someone = to contact or communicate by telephone = быть на связи с кем-то



Get a hold of smth = to obtain smth = заполучить что-либо

Get it in the neck = to be punished; to receive smth unpleasant = получить по шее

Get off scot-free = to escape unscathed = убежать, будучи не пойманным

Get one's second wind = get a second burst of energy = второе дыхание

Get someone's goat = to irritate; to annoy; get one's danger up; bug = раздражать



Get smth off one's chest = to disclose; to talk about smth that is bothering; to have a shoulder to cry on = поплакаться кому-либо в жилетку

Get smth through one's head = to see in; to understand = понять



Get up the wrong side of the bed = to be in a bad mood from the beginning of the day; to be down in the dumps = встать не с той ноги



Give someone a hand = to help someone; to give assistance = подать руку помощи



Give someone a piece of one's mind = to read someone the riot act; take someone over the coals; to tell the truth in the face = выразить свое мнение

Give someone some song and dance = to deceive; to cheat on; pull the wool over someone's eyes; a cock-and-bull story; give someone a snow job = наговорить небылицы

Give someone the cold shoulder = to ignore someone intentionally; turn up one's nose at someone = игнорировать кого-либо намеренно



Give someone the shirt off one's back = give someone all one's possessions; to be generous; one's last shirt = снять с себя последнюю рубашку



Go against the grain = to go against someone's will = идти против своей воли



Go around in circles = to be confused or lost; to make no progress; not to be capable to solve the problem = быть в замешательстве; не мочь решить проблему

Go bananas = to go crazy; to lose one's self-control; to climb the walls; to be at the end of one's rope; to be at one's wits end; to be beside oneself = сойти с ума



Go broke = to ruin business; to run out of money; to be penniless; to be as poor as a church mouse = разориться

Go out on a limb = to take a risk; to take a chance; stick one's neck out = рисковать



Go to pieces = to lose one's self-control; to be at the end of one's rope; to be at one's wits end = потерять контроль над ситуацией

Go to pot/seed = to fall into despair; go to the dogs = лезть на рожон

Golden age = a time when smth is at it's best; the best time = лучшие времена

Gold egg = a person who is basically good and sound = хороший и здравомыслящий человек

Grasp at straws = to act in desperation with little hope of success = хвататься за соломинку

Get someone the sack = to be fired from one's job = быть уволенным



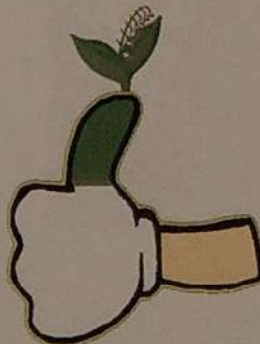
"Just think of it as a screen break."

Grey matter = brains and intelligence = серое вещество в мозгу

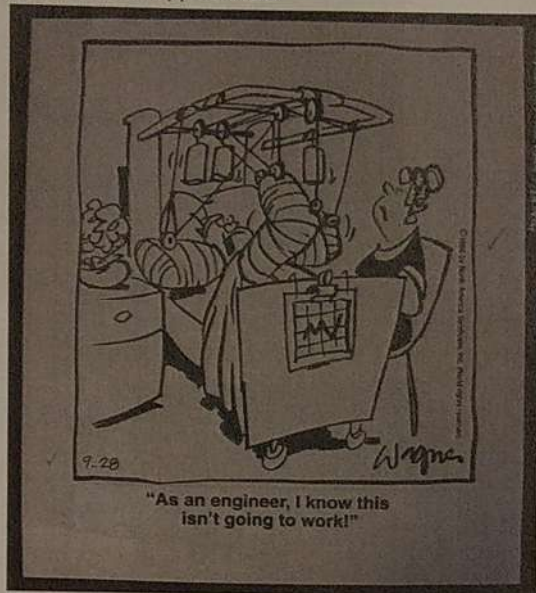
Greek to me = apples and oranges; unintelligible; misunderstanding = очень непонятно, неразборчиво, непонимание



Green thumb = to succeed with growing plants; to be a good gardener = быть хорошим садовником



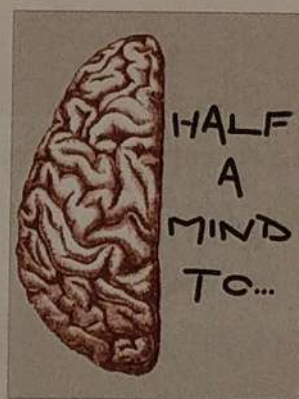
Grin and bear it = to accept a bad situation; to smile and endure smth difficult; to bite the bullet = принять трудность, как должное



## Hh

Hair's breadth = a narrow escape; by the skin of one's teeth; a close shave = на волосок от смерти

Half a mind to do smth = to have almost decided to do smth = на полпути к чему-либо



From hand to mouth = to be as poor as a church mouse = жить впроголодь

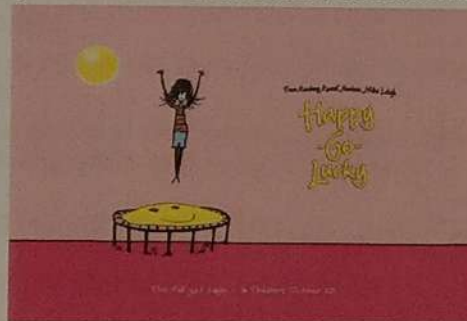


Have one's hands full = to have a great amount of work = полные руки работы, рук не хватает



Hanky-panky = monkey business; to be both-sides; two-faced = двуличный человек

Happy-go-lucky = carefree = беспечный, беззаботный



Hard/tough row to hoe = a difficult task = трудная работа



Have one's head in clouds = to be impractical; unrealistic; unaware; to be extremely happy; over the moon; on cloud 9 = быть на 7 небе



Head over heels in love = very much in love = быть по уши в любви



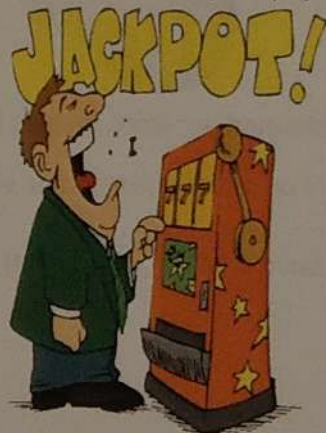
Hear to heart = an important and sincere talk between two people; soul to soul = душевный разговор

Hem and haw = to hesitate to say smth directly; beat around the bush; stonewall = ходить вокруг до около

High and dry = to abandon smb helpless; to leave someone in the lurch; up the creek without a paddle = бросить кого-либо без помощи

Hit or miss = neck or nothing; succeed or fail; swim or sink = пан или пропал

Hit the jackpot = to become rich immediately; hit pay dirt = сорвать джек-пот



Hit the nail to the head = to put one's finger on it; get smth on the nose; to come to right conclusion = попасть пальцем в небо

Not to hold a candle to smth = not to be equal to smth; to be superior than smth; not to be worth 2 cents = не быть равным; не быть лучшим

Hold one's horses = to be calm; to keep one's head cool; to keep one's shirt on = придержать лошадей, не торопить



Hold one's tongue = to refrain from speaking; not to tell your opinion; to keep mum, to be silent = придержать язык за зубами



Hold someone at bay = to prevent someone from attack = держать в неведении

Hold water = to be credible and sound; to stand up to scrutiny = быть значимым, иметь смысл

Horse around = to play a little roughly; clown around; monkey around; fool around = обмануть

Horse sense = common sense; cleverness = здравый смысл



Hot under the collar = very angry; fly off the handle; make someone's blood boil; lose one's temper = разозлиться



## ii

In a nutshell = in a few words; the nitty gritty; the long and short of it = в двух словах



In a pinch = in a difficult situation; in a bind/fix/jam = в трудной ситуации

In black and white = in print or in writing = черным по белому

In full swing = at the peak of activity = в развитии



In hot water = in Dutch; in the doghouse; all hell to pay = быть в проблемах



In way over one's head = out of one's depth/league; bite more than one can chew = сверх силы



In someone's shoes = at someone's place; in smb's skin = на чужом месте



In the bag = success is assured = успех гарантирован

In the black = to make a profit; to be successful in business = быть успешным в своем деле

In the red = to be in debts = быть в долгах



In the longrun = at last; eventually = в конце концов

In the nick of time = at the last possible moment; down to the wire; under the wire = в последний момент

In the pink = in good health; to be safe and sound = быть целым и невредимым



In the same boat = to be in the same bad situation; in the same trouble = оказаться в той же лодке



Ins and outs = to know the ropes; from Alpha to Omega, from the beginning to the end; from backwards to towards = от А до Я

## Jj

Jack-of-all-trades = a person who knows a little about a lot of different subjects and nothing about concrete = знать обо всем, но поверхностно

Johnny-come-lately = a freshman; a newcomer; wet behind the ears; (Russian: milk isn't dry in the lips) = быть новичком

Jump the gun = false start; to start smth very early = начать что-то до выстрела



## Kk

Kangaroo court = unjustified court; when the outcome is usually clear before the trial even begins = несправедливый суд



Keep one's head cool = hold one's temper; to keep control over your temper = сохранять спокойствие

Keep one's eyes peeled = to be alert and watchful; to look very carefully; to be attentive =  
быть на чеку



Keep one's fingers crossed = to hope for smth; to wish for luck = скрестить пальцы на удачу



Keep one's head above water = make ends meet; get by = держаться на плаву



Keep one's nose to the grindstone = to continue to work hard without rest = работать без усталости

Keep one's shirt on = hold one's horses; never hurry = не торопиться, не гнать лошадей

Keep someone at arm's length = keep someone at a distance emotionally = держать на расстоянии



Keep smth under one's hat = to keep your skeleton in your cupboard = хранить секреты



Keyed up = to be full of nervous, anticipation, anxious, tense; to be made angry = заведенный

Kick the bucket = to die = сыграть в ящик



Kick up one's heels = to have a lively and fun time, usually at a party = отрываться, веселиться до упаду

Kill two birds with one stone = to accomplish two objectives with one action = убить двух зайцев сразу



Know beans about smth = to know very little about smth; to talk through one's hat = сказать наобум

Know the ropes = to be familiar with a task and know how to handle it; ins and outs = знать как решить задание



Knuckle down = to do one's work seriously; to try hard = приложить усилия

Knuckle under = to submit or give in to pressure; never say die; to keep your head up = поддаться давлению

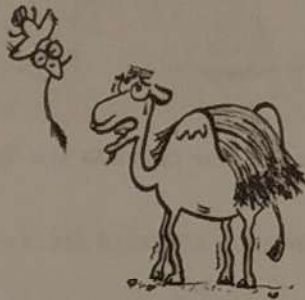
## LI

Lap of luxury = very comfortable because one is well-off financially; to be wealthy = жить в достатке

Last but not least = the final item but the least important = последнее, но не менее важное

Who laughs last, laughs best = to get revenge on someone who thinks he has been cleverer; never dig a pit for smb, you may fall in it = хорошо смеется тот, кто смеется последним

Last/final straw = the straw that broke the camel's back = последняя капля переполнила чашу терпения



Lay an egg = to do smth embarrassing; to play an awkward joke = выкинуть неудачную шутку

Lay down the law = to settle the law; to set rules of punishment for someone's bad behaviour; put one's foot down; call someone on the carpet; chew out; to scold = установить правила (законы)



Lay one's cards on the table = to be open and honest; to reveal everything; to tell the truth = выложить все карты



Lead someone around by the nose = to wind smb round your little finger; eat out of one's hand = обвести вокруг пальца, водить за нос

Leave no stone unturned = to search everywhere = не оставить камня на камне, обыскать везде



Leave someone the lurch = to abandon smb in a difficult situation = бросить кого-либо в трудной ситуации

Lend someone an ear = to ask to listen = попросить внимания

Let sleeping dogs lie = not to look for trouble; don't trouble trouble until trouble troubles you = не буди лихо, пока спит тихо



Let the cat out of the bag = to reveal a secret; spill the beans = раскрыть секрет





Lion's share = the greater part = львиная доля

Live and let live = not to interfere in smb's life and wish the same = жить и дать другим спокойно жить

Lock, stock and barrel = to sell everything; whole kit and caboodle = с молотка

Not to look a gift horse in the mouth = be afraid of Greeks bearing the gifts = дареному коню в зубы не смотрят



Look down one's nose at someone = to be snobbish; to consider yourself superior = смотреть на кого-то сверху вниз

Look like the cat that swallowed the canary = to be pleased with itself; to escape unscathed; to do smth good for you and not to be punished = быть довольным как слон; быть не наказанным



Lose one's temper = to fly off the handle; blow one's stack; to see red; to get hot under the collar; to become extremely angry = разозлиться



## Mm

Make a clean breast of it = to confess; to admit and explain smth wrong; wipe the slate clean; get smth off one's chest; to tell the truth = исповедоваться; сознаться; высказать всё, что на душе

Make a mountain out of a molehill = to exaggerate the importance of smth = делать из мухи слона



"Why, thank you — I made it out of a molehill."

Make both ends meet = to live from hand to mouth; to keep one' head above water = еле-еле сводить концы с концами



"Because these days, you have to work twice as hard just to make ends meet."

Make smth from scratch = start from scratch; to start immediately = начать мгновенно

Make heads or tails of smth = to understand smth; to see in = понять в конце концов

Make one's blood boil = to cause someone to become extremely angry; to be hopping mad; get hot under the collar; to make smb fly off the handle = разозлить



Make one's mouth water = tempt smb with tasty food = слюнки потекли

Make or break = swim or sink; to be or not to be = плыть или тонуть

Mind your own business = keep your nose out of someone's business; to forbid smb to interfere in your business = не лезть не в свое дело

To have money to burn = money to spend however you like; extra money = прожигать деньги



Monkey business = suspicious activity; monkey around; hanky-panky = подозрительное дело



There is more than one way to skin a cat = there are different ways to accomplish the same thing; different possible solutions to one problem = есть больше путей для решения проблем

Move Heaven and Earth = to try with the skin of your teeth; to try very hard to do smth;  
with all your efforts = пытаться изо всех сил

"MOVE HEAVEN AND EARTH"



Nn

Nip smth in the bud = to stop smth before it becomes big = пресечь в корне

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The nitty gritty = the heart of issue; the soil of the question; the essential points; get down to brass tacks; the bottom line; the long and short of it = *сущность вопроса*



"So in other words, we're hoping to discover what makes the nitty, gritty."

Nothing to write home about = ordinary; so-so; not especially good or important; not to have a feather in one's cap; not to have smth to crow about = *ничего особенного, не о чем даже рассказать*



WOE FULLY  
UN-INSPIRED.

## Oo

Odds and ends = details, remnants; small bits and pieces that are left = детали, остатки

Off the beaten path = off the road; off the way that is most often chosen by other people  
уходить от сути



Off the cuff = immediately; without much advance preparation; spontaneously; off the top of someone's head; on the spur of the moment = спонтанно



"I'd like to make it perfectly clear... speaking off the cuff... I wouldn't want to be quoted... I'm not certain, but there's every likelihood that when I grow up I'll go into politics."

Off the wall = unusual; strange; odd; out of the ordinary = взять с потолка

Put smth on hold = delay; postpone; put off; put smth on the back burner; put smth on ice = отложить

An one's last legs = about to die; fail, collapse; a narrow escape = на волосок от смерти

On the ball = well-prepared; on the alert; mentally sharp; efficient; up to the point = хорошо подготовиться к чему-либо



On the go = constantly busy; very active = всегда в движении

On the nose = exactly; bull's eye; up to the point; hit the nail of the head = прямо в точку



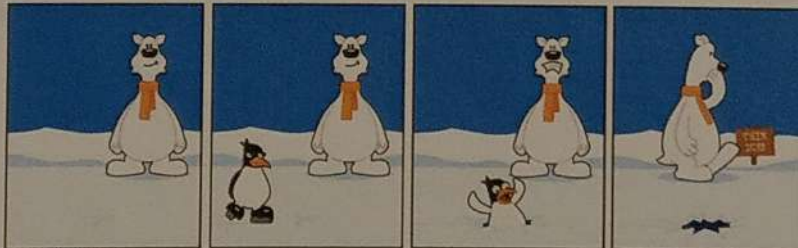
On the tip of one's tongue = almost remembered; about to be said; to remember smth but cannot utter smth = крутится на языке



I can't remember it right now,  
but it's on the tips of my tongue...

On the warpath/rampage = to look for fight; to be very angry and upset with smth = быть на грани драки

Skate on thin ice = to be in unsafe or risky position without much support; to be in a very dangerous situation = ходить по тонкому льду



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Once in a blue moon = very rarely; practically never = после дождика в четверг

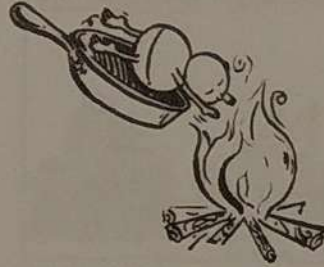


Read smb as an open book = a person who doesn't hide anything; you can read thoughts of this person; not to have skeleton in the cupboard = быть открытым человеком

Out of the blue = unexpectedly; suddenly; out of a clear blue sky = как гром среди ясного неба



Out of the frying pan and into the fire = from a bad situation to one that is even worse = из пламени да в полымя



Out to lunch = absent-minded; unaware; confused; not to know which side one's bread is buttered; all wet; not up to the point; bats in one's belfry; off one's rocker = не к месту

Over the barrel = in a difficult situation; at a disadvantage; put someone on the spot; in a bind; in a fix; between a rock and a hard place = быть в трудной ситуации

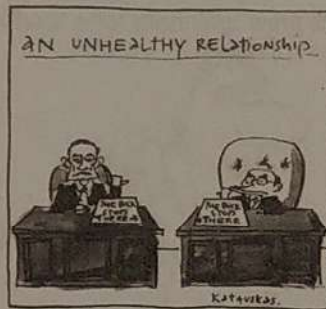


## Pp

Open a Pandora's box = a situation which might turn out to contain many unexpected and unwanted problem and consequences; open a can of worms = нежелательная ситуация, полная проблем



Pass the buck = to redirect the blame or the responsibility for smth to someone = перевести стрелки на кого-либо



Pay the piper = pay for one's mistakes; Who pays the piper, calls the tune = платить по счетам за свои ошибки



Pay through the nose = pay a great amount; pay too much; cost a mint = платить большую сумму не глядя

Pick someone's brain = to get information from someone questioning the person carefully in great detail = выудить информацию



Pie-in-the-sky = the castles in Spain; smth that is unrealistic or that cannot be achieved =  
воздушные замки



Piece of cake = an easy task; smth that is easy to do = простое дело

Play hardball - to work aggressively or ruthlessly in business or politics = играть по  
твердым правилам

Play it by ear = to do smth without prior planning; wing it; by the seat of one's pants =  
импровизировать



Play one's cards right = to do the right things to achieve some end = играть по-честному



Play second fiddle = to have a lower rank; not to play the leading role = быть на втором  
плане



Play with fire = to invite disaster by doing smth foolish, dangerous and risky; to skate on thin ice = играть с огнем



Poker face = keep a straight face = держать мину при плохой погоде; не выдавать истинных чувств



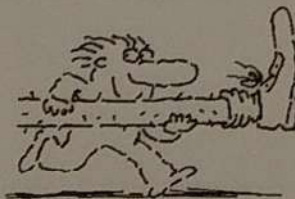
Pull oneself up by one's bootstraps = to live from hand to mouth; to make both ends meet = заткнуть пояс потуже

Pull rank = take advantage of one's superior position; to wear the trousers; to keep the situation under control; to be the master of the house; to be the leader = брать преимущества из своего звания



"I'm afraid I can't get rid of your pests on account of a - seniority!"

Pull someone's leg = to tease; play jokes; to trick = шутить



Pull strings = to use one's influence and mighty = использовать чье-либо влияние и мощь

Pull the rug out from under someone = knock someone for a loop; to betray; to let smb down = подставить кого-либо



Pull the wool over one's eyes = to deceive or fool someone; give someone a song and dance; to give a cock-and-bull story; give someone a snow job = обмануть кого-либо

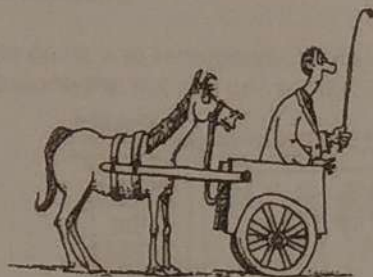
Put all one's eggs in one basket = to invest all one's hopes or plans in only possible outcome; unwise decision = принять немудрое решение

Put one's best foot forward = to demonstrate one's best behavior; to try to make the best possible expression = показать товар лицом



Put one's foot down = to cross the t's and put dots on i's; lay down the law; draw the line at smth ; read someone the riot act = расставить точки на i

Put the cart before the horse = first - think, then - speak; put a later step first = опережать события



Put the squeezed screws on = to force; to apply pressure on someone; turn up on the heat = надавить на кого-либо, заставить силой

## Rr

Rack one's brain = to search through one's mind intensively = пошевелить мозгами



Rain cats and dogs = to rain heavily = льет, как из ведра



Raise Cain = to cause a disturbance; to make trouble; to blow one's stack; read someone the riot act = грозиться наказать

Rake someone over the coals = to reprimand or criticize someone harshly; chew someone out; read someone the riot act; call someone on carpet; lay down the law = вынести наказание



"He's practicing for his appearance before the congressional committee on torture!"

Read below the lines = to read the meaning hidden between the lines = читать между строк

Red tape = endless and unnecessary work = бумажная волокита



Rest on one's laurels = to be satisfied with what one has already done that one no longer works very hard = почивать на лаврах



Ring a bell = to have on the tip of your tongue; to remind = напомнить что-либо

Roll out the red carpet = to give someone the finest hospitality = расстелить красную дорожку



Look through rose-colored glasses = to see smth in a false way = смотреть сквозь розовые очки



Rub someone the wrong way = to irritate someone; bug; set someone's teeth on edge; get someone's danger up; get someone's goat = сделать козлом отпущения

Rule of thumb = an unwritten or customary rule based on experience or practice = неписанный закон



Run circles around someone = to be head and shoulders above; to be superior = ходить кругами вокруг кого-то

Run smth into the ground = beat a dead horse; to beat around the bush = ходить вокруг до окола

## Ss

Sacred cow = the idea or thing that cannot be altered = священная неприкосновенность



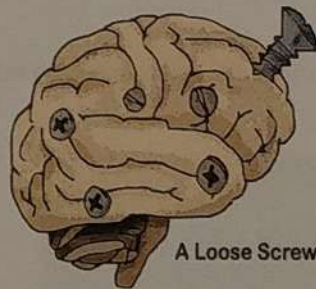
Salt away = put smth on ice; save for a rainy day = запастись на черный день

The salt of the Earth = a very reliable and dependable person; a trust-worthy person; a person who never lets down = быть надежным человеком

Save face = to maintain a degree of pride in a shameful situation = спасти репутацию

Say a mouthful = to say smth important; to go off half-cocked; to say more than one should = сказать что-либо важное

To have a loose screw = bats in one's belfry; out to lunch; off one's rocker; to be harmlessly crazy; to be odd, strange, unusual = быть сумасшедшим (в хорошем смысле)



A Loose Screw

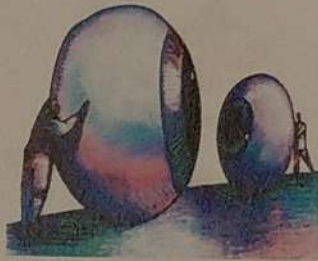
Second-rate = of inferior quality; not the best; third-rate = второсортный

Have second thoughts = to begin to have doubts; get cold feet = иметь сомнения





See eye to eye = to agree; to meet tet-a-tet = согласиться



See red = to get angry; to fly off the handle; blow one's stack; lose one's temper = разозлиться



See which way the wind blows = to see the light at the end of the tunnel; (The expression is often used in reference to a political or diplomatic situation) = видеть свет в конце тоннеля

In seventh heaven = to be blissfully happy; on cloud 9; walking on air; to be over the moon = быть на 7 небе



Shake a leg = to hurry; Step on it!; Get a move on! = поторопиться



Shoot the breeze = to chat or pass time by chatting; to talk idly = поболтать по пустякам

Shot in the dark = a guess based on little information = догадки, основанные на небольшом количестве информации



Sit tight = keep one's head cool; to wait quietly and patiently without panicking = сохранять спокойствие

Skeleton in the closet = a person or event in one's family which one would prefer to keep secret = скелет в шкафу



Sleep like a log = to sleep like a rock; it's difficult to wake such a person = спать как бревно

Slip through someone's fingers = miss the boat; the thing or person one wants to keep is slippery or to hold on to = как сквозь пальцы песок



Snowball's chance in hell = no chance at all = нет никаких шансов



Smth to crow about = a feather in one's cap; things that make draw attention to themselves; worth bragging about = об этом стоит поговорить



Sour grapes = comfort in unreachable situation; (The expression originates from Aesop's fable about a fox) = утешение самого себя в безысходной ситуации

Speak of the devil and he will appear = someone who is being talked about has just appeared = упомяни дьявола, а он тут как тут

Speak one's piece = speak one's mind = высказать то, что наболело

Spill the beans = to reveal a secret = раскрыть секрет

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"True, we don't give out personal information, but every once in a while the computer takes it upon itself to spill the beans."

Spring smth on someone = to surprise someone with smth; knock someone for a loop = удивить кого-либо

Stand on one's own two feet = to be independent and self-supporting; no longer have to live with parents = прочно стоять на земле



Stand one's ground = to be firm or not to alter one's position; stick one's guns = стоять на своем

Stand out in the crowd = to be distinguishable from others, unusual and distinctive = выделяться из толпы



Stew in one's own juices = to suffer the consequences of one's own actions = вариться в своем соку, расхлёбывать свою кашу

Stick one's neck out = to take a risk; to go out on a limb = рисковать



Stick one's nose in smb's business = to try to find out about someone else's private business; to poke your nose into other people's business; to put your finger into pie = совать нос не в свое дело

Go into a stole-wall = to beat around the bush; hem and haw; to try but in vain = ходить вокруг до окола

Straight and narrow = to follow the path of correct social or ethical behavior; toe the line = быть чересчур правильным

Straight from the horse's mouth = from the primary source = из первых уст



And there you have it, Ladies and Gentlemen:  
News straight from the horse's mouth...

Stretch the truth = to be truthful technically, but to distort the truth so that other believe; a white lie = исказить правду

Strike it rich = to find gold; to hit the jackpot; to pay dirt; to find smth valuable = сорвать куш

Stuffed shirt = a big head; an old fuddy-duddy; (This expression is always used to describe a man, never - woman) = самолюбивый

Swallow one's pride = to forget one's pride and accept smth humiliating; to eat crow; to eat humble pie = забыть о собственной гордости

Sweat blood = to work tooth and nail; to put a great deal of effort; to work very hard = зарабатывать кровью и потом

Sweep someone off his/her feet = to overwhelm someone, often causing him or her to fall in love; head over heels in love = вскружить голову



"NOT ONLY DID HE SWEEP ME OFF MY FEET, HE ALSO VACUUMED MY LIFE SAVINGS."

## Tt

Take it easy = relax = расслабиться



Take potluck = to accept whatever is available = довольствоваться малым; дареному коню в зубы не смотрят

Take someone to the cleaners = to steal or cheat someone out of all money; clean someone out = выудить деньги



Take/sweep smth by storm = to become famous quickly; to become celebrity immediately = стать знаменитым в одночасье

Take smth in stride = to accept or adjust bad fortune or trouble; to take a relaxed attitude towards life; roll with punches; water off a duck's back = как с гуся вода; принимать как должное; не замораживаться

Take the bull by the horns = to face a difficult or unpleasant situation directly, with courage; bite the bullet; face the music; grin and bear it; not to surrender before difficulties = брать быка за рога; смеяться сквозь слёзы; не сдаваться



Take the wind out of someone's sails = to ruin or destroy someone's high expectations; to make smb stop thinking about better = выбить почву из-под ног



Talk someone's ear off = bend someone's ear; talk a blue streak = присесть на уши

Talk through one's hat = to talk non-sense; not to know beans about smth = нести чепуху

Talk turkey = to talk seriously, usually about business; get down to business = поговорить серьезно; приступить к работе



"YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTED TO TALK TURKEY, RIGHT?"

Through thick and thin = in good times and bad times = и в горе, и в радости

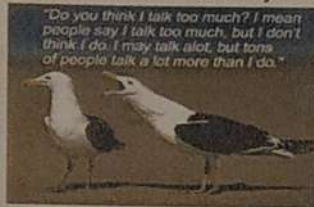


Throw in the towel/sponge = to stop trying; give up the fight; to quit = сдаваться





Tickle someone's fancy = to please or interest someone in a light-hearted way; to make smb interested in smth; to catch someone's fancy = заинтересовать



Tie the knot = to get married = связать себя узами брака



"For richer, for poorer, in sickness and health, retroactive to the very first day you began living together?"

Tied to one's mother's apron strings = under someone's thumb = держаться за мамину юбку



Tighten one's belt = to spend less money than one did previously = затянуть узел потуже

Till the cows come home = till hell freezes over = после дождичка в четверг



Time to kill = extra time; to have time on one's hands = свободное время

Tip of the iceberg = the beginning of the problem = верхушка айсберга



Tit for tat = pay someone back; give someone a taste of his own medicine; to revenge = дашь на дашь; дать горькую пилюлю

Toe the line = to follow the rules; to do what is expected; to follow the straight and narrow = следовать правилам

Speak tongue-in-cheek = to be insincere; hypocritical; hanky panky; two-minded = и нашим, и вашим

Too many irons in the fire = have one's hands full = с ног валиться от работы



Top of the line = best quality; first-rate = первоклассный

Troubled waters = emotionally rough times or an unsettled situation; to be in danger = быть в опасности



Turn a deaf ear = to ignore someone; fall one deaf ears = проигнорировать; быть глухим к чужой беде



Turn smth thumbs down = to veto or say NO to smth; to ban; to forbid; nix smth = отказать

Turn the other cheek = not to pay back bad behavior with more bad behavior; to be humble = подставить другую щеку; не реагировать на зло

Turning point = make or break = отправная точка



## Uu

Under the weather = to be unwell; ill = быть больным; недомогание



Under the wire = in the nick of time; down to the wire; in no time = вовремя мгновенно

Up the creek = without a paddle; in a bad situation; in an awkward position; high and dry; in the lurch = быть в неловком положении

Upset the apple cart = to disturb the status quo; rock the boat; to cause the problem = вызвать проблему самому



"It's just there as a reminder!"

**Ww**

Walking on air = blissfully happy; on cloud nine; on 7 heaven; over the moon = быть счастливым, на 7 небе



Wash one's hands of smth = to put smth out of one's life and to have no further contact with it; to get rid of smth = умыть руки

Water under the bridge = let bygones be bygones = кто прошлое помянет, тому глаз вон



Wear one's heart on one's sleeve = to display one's feelings openly = раскрыть сердце каждому



Wet behind the ears = young and inexperienced; not to know the ropes; born yesterday; lack of experience = быть неопытным и молодым

Wet blanket = a person who ruins good time; a stick in the mud = зануда, пессимист

When one's ship comes in = when one gets an unexpected lucky gift, especially money = когда повезет; надеяться на удачу

Whip/lick someone/smtg into shape = build someone up physically in a short time = поставить на ноги (после болезни); привести в форму



White lie = a minor, polite, harmless lie; a fid; an innocent lie = вымысел во благо

Wild-goose chase = useless search; worthless hunt = бесполезный поиск



With bated breath = hardly breathing at all because of fear, excitement = с затаенным дыханием

With flying colors = triumphantly; successfully; all marks are "A" = сдать всё успешно, на 5

Wolf in sheep's clothing = someone who presents himself as a mild-mannered and harmless person but who has intentions which are not honorable = волк в овечьей шкуре



Worth a plugged nickel = worthless; not worth a dime; not worth a red cent; not worth a hill of beans; not worth the paper it's printed on = не стоит и цента



## Yy

\*Yellow (have a yellow streak) = cowardly; with fear = трусливо

Yellow journalism = journalism that is exaggerated or unnecessarily sensational = желтая пресса



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