

A Fairly Comprehensive List of Clichés

To be avoided like the plague? Not necessarily. As EFL students we actually see a lot of perfectly good possibilities here. Some are some are trite, some are very funny and a lot of the phrases are just fine. Plus they are correct English to boot.

A

- a bad egg
- a bed of roses
- a bee in your bonnet
- a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush
- a blast from the past
- a blot on the landscape
- a bolt from the blue
- a bull in a china shop
- a bun in the oven
- a bunch of fives
- a chain is only as strong as its weakest link
- a cheap knock-off
- a chip off the old block
- a closed mouth gathers no feet
- a cult of personality
- a curate's egg
- a Daniel come to judgement
- a dead ringer
- a diamond in the rough
- a diamond is forever
- a dish fit for the gods
- a drop in the bucket
- a face only a mother could love
- a faint heart never a true love knows

- a far cry
- a fate worse than death
- a feather in his cap
- a few fries short of a happy meal
- a few sandwiches short of a picnic
- a fish out of water
- a fly in the ointment
- a fool and his money are soon parted
- a fool's paradise
- a foregone conclusion
- a friend in need is a friend indeed
- a frog in my throat
- a game of two halves
- a good beginning makes a good ending
- a good man is hard to find
- a good rule of thumb
- a hair of the dog that bit you
- a half-baked idea
- a horse of a different color
- a horse, a horse, my kingdom for a horse
- a house divided against itself cannot stand
- a jack of all trades and a master of none
- a journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step
- a knight in shining armor
- a knock-back
- a labour of love
- a legend in one's own lifetime
- a leopard doesn't change its spots
- a lick and a promise
- a little bird told me
- A little knowledge is a dangerous thing
- a little of this, a little of that

- a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough
- a load of (old) cobblers
- a long ways away
- a lot of empty flattery
- a man after my own heart
- a man for all seasons
- a man's home is his castle
- a Mexican standoff
- a Mexican wave
- a Mickey Finn
- a mind is a terrible thing to waste
- a moveable feast
- a multitude of sins
- a nation of shopkeepers
- a necessary evil
- a nest-egg
- a new do
- a new lease of life
- a no-brainer
- a penny saved is a penny earned
- a picture's worth a thousand words
- a pig in a poke
- a pink elephant
- a place for everything and everything in its place
- a plague on both your houses
- a riddle wrapped up in an enigma
- a rolling stone gathers no moss
- a rose by any other name would smell as sweet
- a rose is a rose is a rose
- a rum do
- a safe pair of hands
- a sea change

- a shoestring budget
- a shot across the bows
- a shot in the arm
- a shot in the dark
- a shotgun wedding
- a sight for sore eyes
- a sledgehammer to crack a nut
- a sorry sight
- a spoon full of sugar helps the medicine go down
- a sticky wicket
- a stitch in time saves nine
- a stone's throw away
- a sweet deal
- a taste of his own medicine
- a thorn in the flesh
- a tinker's damn
- a watched pot never boils
- a white elephant
- a wide berth
- a winning combination
- a wolf in sheep's clothing
- a woman needs a man like a fish needs a bicycle
- abandon ship
- ablaze with light
- about face
- above board
- absence makes the heart grow fonder
- absolute power corrupts absolutely
- ace in the hole
- ace up his sleeve
- achilles' heel
- acid test

- apple / acorn doesn't fall far from the tree
- act the giddy goat
- actions speak louder than words
- after my own heart
- ah, to be young and foolish
- airing dirty laundry (in public)
- all bent out of shape
- all bets are off
- all dressed up and nowhere to go
- all ears
- all fingers and thumbs
- all for one, and one for all
- all hands on deck
- all hands to the pump
- all heck (hell) breaks loose
- all in a day's work
- all in due time.
- all is vanity
- all over the map
- all pale in comparison
- all roads lead to Rome
- all talk and no action
- all that glitters is not gold
- all that jazz
- all the bits and pieces
- all the world's a stage
- all thumbs
- all work and no play, makes Jack a dull boy
- all's fair in love and war
- All's well that ends well.
- Already got one paw on the chicken coop.
- Alrighty then!

- Altitude is determined by attitude.
- Always a bridesmaid, never the bride.
- Always look on the bright side.
- Am I my brother's keeper?
- An apple a day keeps the doctor away.
- an arm and a leg
- an earful
- An idle mind is the devil's playground.
- an ill wind
- An oldie, but a goodie.
- An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.
- and you can take that to the bank
- Another day, another dollar.
- Another nail in the coffin.
- ants in his pants
- Any friend of yours is a friend of mine.
- any port in a storm
- Anyhoo,
- anything goes
- apple of my eye
- Are you a man or a mouse?
- Are you fair dinkum?
- armed to the teeth
- around the horn
- As alike as two peas in a pod.
- As beautiful as the day is long.
- As brown as a berry.
- As busy as a bee.
- As cool as a cucumber.
- As dense as a London fog.
- As easy as pie.
- As far as the eye can see.

- As fine as frog's hair.
- As good as gold.
- As happy as a clam.
- As happy as a sandboy.
- As happy as Larry.
- As honest as the day is long.
- As if!
- As keen as mustard.
- as luck would have it
- as old as Methuselah
- As plain as the nose on your face.
- as pleased as Punch
- as snug as a bug in a rug
- as straight as a die
- As tender as a mother's heart.
- as the crow flies
- As useful as a lead balloon.
- As useful as tits on a bull.
- As welcome as a skunk at a lawn party.
- as white as snow
- As ye sow, so shall ye reap.
- Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.
- Ask me no questions and I'll tell you no lies.
- Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.
- asleep at the wheel
- ass backwards
- ass over tea kettle
- at sixes and sevens
- at the crack of dawn
- at the drop of a hat
- at the eleventh (11th) hour
- at the end of my rope / tether

- at the end of the day...
- at the last minute
- at your wits' end
- Atta (That's a) boy.
- Atta girl.
- ax to grind

B

- babe in the woods
- baby blues
- baby boomer
- back against the wall
- back from the dead
- back-handed comment / compliment
- back in a sec
- back in the saddle
- back it up
- back-seat driver
- back-stabber
- back the field
- back to basics
- back to square one
- back to the drawing board
- backroom boy
- bad blood
- bad call
- bad hair day
- bad seed
- bad to the bone
- badgered to death
- bag and baggage
- bag lady

- Bags all packed and ready to go.
- bait and switch
- baker's dozen
- ball and chain
- ball is in your court
- balls to the wall
- Banding together to beat the odds.
- bandy words
- bang on about
- Banging your head against a brick wall.
- bank on it
- baptism by / of fire
- bare bones
- barefaced liar
- barge (right) in
- barking mad
- Barking up the wrong tree.
- basket case
- bat an eyelid
- bat the idea around
- bated breath
- bats in the belfry
- batten down the hatches
- Be afraid, be very afraid.
- be in the same boat
- Be still, my beating heart.
- Be there or be square.
- bear down
- beast with two backs
- beat a dead horse
- beat a hasty retreat
- beat about / around the bush

- beat him by a long chalk
- Beat it!
- Beat swords into ploughshares.
- Beat the living daylights out of someone.
- beats me
- Beauty is a fading flower.
- Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.
- Beauty is only skin deep.
- bee in her bonnet
- Beelzebub has a devil for a sideboard.
- been there, done that
- bee's knees
- beetle-browed
- Before you could say Jack Robinson.
- Before you were the gleam in your father's eye.
- beg the question
- beggars can't be choosers
- Behind every great man there's a great woman.
- behind the eight (8) ball
- behind the times
- being led down the garden path
- belle of the ball
- bells and whistles
- below the belt
- belt and braces
- belt up
- bend over backwards
- best bib and tucker
- best-laid plans of mice and men
- best thing since sliced bread
- bet the farm
- bet your bottom dollar

- better half
- better late than never
- Better light a candle than curse the darkness.
- better safe than sorry
- better than a kick in the teeth
- better than ever
- Better the Devil you know than the Devil you don't.
- Better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all.
- Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak and remove all doubt.
- between a rock and a hard place
- between the devil and the deep blue sea
- between two stools
- between you, me and the bed-post
- Beware of Greeks bearing gifts.
- Beware the ides of March.
- beyond our ken
- beyond the pale
- big as a house
- big as life
- big cheese
- big fish in a small pond
- big picture
- big-wig
- bigger they are, the harder they fall
- Billy No-Mates
- biological clock is ticking
- bird in a gilded cage
- Bird in the hand is worth two (2) in the bush.
- Birds of a feather flock together.
- bite me
- bite off more than you can chew
- bite the bullet

- bite the dust
- bite your tongue
- black as pitch
- blackball someone
- black sheep of the family
- black-on-black
- blast from the past
- blaze a new trail
- bleed like a stuck pig
- blew him away
- blew his wad
- blind as a bat
- blind leading the blind
- blonde bombshell
- blood and thunder
- blood brothers
- Blood is thicker than water
- blood money
- bloody-minded
- bloom is off the rose
- blow a gasket
- blow chunks
- blow it
- blow me down
- blow the whistle on
- blow this joint
- blow your brains out
- blow your mind
- blow your own trumpet
- blowing smoke (up my ass)
- blown away
- blue blood

- blue in the face
- blunt words have the sharpest edge
- Bob is your uncle
- bodice ripper
- bog standard
- boils down to
- bone-chilling cold
- bone dry
- bone idle
- bone of contention
- bone to pick
- bone up on
- booby prize
- booby trap
- boot is on the other foot
- booze cruise
- bored to tears
- Born with a silver spoon in his mouth.
- Born within the sound of the Bow bells.
- botch the job
- both barrels
- bottom drawer
- bottom line
- bottom of the barrel
- bought the farm
- bounce back
- bowl someone over
- box yourself in
- Boys will be boys.
- bragging rights
- brain drain
- brand spanking new

- break a leg
- break the ice
- bright as a button
- bring home the bacon
- bring it on
- bring sand to the beach
- broad in the beam
- broke the bank
- Brother, can you spare a dime?
- Brownie points
- buck naked,
- buck stops here
- buckle down
- Build a better mousetrap and the world will beat a path to your door.
- built like a brick sh#thouse
- built like a tank
- built to last
- bum steer
- bummer
- bump in the road
- bump on a log
- bums on seats
- bun in the oven
- bunny boiler
- burn the candle at both ends
- burn the midnight oil
- burn your bridges
- burn your ships
- burning up the track
- bury the hatchet
- bury your head in the sand
- business as usual

- business at hand
- bust your balls
- bust your chops
- busting a gut
- busy as a bear in a beehive
- busy as a bee
- busy as a one-armed paperhanger
- busy as a one-legged man in an ass-kicking contest
- busy hands are happy hands
- But enough about me ...
- butt of a joke
- butter him up
- Butter wouldn't melt in his mouth.
- butterflies in his stomach
- buy a pig in a poke
- buy into
- buy something for a song
- by all means, after you
- by and large
- by George
- by gum
- by hook or by crook
- by the same token
- by the skin of your teeth

C

- Call a spade a spade.
- call it a day
- call off the dogs
- call the shots
- Can it!
- can of whoop ass

- can of worms
- can't (won't) get to first base with her
- can't beat that with a stick
- can't blame him for trying
- can't cut it
- can't for the life of me remember
- can't get a word in edgewise
- can't have your cake and eat it too
- can't hold a candle to
- can't judge a book by its cover
- can't learn to swim without getting in the water
- can't say enough about him
- can't say's I would
- can't squeeze blood out of a turnip
- can't teach an old dog new tricks
- can't win for losing
- carbon copy
- carpe diem (seize the day)
- carrot on a stick
- carry coals to Newcastle
- carry the can
- carry the team
- carte blanche
- case in point
- cash cow
- cash in your chips
- cash is king
- cash it in
- cash on the nail
- cast a very long shadow
- Cat got your tongue?
- Catch (Get) my drift?

- catch-22 (situation)
- catch a falling knife
- catch forty / 40 winks
- catch hell if I do
- catch on
- catching some Zs
- cat-like grace
- cat's whiskers
- caught between a rock and a hard place
- caught between Scylla and Charybdis
- caught by the short hairs
- caught in the crossfire
- caught me off-guard
- caught red-handed
- caught with his hands in the till
- caught with his pants down
- caught with your hand in the cookie jar
- chain is only as strong as it's weakest link
- chalk and cheese
- champ at the bit
- Champagne tastes and a beer budget
- change your tune
- changes hands
- channel surfing
- chapter and verse
- Charity begins at home.
- charm offensive
- charm the pants off
- charmed life
- chatty Cathy
- cheap at half the price
- cheap shot

- cheap trick
- check it out
- check's in the mail
- cherchez la femme
- chew out
- chew the cud
- chew the fat
- chewing nails and spitting tacks
- chick flick
- chief cook and bottle washer
- children should be seen and not heard
- child's play
- chink in the armor
- chip in
- chip off the old block
- chip on his shoulder
- chit-chat
- chock full
- chock-a-block
- chop and change
- chow down
- chuck-a-nana : throwing a temper tantrum (Australian)
- clam up
- clapped out
- clash of the titans
- clean as a whistle
- clean bill of health
- clean sweep
- Cleanliness is next to Godliness.
- clear as a bell
- clear as mud
- clear blue water

- clear the air
- clear the decks
- climb on the bandwagon
- climbing the walls
- close but no cigar
- close call,
- close early and often
- close enough for jazz
- close only counts in horseshoes
- close quarters
- (to) close ranks
- Close your eyes and think of England.
- closing the barn door after the horse has bolted
- Cloud-Cuckoo-Land
- clucking and bucking with the other hens
- clue me in
- coast to coast
- cock and bull story
- cock up
- cockles of your heart
- coin a phrase
- cold as a witch's tit
- cold as ice
- cold comfort
- cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey
- cold feet
- cold hands, warm heart
- cold shoulder
- cold turkey
- come a cropper
- come a'callin
- Come again?

- come hell or high water
- come in under the wire
- come out of the closet
- come up short
- come up trumps
- come what may
- coming apart at the seams
- coming down in buckets
- coming down the pike
- comparing apples to oranges
- contemplate my navel
- cook one's goose
- cook the books
- cooking with gas (now)
- cool as a cucumber
- cool Britannia
- cool your heels
- cool your jets
- copper-bottomed guarantee
- cor blimey
- cost an arm and a leg
- cotton on to someone
- couldn't do it to save his soul / hide
- couldn't fight his way out of a wet paper sack / bag
- couldn't make heads or tails of it
- count your blessings
- cover my ass
- crack down
- crack the code
- crack the whip
- cracker Jack
- cracking up

- crammed in like sardines
- crazy as a loon
- crazy like a fox
- crazy / mad as a march hare
- cream of the crop
- Credit where credit is due,
- creme de la creme
- Crime doesn't pay.
- crocodile tears
- cross the line
- crossing the Rubicon
- cruisin' for a bruisin'
- Cry Havoc and let slip the dogs of war.
- cry me a river
- cry over spilled milk
- cry wolf
- curb your enthusiasm
- curiosity killed the cat
- curry favor
- curse a blue streak
- cut and run
- cut corners
- cut from the same cloth
- cut it out
- cut no ice
- Cut off your nose to spite your face.
- cut the mustard
- cut to the chase
- cut your losses
- cut your teeth
- cute as a button
- cuts like a knife

- cuts to the core
- cuts to the quick
- cutting through all the red tape

D

- dagger / knife in the heart
- damned if you do and damned if you don't
- dance with the Devil
- dances (moves) to the beat of a different drummer
- dangle a carrot in front of him
- dark horse
- darting to and fro
- dat dawg don't hunt no more
- David versus Goliath
- Davy Jones' locker
- (a) day late and a dollar short
- daylight robbery
- dead as a Dodo
- dead as a doornail
- dead ringer
- deal with it
- dealt a fatal blow
- death by a thousand cuts
- deep in thought
- deer in headlights
- designer stubble
- deus ex machina
- diamond in the rough
- die-hard
- different kettle of fish
- dig yourself into a hole
- dip your toe in the water

- dirt cheap
- distance makes the heart grow fonder
- do a one-eighty / 180
- Do as I say and not as I do.
- Do birds fly?
- Do not call us, we will call you.
- Do not count your chickens before they hatch.
- do not go there
- do not have a clue
- Do not keep a dog and bark yourself.
- Do not look a gift horse in the mouth.
- do not poke the bear
- do not pull my leg
- Don't try to teach your Grandma to suck eggs.
- Don't throw the baby out with the bath water.
- do or die
- Do unto others as you would have other do unto you.
- do what it takes
- Does a bear sh#t in the woods?
- doesn't know if she's washing or hanging out
- does not know shit from Shinola
- doesn't have a prayer
- doesn't stand a chance
- dog days
- dog eat dog
- dog in the manger
- dog tired
- Dogs bark, but the caravan moves on.
- (the) dog's bollocks
- dog's breakfast
- dog's dinner
- Dogs have masters, cats have staff.

- (a) dog's life
- doing the horizontal bop
- doing time
- done a runner
- done to a turn
- done up like a Christmas tree
- donkey's years
- don't air your dirty laundry in public
- don't be a party pooper
- don't be a stick in the mud
- don't be such a big girl's blouse (English)
- don't bite of more than you can chew
- don't bite the hand that feeds you
- don't burn your bridges
- don't change horses in midstream
- don't count your chickens before they're hatched
- don't do anything **I** wouldn't do
- don't fire 'til you see the whites of their eyes
- don't fly off the handle,
- don't get your knickers in a twist (English)
- don't get your panties / shorts in a bunch / wad
- don't go there
- don't have a cow
- don't have two nickels to rub together
- don't hold your breath
- don't jump to conclusions
- don't know him from Adam
- don't let the bed bugs bite
- don't look a gift horse in the mouth
- don't look back
- don't make a fuss
- don't make me do something I'll regret

- don't paint the devil on the wall (German)
- Don't pee on my leg and tell me it's raining!
- don't push your luck
- don't put all your eggs in one basket
- don't rock the boat
- Don't shoot me, I'm just the messenger.
- don't sweat it
- don't take any wooden nickels
- don't tempt fate
- don't toot your own horn
- Don't trust the lock to which everyone has a key. (Swedish)
- don't upset the apple cart
- don't use a lot where a little will do
- don't want to cover old ground,
- dot the I's and cross the T's
- double dutch
- double whammy
- doubting Thomas
- down and out
- down at heel
- down in the mouth
- down on your/his luck
- down the hatch
- down the pan
- down the tubes
- down to earth
- down to the wire
- drain the lizard
- draw a blank
- draw the line
- dream on
- dressed to kill

- dressed to the nines
- drink like a fish
- drive me to drink
- drive me/you nuts
- drive me/you up a wall
- drive someone doolally
- drive the point home
- driving your ducks to a (mighty) poor pond
- drop a dime
- (a) drop in the bucket
- drop me a line
- drop-dead gorgeous
- dropping like flies
- drown your sorrows
- drum up support
- drunk as a skunk,
- dry as a bone
- ducks in a row
- dumb as a post
- dumber than a bag of hammers
- dumber than a box of rocks
- duvet day
- dyed in the wool,

E

- eager beaver
- early bird catches the worm
- Early to bed, early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise,
- earmark something
- earn one's stripes
- earned his wings
- easier said than done

- easy as 123
- easy as ABC
- easy as pie
- eat dirt
- eat, drink and be merry
- eat like a horse
- eat my dust
- eat my hat
- eat one's words
- eat your heart out
- eaten out of house and home
- eating humble pie
- economical with the truth
- egg on your face
- (to) egg on
- Elementary, my dear Watson.
- (the) elephant in the room
- (at the) eleventh hour
- Elvis has left the building.
- emotional roller coaster
- empty flattery
- (the) ends justify the means
- Et tu, Brutus?
- Even a blind squirrel finds an acorn once in a while.
- even keel
- Even Stevens
- every dark cloud has a silver lining
- every dog has his day
- every man for himself
- every man has his price
- Every man has stupid thoughts, only wise men keep them quiet. (Swedish)
- every rose has its thorn

- every Tom, Dick, and Harry
- every which way but loose
- everyone has their cross to bear
- everything but the kitchen sink
- everything's coming up daisies
- everything's coming up roses
- everything's copasetic
- everything's hunky dory
- exceedingly well read
- Excuse me while I kiss this guy.
- excuse my French
- Eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth.
- Eye of newt and toe of frog, wool of bat and tongue of dog.
- eye to eye
- eyeball someone or something
- eyeball to eyeball

F

- (a) face like a bulldog chewing on a wasp
- (a) face like a burst couch
- (a) face like a dropped meat pie
- (a) face only a mother could love
- (the) face that launched a thousand ships
- (a) face that would scare a dog out of a butcher shop
- face the music
- face up to the facts
- fair and square,
- fair play
- fair weather friend
- fait accompli
- faith can move mountains
- fake it till you make it

- fall from grace
- fall guy
- fall head over heels
- fall off the back of a lorry
- fall on your sword
- fall through the cracks
- famous for fifteen minutes
- fan the flames
- fancy free
- fancy meeting you here
- fancy-pants
- far and away the best
- far be it from me
- far from the madding crowd,
- fashion victim
- (a) fast buck
- faster than a speeding bullet
- faster than greased lightning
- fat as a cow
- fat as a pig
- fat chance
- feast your eyes on this
- (a) feather in his cap
- feed a cold, starve a fever
- feeding frenzy
- feel like a fifth wheel
- fell off my plate
- (the) fickle finger of fate
- fiddling while Rome burns
- Fie, fi, fo, fum, I smell the blood of an Englishman.
- fight fire with fire
- fight like a man

- fight like cats and dogs
- fight the good fight
- figure it out
- filthy rich,
- finders keepers, losers weepers
- fine and dandy
- fine line
- finer than frog hair,
- fire in the belly
- firing on all cylinders
- First things first.
- fish or cut bait
- fish out of water
- fit as a fiddle
- fit to be hung
- fit to be tied
- fits and starts
- fits like a glove
- flag something down
- Flash as a rat with a gold tooth.
- flash in the pan
- flat as a board
- flat as a long-poured champagne
- flat as a pancake
- flat out
- flattery will get you nowhere
- flavor of the month
- fleet footed (fleet of foot)
- flesh and blood
- flipped her lid
- flirt with disaster
- flog a dead horse

- flotsam and jetsam
- flown the coop
- fly by night
- fly by the seat of your pants
- fly in the face of
- fly in the ointment
- fly off the handle
- fly on the wall
- flying by the seat of your pants
- foam at the mouth
- fob off
- follow suit
- Follow the leader.
- following in his footsteps
- Fool me once, shame on you, fool me twice, shame on me.
- fools' gold
- Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.
- foot in the door
- foot loose and fancy free
- foot the bill
- for crying out loud
- for ever and a day
- for everything there is a season
- for God's sake
- for Pete's sake
- for the love of God/Pete/Mike
- for want of the nail, the shoe was lost
- for whom the bell tolls
- forbidden fruit,
- forever and a day
- Forgive them for they know not what they do.
- fork out

- foul play
- four corners of the earth
- free as a bird
- free reign
- fresh as a daisy
- fresh out of ideas
- fried to one's tonsils
- Friends, Romans, Countrymen, lend me your ears.
- frisky as a puppy
- frog in my throat
- from day one
- from here to Timbuktu
- from sea to shining sea
- from strength to strength
- from the four corners of the earth
- from the frying pan into the fire
- fruit of your loins
- Fuddy-Duddy
- full Monty
- full of himself
- full of hot air
- full of mischief
- full of piss and vinegar
- full tilt
- full to the back teeth
- funny business
- Funny Farm
- funny you mention it
- fur coat and no knickers
- fuzzy wuzzy

G

- Gadzooks!
- gag me with a spoon
- game is on the line
- gang bang
- gathering like flies
- gave it a wide berth
- gee whiz
- Generation X
- Genius is one percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration.
- get / start the ball rolling
- get a grip on yourself
- get a handle on this
- get a life
- get a room
- get a word in edgewise
- get ahead early and stay ahead late
- get all worked up
- get along like oil and water
- get an earful
- get back up on the horse
- get cleaned out
- get crushed
- get down to bare bones
- get down to brass tacks
- get down to the nitty gritty
- get it outta my hair
- get lost
- Get my message?
- get off on the wrong foot

- get on her high horse
- get on her soap box
- get one's goat
- get out of here
- get outta town by sundown
- get over it
- get stuffed
- get the peanut butter out of your ears
- get the show on the road
- Get thee behind me, Satan.
- get to the bottom of it
- get underway
- Get used to it!
- Get with the program!
- get your arms around it
- get your ducks in a row
- get your feet wet
- get your foot in the door
- get your goat
- get your head in the game
- gift of the gab
- gild the lily
- gimme a break
- gird your loins
- give a hoot
- give a little take a little
- give a wide berth
- give an inch, and he takes a mile
- give and take
- give him a run for his money
- give it a rest
- give it a whirl

- give it away
- give me a hand
- give someone a break
- give the shirt off your back
- give them a hand
- give up the ghost
- give your right arm
- given to him on a silver platter
- giving someone the bird
- glass ceiling
- glimmer of hope
- gloss over
- glowing like a good deed in a naughty world
- glutton for punishment
- go against the grain
- go and boil your head
- go back to the well
- go ballistic
- go belly up
- go berserk
- go by the book
- go figure
- go fly a kite
- go for broke
- go head to head
- go jump in the lake
- go like the clappers
- go off at half-cock
- go out in a blaze of glory
- go out on a limb
- go over his head
- go overboard

- go the extra mile
- go through the motions
- go through the roof
- go to pot
- go to the dogs
- go together hand in hand
- go too far
- go where the green lights lead you
- go with the flow
- go with your gut
- God help us.
- God only knows.
- God speed
- God willing (and the creek don't rise)
- going against the tide
- going bananas
- going gang-busters
- going nineteen to the dozen
- going to hell in a hand basket
- gold digger
- golden child
- Gentlemen Only, Ladies Forbidden
- gone but not forgotten
- gone to the dogs
- good as gold
- good as new
- (a) good beginning makes a good ending
- good call
- Good fences make good neighbors.
- (a) good man is hard to find
- good men and true
- Good one!

- Good riddance!
- good rule of thumb
- good Samaritan
- good soldier
- good things come to those who wait
- good to go
- good to the last drop
- Goody Two-Shoes
- goofing off
- Gordon Bennett
- got a hole in his pocket
- got a leg up on it
- got a loaf in the oven
- got beat like a drum
- got burned
- got him by the short hairs
- got knocked up
- got lost in the shuffle
- got my mojo working
- got off on the right foot
- got off on the wrong foot
- got schooled
- got spanked
- got taken for a ride
- got the stuffing beat out of him
- got them by the short and curlies
- got under my skin
- got whooped
- got you over a barrel
- got your hand caught in the cookie jar
- got your head in the clouds
- got your nose all pushed out of joint

- grace of God
- Grand Slam,
- grasping at straws
- (the) grass is always greener on the other side
- grass up
- graveyard shift
- grease a palm
- greased lightning
- green-eyed monster
- green with envy
- greener pastures
- grin and bear it
- grin like a Cheshire cat
- grinning from ear to ear
- grist for the mill
- ground rules
- Groundhog day
- growing like a weed
- gum up the works
- gunning for
- guns blazing

H

- had his bell rung
- hair of the dog
- Halcyon days
- half a bubble off
- half a loaf is better than none
- half cocked
- half-baked idea
- Halt! Who goes there?
- hand over fist

- handbags at dawn
- handle it with kid gloves
- hands on
- hang by a thread
- hang in there
- hang me out to dry
- hang on every word
- hanging onto mother's apron strings
- hanky panky
- happy as a clam
- happy as a lark
- happy as a pig in mud / sh#t
- happy camper
- hard as a rock
- hard cheese,
- hard to swallow
- harder for a rich man to go to heaven than for a camel to go through the eye of a needle
- hare-brained idea
- harp on
- haste makes waste
- hat in hand
- haul someone over the coals
- have a heart
- have a nice day
- have an ax to grind
- have 'em in stitches
- have the last laugh
- haven't got a penny to my name
- haven't got a row to hoe
- haven't got a row to hoe
- haven't seen hide nor hair of him
- he breasted his cards

- he can't see the forest for the trees
- he couldn't hit the broad side of a barn
- He doesn't know what time it is,
- he gave a hundred and ten percent
- he got plastered
- he got the short end of the stick
- he has a few loose screws
- he has a way with words
- he has egg on his face
- he is toast
- he knows which side his bread is buttered on
- he learned his lesson
- he left no stone unturned
- he let the cat out of the bag
- he looks like death warmed up
- he made a mad dash for it
- He never met a doughnut he didn't like.
- he put one over on me
- he single-handedly destroyed an empire
- he speaks with a forked tongue
- he spilled the beans
- He was Aladdin in an orchard dripping with diamonds!
- he was just a port in the storm
- he was talking into his hat lying
- he was the life of the party
- he went the whole nine / 9 yards
- he went to the school of hard knocks (university of life)
- He who can, does; he who cannot, teaches.
- He who cannot dance, blames the DJ,
- he who hesitates is lost
- He who laughs last, laughs best.
- He who lives by the sword, shall die by the sword,

- he will give the Devil his due
- he won, hands down
- he/she is as dense as a London fog
- He/She silenced the critics.
- he/she was like a brother/son/father/sister/mother/daughter to me
- head over heels
- heading for the poor house
- heads up
- heard it through the grapevine
- heart of gold
- heaven help us
- heavens to Betsy
- hedge your bets,
- Heebie-Jeebies,
- hell-bent for leather
- Hell has no fury like a woman scorned.
- hell or high water
- Helter-Skelter
- hem and haw
- hen pecked
- her biological clock is ticking
- Here lies one whose name was writ in water.
- here today, gone tomorrow
- here's mud in your eye
- Here's your hat, what's your hurry?
- he's a bald-faced liar
- he's a bubble shy of plumb
- he's a corn-fed hick
- he's a dark horse
- he's a fall guy
- he's a smooth operator
- he's all flibberty jibbets

- he's all hat and no cattle (added by popular demand!)
- he's always blowing his own horn
- he's an easy study
- he's an inch deep and a mile wide
- he's bitten off more than he can chew
- he's built like a brick shit-house
- he's changing his tune
- he's chomping at the bit
- he's dressed to the nines
- he's feeling his oats
- he's fishing for compliments
- he's gone to ground
- he's got a bug up his ass
- He's got more money than he knows what to do with.
- He's got the skills to pay the bills,
- he's gunning for a fight
- he's hen pecked
- he's milk toast
- he's not playing with a full deck
- he's not the sharpest knife in the cabinet
- he's over the hill
- he's pulling your leg
- he's pushing up daisies
- he's really laying it on thick
- he's really on the ball
- he's scared of his own shadow
- he's so matter-of-fact
- He's so ugly, he'd have to sneak up on a glass of water to get a drink.
- he's the south end of a north-bound horse
- he's thinking with the wrong head
- he's waiting for his ship to come in
- het up

- hide the salami
- higgledy piggledy
- high and dry
- high as a kite
- high hopes
- high time
- high, wide and handsome
- high-flyer
- highway robbery
- Hindsight is twenty/twenty (20/20),
- His bark is worse than his bite,
- His elevator doesn't go to the top floor.
- his eyes are bigger than his stomach
- His left hand doesn't know what his right hand is doing.
- His mouth is writing checks his body can't cash.
- hissy fit
- history repeats itself
- hit below the belt
- hit every ugly branch falling out of the tree
- Hit him right between the numbers.
- hit the books
- Hit the deck!
- hit the ground running
- hit the hay
- hit the nail on the head
- hit the sack
- hoist by your own petard
- hoity-toity
- hold down the fort
- hold the phone
- hold your horses
- holding all the cards

- holier than thou
- home is where the heart is
- Home is where you hang your hat,
- Hook, line and sinker.
- hop, skip and a jump
- hope against hope
- Hope springs eternal.
- horse around,
- horse of a different color
- horse play
- horsing around
- hot as hell
- Hot enough for you?
- Hot enough to fry an egg.
- hot off the press
- hot on the heels
- hot under the collar
- Hotter than a fox in a firestorm.
- Houston, we have a problem.
- How are the mighty fallen.
- How do I love thee?
- How now, brown cow?
- How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child.
- How's it hanging?
- How's that for a topper?
- hugged him closer than peel does a banana
- hump day
- hunker down
- hunky dory
- hurl insults
- hurts like the Dickens

- I beg to differ.
- I bought it for a song.
- I busted my hump.
- I can't stand it.
- I can't stomach that.
- I can't tell you what a pleasure its been / It's been a pleasure.
- I could eat a horse.
- I could whip you with one arm tied behind my back.
- I didn't come down the Clyde in a banana boat. (Scottish, Glasgow)
- I didn't expect the Spanish Inquisition.
- I don't give a fig.
- I don't give a jot.
- I hate to say this, but...,
- I have a bone to pick with you.
- I have an ax to grind.
- I have not slept one wink.
- I have nothing to declare but my genius.
- I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat.
- I haven't a clue.
- I haven't the foggiest.
- I heard (hear) that!
- I need that like a hole in the head.
- I need that like a moose needs a hat rack.
- I never met a man (horse, etc.) I didn't like.
- I ought to tan your hide.
- I put two and two together...
- I quit smoking cold turkey.
- I second that.
- I smell a rat.
- I spy with my little eye.
- I trust him as far as I can throw him.
- I want my place in the sun.

- I was roped into it.
- I wasn't born yesterday.
- I will give you that to boot.
- I will go to the foot of our stairs.
- I will wear my heart upon my sleeve.
- I wouldn't p#ss on your teeth if they were on fire.
- I wouldn't trust him as far as I could spit.
- ice water in his/her veins
- icing on the cake
- I'd bet my bottom dollar
- I'd lose my head if it wasn't attached
- I'd rather be a hammer than a nail
- I'd rather have a bottle in front of me, than a frontal lobotomy.
- idle chit-chat
- Idle hands are the devil's workshop.
- If a frog had wings, he wouldn't bump his ass hopping.
- If a tree falls in the forest, does it make a sound?
- if at first you don't succeed, try, try, again
- If God had meant for man to fly, he would've given us wings.
- If his word were a bridge - you'd be afraid to cross!
- If I had a nickel for every time he , I'd be a millionaire.
- If I had my druthers
- if I were in his shoes
- if it ain't broke, don't fix it
- if it weren't for bad luck, I'd have no luck at all
- if it's not one thing it's another
- If I've said it once, I've said it a thousand times.
- if looks could kill
- If music be the food of love, play on.
- If the mountain won't come to Mohammed, Mohammud must go to the mountain.
- If the shoe fits, wear it.
- If wishes were horses, beggars would ride.

- if you can't beat 'em, join 'em
- if you can't find it, grind it
- if you can't kill the king then don't wound him
- If you can't see the bottom, don't put your foot in the water. (Swedish)
- If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen.
- If you can't take Mohammed to the mountain, take the mountain to Mohammed.
- If you chase two rabbits, both will escape,
- If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all.
- If you get the sense, then chuck the tense.
- if you love something set it free
- if you play your cards right...
- If you think that, you have another think coming.
- if you were any closer, it would bite you
- If your foresight was as good as your hindsight, we would be better by a far sight.
- If you're going to talk the talk, you better walk the walk.
- if you've seen one you've seen 'em all
- ignorance is bliss
- ignorance of the law is no excuse
- I'll be a monkey's uncle
- I'll be damned
- I'll be the judge of that, thank you.
- I'll be there with bells on
- I'll bet a dollar to a donut
- I'll eat my hat
- I'll fix you
- I'll fix your little red wagon
- I'll leave you with something to chew on
- I'll procrastinate later
- I'll punch his lights out
- I'll see you in hell
- I'm going bananas

- I'm gonna clean your clock
- I'm gonna lay down the law
- I'm gonna wash that man right outta my hair
- I'm in hog heaven
- I'm not a rocket scientist (it ain't rocket science)
- I'm not getting any younger
- I'm on a roll,
- imitation is the sincerest form of flattery
- in a New York minute
- in a nutshell
- in a pickle,
- in a pig's eye
- in a quandary
- in a trice
- in a wink
- in an interesting condition
- in bed with one's boots on
- in cahoots with
- in every life a little rain must fall
- in fine fettle
- in for a fleecing
- In for a penny, in for a pound.
- in for the long haul
- in full cry
- in harm's way
- in my mind's eye
- in one ear and out the other
- In one fell swoop
- in over your head
- in seventh heaven
- In still weather everyone is a good sailor. (Swedish)
- in stitches

- in the bag
- in the black
- in the box-seat
- in the buff
- in the cards
- in the clear
- in the dark
- in the doghouse
- in the doldrums
- in the hot seat
- in the joint,
- in the limelight
- in the money
- in the nick of time
- in the offing
- in the pink
- in the red
- in the rough
- in the twinkling of an eye
- in two (2) shakes of a lamb's tail
- In your dreams
- in your face
- Indian summer
- innocent as the day he was born
- irons in the fire
- Is a pig pork?
- Is it soup yet?
- Is nothing sacred?
- Is the Pope Catholic?
- Is this a dagger which I see before me?
- Isn't all it's cracked up to be.
- It ain't over till the fat lady sings.

- It ain't rocket science.
- It all boils down to this.
- It came like a bolt from the blue.
- It is a long road without a turn.
- It is all grist to the mill.
- It is better to give than to receive.
- It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness.
- it isn't all sweetness and light
- it just goes to show...
- It never rains but it pours.
- It sounds like a thrashing machine.
- it stands to reason
- It takes two to tango.
- It takes two fools to argue.
- it took my breath away
- it was a piece of cake
- it was a white-knuckle ride
- it was an ill-fated idea
- it will be a cold day in hell
- it will do
- it won't fly
- It's no use crying over spilled milk.
- it's a dog-eat-dog world
- its a dog's life
- it's a doozy
- it's a freckle past a hair
- It's a game of inches
- It's a lemon.
- it's a long shot
- it's a one-horse town
- its a sure thing
- It's a wash

- it's all cut and dried
- It's all fun and games until someone loses an eye.
- it's all Greek to me
- it's all in your head
- It's all over but the crying
- its all topsy turvy
- it's an ill wind that blows no good
- It's autumn in her mouth and all her tongue can do is rustle!
- it's better than a poke in the eye with a sharp stick
- it's cutting edge
- it's darkest just before the dawn
- it's got a great beat, but you can't dance to it
- It's in the bag.
- It's just one of those days, I guess.
- it's like my daddy used to say...
- it's neck and neck
- it's never too late to learn
- It's not a sprint, it's a marathon.
- it's not all it's cracked up to be
- It's not over till it's over.
- it's not the heat it's the humidity
- It's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog.
- It's not whether you win or lose, it's how you play the game.
- it's not written in stone
- it's nothing earth-shattering
- it's on the tip on my tongue
- it's only a matter of time
- It's raining like a cow pissing on a flat rock.
- It's what's on the inside that counts.
- I've been had.
- I've got a monkey on my back.
- I've got it covered.

- I've got other fish to fry,
- I've had it up to here,
- ivory tower

J

- Jack of all trades and a master of none.
- jockeying for position
- join the ranks
- joined at the hip
- (a) journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step
- jump down your throat
- jump in with both feet
- jump on the bandwagon
- jump the gun
- (the) jury is still out
- Just a cotton pickin' minute here.
- just a drop in the bucket
- just a minute
- just a second
- just admiring the view
- just around the bend
- just as sweet as you please
- just fell off the turnip truck
- just like riding a bike
- just the tip of the iceberg
- just thought I'd throw that in
- just washed my hair and can't do a thing with it
- just what the doctor ordered
- justice is blind

K

- kangaroo court

- kangaroo loose in the top paddock
- Keep a bad dog with you, and the good dogs won't bite.
- keep a stiff upper lip
- keep a wide berth
- keep an (my) eye on you
- keep body and soul together
- keep danger at bay
- keep 'em flying (keep your spirits up)
- keep it down
- keep it simple, stupid (KISS)
- keep it under your hat
- keep it up
- keep on your toes
- keep schtum
- keep something at bay
- keep the ball rolling
- keep the home fires burning
- keep up with the Joneses
- keep your fingers crossed
- keep your chin up
- keep your eye on the ball
- keep your eyes open
- keep your eyes peeled
- keep your hair on
- keep your nose to the grindstone
- keep your pants on
- keep your pecker up
- keep your powder dry
- keep your shirt on
- keep your shoulder to the wheel
- keep your thoughts to yourself
- keeping (staying) on top of it

- keeping the world safe for democracy
- keeps her cards close to her chest
- keeps on ticking
- keepy-uppy
- kettle of fish
- kick back
- kick 'em when they're down
- kick him/her to the curb
- kick some butt (ass)
- kick the bucket
- kick your heels
- kicked (took it) in the huevos
- kid in a candy store
- kill 'em with kindness
- king of the hill
- (a) king's ransom
- kiss and tell
- kiss ass
- kiss of death
- kissing the rose
- kitten on the keys
- knee-high to a grasshopper
- knee-jerk reaction
- knock 'em dead
- knock it off
- knock it out of the park
- knock off (work)
- (a) knock-off
- knock on wood
- knock the cover off the ball
- knock your socks off
- knock yourself out

- knocked into a cocked hat
- knocked up
- know it like the back of my hand
- know the ropes
- know the score
- know what's up
- know where you stand
- know which side your bread is buttered on
- know which way the wind blows
- know your onions
- knows it chapter and verse
- knuckle down
- (a) knuckle sandwich

L

- La dolce vita
- La-di-da
- Lager Frenzy
- Lamb to the slaughter
- Lame Duck
- Land of milk and honey
- Lardy-Dardy
- Lark about
- Last but not least
- Last-ditch effort
- Last hurrah
- Last, but not least
- Laugh a minute
- Laugh like a drain
- laughing all the way to the bank
- Laughing-Stock
- laughter is the best medicine

- Lay down the law
- Lay it on with a trowel
- Lay it out in lavender
- Lay my cards (out) on the table
- Lead-pipe cinch
- Learn the ropes
- least said, soonest mended
- Leave / Make your mark
- Leave no stone unturned
- Left at the altar
- Left in the lurch
- left-handed compliment
- Legend in his own mind
- Leopard doesn't change its spots
- Less is More
- lesser of two evils
- Let a thousand flowers bloom
- Let bygones be bygones.
- let God sort 'em out
- let me bend your ear
- Let not the sun go down on your wrath.
- Let sleeping dogs lie.
- Let the cat out of the bag
- let them eat cake
- Let there be light
- let your hair down
- Let's forge ahead, shall we?
- let's get the ball rolling
- Let's roll!
- Let's split!
- let's tie the knot
- Level playing field

- Lick into shape
- lickety-split
- licking one's wounds
- lie down with dogs and wake up with fleas
- Lie Low
- life goes on
- life in the fast lane
- life is a bowl of cherries
- life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you are going to get
- Life is not all beer and skittles
- life is what you make it
- Life of Riley
- life stinks
- Life's a b#tch
- life's too short,
- lift myself up by the bootstraps
- lift your game (get your act together)
- light a fire under it
- light as a feather
- Light at the end of the tunnel
- Light in the loafers
- lighter than air
- Lightning never strikes the same place twice
- Lights are on but there's nobody home
- like a bat out of hell
- like a broken record
- Like a bull in a china shop
- Like a chicken with his head cut off.
- Like a coiled spring.
- like a dog chasing cars
- like a duck on a June Bug
- like a fish out of water

- Like a lost dog in the high weeds.
- Like a moth to a flame.
- like balling the jack
- Like being savaged by a dead sheep.
- Like billy-o
- Like butter
- like chalk and cheese (English)
- Like father, like son.
- Like flies on sh#t.
- like getting your tit in the wringer
- Like it's going out of style.
- like lambs to the slaughterhouse
- like looking for a needle in a haystack
- Like oil and water.
- like pigs in a poke
- Like sh#t off a shovel.
- Like shooting ducks on a pond.
- like shooting fish in a barrel
- like taking candy from a baby
- Like the Dickens.
- Like there is no tomorrow.
- like walking on eggshells
- like water off a duck's back
- Like white on rice.
- Lily-Livered
- Line in the sand
- Lions led by donkeys
- Lion's share
- Lipstick on a pig
- Little of this, a little of that
- little strokes fell great oaks
- live and learn

- live and let live
- Live long and prosper
- Living hand to mouth
- Living high off the hog
- living in an ivory tower
- Living legend
- Living off the fat of the land.
- Living on borrowed time.
- Living the life of Riley.
- Lo and Behold
- Load of cobblers / codswallop
- loaves and fishes
- lock, stock, and barrel
- long and short of it
- long arm of the law
- long in the tooth
- (a) long shot
- Long time no see.
- Long ways away.
- Look a gift horse in the mouth.
- Look before you leap.
- Look into your heart
- look out for number one
- Look out!
- Look over your shoulder
- Looking at the world through rosy colored glasses
- Looking for a needle in a haystack
- looks can be deceiving
- looks like there's a new sheriff in town
- Loose cannon
- Loose lips sink ships,
- Loose your shirt

- Lord willin' and the creek don't rise,
- Lose Face - Save Face
- Lose your lunch
- Lose your marbles
- lose your mind
- Lost a step
- lost his shirt
- Lots of honey makes bees lazy. (Swedish)
- love and hate are two horns on the same goat
- love conquers all
- love is a many-splendored thing
- love is blind
- love thy neighbor
- Lower than a snake's belly
- lower the boom
- Luck of the draw
- Lucky Stiff
- lying through your teeth

M

- mad as a hatter
- mad as a March hare
- madder than a wet hen
- made in the shade
- made it by the skin of my teeth
- Made of money
- Make a bee-line for
- make a big deal out of nothing
- Make a break for it
- make a fast buck
- Make a long story short
- Make a mountain out of a mole hill

- make a statement without saying a word
- Make a virtue of necessity
- Make an ass out of yourself
- Make ends meet,
- make hay while the sun shines,
- Make heads or tails of
- Make Him an offer he can't refuse
- make like a baby and head out
- make like a tree and leave
- Make Money hand over fist
- Make no bones about it
- Make or break
- Make out like a bandit
- Make the grade
- make tracks
- Make up
- Make waves
- Make your move
- Makes my blood boil
- Makes your hair stand on end
- Makin' bacon
- making him sing like a canary
- making money hand over fist,
- making the beast with two backs
- Making whoopee
- Mal de mer
- Man does not live by bread alone
- Man for all seasons
- Man up
- man's best friend
- Many a true word is spoken in jest.
- Many are called but few are chosen.

- Many hands make light work.
- march to the beat of a different drummer
- mark my words
- (a) marked man
- marking time
- Marry in haste, repent at leisure.
- Matter-of-fact
- May you live in interesting times.
- maybe something will jog your memory
- Mea culpa
- mean as a snake
- Meet and greet
- Melting pot
- memory like an elephant
- Ménage à trois,
- methinks she doth protest too much
- Middle of the road
- Mighty oaks from little acorns grow.
- Milk it (for all it's worth)
- Milk of human kindness
- mind over matter
- mind your manners
- Mind your own Beeswax
- mind your own business
- mind your p's and q's
- misery loves company
- missed by a hair
- missed the boat
- Moaning Minnie
- Monday morning quarterback
- money burns a hole in his pocket
- Money can't buy you happiness

- Money doesn't grow on trees
- Money grubbing
- money is the root of all evil
- money makes the world go round
- Money out (up) the wazoo
- Monkey business
- monkey see monkey do
- Monkeying around
- Montezuma's Revenge
- Many a Mickle makes a Muckle
- more cliches than you can shake a stick at,
- More fool you,
- more fun than a barrel of monkeys
- More honoured in the breach than in the observance.
- More than meets the eye.
- more the merrier
- (the) more things change, the more they stay the same
- (the) more we learn, the less we know
- Moving the goalposts
- Much ado about nothing
- Much of a muchness
- Mud slinging
- Mug for the camera
- Mumbo Jumbo
- Mum's the word
- Murphy's law
- My bad
- My better half
- My brain is fried
- my cup runneth over
- My giddy aunt,
- my hair was on end

- My hands are tied
- my hat's off to you
- my head is swimming
- my heart sank
- my little black book
- My mind's eye
- My stomach is tied up in knots.
- My way or the highway.

N

- Nail your colors to the mast.
- Naked as a jaybird.
- Naked as the day you were born.
- Namby-Pamby
- name and shame
- name that tune
- name will be Mud
- name your poison
- nary a word was spoken
- Nasty, Brutish and Short
- nature's first green is gold
- near and dear to my heart
- Necessary evil
- necessity is the mother of invention
- Needs must
- neither a borrower nor a lender be
- Neither fish nor flesh, nor good red herring
- neither fish nor fowl
- neither here nor there
- Nerves of steel
- nervous as a cat on a hot tin roof
- nervous as a long tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs

- nervous as a whore in church
- Never cast a clout till May be out
- Never give a sucker an even break
- never hurts to try
- never in a month of Sundays
- never put off until tomorrow what you can do today
- never say never
- Never the twain shall meet.
- Never-Never Land
- New kid on the block
- New lease on life
- nice cage, no bird
- nice day for a picnic
- Nice guys finish last
- nice work, if you can get it
- Nine days' wonder
- Nip and tuck
- Nip it in the bud
- Nitty-Gritty,
- no accounting for taste
- No dice
- No go
- no guts, no glory
- no holds barred
- No if's, and's, or but's about it
- No man is an island,
- No more cakes and ale?
- no one here but us chickens!
- no pain, no gain
- No rest for the wicked,
- No room to swing a cat
- No sh#t, Sherlock

- no skin off my back
- No skin off my nose
- No strings attached
- no use crying over spilled milk
- No victory without a battle. (Swedish)
- no way (or why) on God's green Earth
- No way, José,
- nod off
- None of your business.
- none too pleased
- Noodle on
- Nose in the air
- Not a spinning wheel in the kingdom and then you prick your finger!
- Not all it's cracked up to be.
- Not by the hair of my chinny chin chin.
- not enough room to swing a cat
- not for all the tea in China
- not for nothing, but...
- not just another pretty face
- not my cup of tea
- not playing with a full deck
- not rowing with both oars
- Not the brightest bulb (in the box / on the tree / in the chandelier),
- Not the ghost of a chance.
- Not the sharpest knife in the cabinet.
- not worth a hill of beans
- Nothing is certain but death and taxes.
- Nothing is impossible for those who don't have to do it themselves. (Swedish)
- nothing new under the sun
- Nothing personal,
- Nothing succeeds like success.
- nothing to fear but fear itself

- nothing to sneeze at
- Nothing to write home about
- Nothing up my sleeve
- Nothing ventured, nothing gained
- Now is the winter of our discontent
- now or never
- now this won't hurt a bit
- now's as good a time as any
- now's your chance
- numb as a hake
- nutty as a fruitcake

O

- O Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou Romeo?
- O Ye, of Little Faith
- Object of desire
- Odds Bodkins
- Off and running
- Off like a prom dress!
- off the cuff
- Off the dime
- Off the hook
- Off the record
- Off the shelf
- off the top of my head
- Off With His Head
- Off your rocker
- oh, to be a fly on the wall
- oh, woe is me
- Okey-Dokey
- Old as dirt
- old as the hills

- Old ball and chain
- old blowhard
- Old Fogey
- old habits die hard
- Old school
- old standby
- On a good footing
- On a hiding to nothing
- On a lark
- On a roll
- On a short leash
- On a soap box
- on a wild goose chase
- On a wing and a prayer
- on bended knee,
- On Carey Street
- on cloud nine,
- on equal footing
- on him like ugly on an ape
- On par
- On pins and needles
- On Queer Street
- On skid row
- On tenterhooks
- On the back burner
- On the ball
- On the cutting edge
- On the dole
- On the dot
- on the double
- on the edge of your seat
- On the fly

- On the front burner
- On the grapevine
- on the house
- On the Lam
- On the level
- On the make
- on the other hand
- On the QT
- On the road again
- on the run
- On the same page
- On the take
- On the tip of my tongue
- On the up and up
- On the wagon
- On the warpath
- on the whole
- on to something
- On your tod
- On your toes
- once bitten, twice shy
- once in a blue moon,
- Once in a blue moon
- once in a dog's age
- Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more.
- One bad apple spoils the (whole) barrel / bushel / lot / bunch.
- one brick short of a load
- One foot on a banana peel, the other in the grave.
- One for the books
- One for the road
- one good turn deserves another
- One in million

- one man's foul weather is another man's fair
- One man's garbage is another man's treasure.
- one man's meat is another man's poison
- one size fits all
- One small step for a man, a giant leap for mankind.
- One Stop Shop
- one taco short of a combination plate
- one toe over the line
- One-Hit Wonder
- One's Heart's Content
- Oops-a-daisy
- open a can of worms
- open and shut case
- open mouth, closed mind/ears
- Open Season
- Open the kimono
- opened a can of worms
- opportunity doesn't knock twice
- opposites attract
- out for a Sunday stroll
- out like a light
- Out of gas
- Out of pocket
- Out of sight, out of mind
- Out of sorts
- out of the blue
- Out of the frying pan and into the fire
- Out of the jaws of death
- Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings
- Out of the woods
- Out of whack
- Out sowing your wild oats

- Out to lunch
- out with the old, in with the new
- Over a barrel
- over and done with
- Over and over again
- Over my head
- over the edge
- over the hill
- over the moon
- over the top

P

- pack it in
- packing heat
- packing lead
- Paddle your own canoe.
- pain in the ass / neck / butt
- paint oneself into a corner
- paint the town red
- pan out
- Pandora's box
- paper over the cracks
- paper tiger
- par for the course
- pardon my French
- part and parcel
- parting shot
- pass away
- pass on
- pass the buck
- pass the hat
- passed with flying colors

- pat on the back
- path of least resistance
- patience is a virtue
- pay a king's ransom
- pay an arm and a leg
- pay as you go
- pay attention to details
- pay lip service
- pay the debt of nature
- pay the piper
- pay through the nose
- payback is a b#tch
- peaches and cream complexion
- pearls before swine
- pears for your heirs
- peas in a pod
- peel (back) the onion
- peel out
- peeping Tom
- pell-mell
- pencil it / you / me in
- pennies from heaven
- penny for your thoughts
- penny pincher
- Penny saved is a penny earned.
- Penny wise and pound foolish.
- People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.
- Perception becomes reality.
- pester power
- petered out
- Phone it in
- Physician, heal thyself.

- pick and mix
- pick of the litter
- pick over the ruins
- pick the low-hanging fruit
- picture perfect
- Picture's worth a thousand words.
- pie in the sky
- piece of cake
- pig and whistle
- pig in a poke
- pig out
- pigeon-chested
- pig's ear
- pin money
- pin your hopes on something
- pipe down
- pipe dream
- piping hot
- piss like a racehorse
- pissed to the gills
- pissing in the wind
- piss-poor
- plain and simple
- plain as day
- plain sailing
- play ball
- play both ends against the middle
- play by ear
- play fast and loose
- Play for the name on the front of your jersey, not the name on the back of your jersey.
- play hot potato
- Play it again, Sam.

- play it by ear
- play second fiddle to
- play the cards you're dealt
- play the final card
- play the giddy goat
- play with the big boys
- played me for a fool
- playing hardball
- playing possum
- playing the field
- playing with fire
- pleased as punch
- Plenty of other fish in the sea.
- plenty to go 'round
- poison the well
- poker face
- Poor as a church mouse.
- pop a vein
- pop goes the weasel
- POSH - Port out, starboard home
- Possession is nine-tenths of the law.
- pot calling the kettle black
- Pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.
- pound for pound
- pound of flesh
- pound the pavement
- pour it on thick
- pour oil on trouble waters
- Power corrupts: Absolute power corrupts absolutely.
- power dressing
- powers of darkness
- practice makes perfect

- pray to the porcelain god
- praying at the porcelain altar
- preaching to the choir
- press into service
- pretty as a picture
- pretty damn quick
- pretty penny
- prick up your ears
- pride before the fall
- prime time
- primed to the sticking point
- primrose path
- propped up
- pull a fast one
- pull a rabbit out of a hat
- pull out all the stops
- pull the wool over your eyes
- pull your chain
- pull your finger out
- pull your head out of your ass
- pull yourself up by your bootstraps
- punch his lights out
- punched in the gut
- pure as the driven snow
- push the envelope
- push your buttons
- put a cork in it
- put a lid on it
- put a little elbow grease into it
- put a sock in it
- put it through its paces,
- put my two cents in

- put on ice
- put on your thinking cap
- put out some feelers
- put paid to
- put that in your pipe and smoke it
- put the cart before the horse
- put the dampers on
- put the pedal to the metal
- put to death
- put two and two together
- put up your feet and stay awhile
- put your back up
- put your best foot forward
- put your foot in your mouth
- put your heart into it
- put your money where your mouth is
- put your nose out of joint
- putting his feet to the fire
- putting the cart before the horse
- putting the screws to him
- Pyrrhic victory

Q

- queen for a day
- queer as a three dollar bill
- quick buck
- quicker than a New York minute
- quiet as a (church) mouse
- Quit horsing around!
- quit while you're ahead

R

- rack and ruin
- rack your brains
- Rag, Tag and Bobtail
- raining cats and dogs
- raining stair-rod
- raise the bar
- raise the roof
- raking in the dough
- raking it in
- rally round
- rattle trap
- rattle your cage
- raw end of the deal
- raze to the ground
- read between the lines
- read it and weep
- Read the fine print
- read the handwriting on the wall
- Reading the riot act
- Real McCoy
- Red carpet treatment
- red herring
- Red in Tooth and Claw
- Red Letter Day
- Red sky in the morning, sailor's warning; red sky at night, sailor's delight.
- Reeking havoc
- Religion is the opium of the people.
- reopen an old wound
- rest assured

- resting on one's laurels
- Rhyme or reason
- Richard of York gave battle in vain.
- riding the wild pony
- right as rain
- right on the button
- right on the money
- right on the nose
- right up your alley
- Ring a bell
- Ring A Ring o'roses, a pocketful of posies, atishoo, atishoo, all fall down.
- ring in the new year
- Ring of truth
- Ring the changes
- rise and shine,
- Road less traveled
- Road to hell is paved (on all sides) with good intentions
- roaring fire
- robbing Peter to pay Paul
- Roll of the dice
- roll out the red carpet
- roll over in his grave
- roll with the punches
- rolling in the dough
- (a) rolling stone gathers no moss
- Rome wasn't built in a day
- room to swing a cat
- rotten to the core
- rough around the edges
- rough as a cob
- rub salt in the wound
- rub your nose (face) in it

- rubbing salt in his wounds
- rubs me the wrong way
- rule with an iron fist
- rules are made to be broken
- run a mile
- run amok
- run circles around
- run for your money
- run it up the flagpole (and see who salutes it)
- run like the wind
- run out of steam
- run the gauntlet
- run with the fox and bark with the hounds
- running around like a chicken with its head cut off
- running with wolves
- runs like a top

S

- sacred cow
- safe and sound
- sail / ride off into the sunset
- salad days
- same ol' same ol'
- same song and dance
- Save the drama for your mama.
- Save your breath
- Saved by the bell
- Savoir Faire
- sawing a log
- say what you will,
- say your prayers
- scarce as hen's teeth

- Scared dogs bark most. (Swedish)
- scared of his own shadow
- scared stiff
- scaredy-cat
- scattered to the four winds
- scot free
- scraping the bottom of the barrel
- screaming bloody murder
- Scuse me while I kiss this guy.
- Sealed with a Loving Kiss
- second wind
- see a man about a dog
- see eye to eye
- see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil
- see the glass as half empty
- see the light
- see the whole field
- see the world through rose colored glasses
- see which way the winds blow
- see you later, alligator
- seeing red
- seems just like old times
- sell out (sold out)
- sell yourself short
- send packing
- sent to Coventry
- separate the men from the boys
- separate the wheat from the chaff
- serve up a softball
- set one's cap at
- set your teeth on edge
- seven-year itch

- sh#t or get off the pot
- sh#t out of luck
- shaggy dog story
- shake a leg
- shake hands with the wife's best friend
- Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
- shape up or ship out
- share and share alike
- sharp as a marble
- sharp as a tack
- she could test the patience of Job
- she drinks like a fish
- she fell out of the ugly tree and hit every branch on the way down
- she gave me a withering glance
- she got called up on the carpet
- she has a great personality
- she has a green thumb
- she has bats in her belfry
- she has everything but the kitchen sink
- she has pull (clout)
- she is a loose cannon
- she threw a wet blanket on my idea
- she wears her heart on her sleeve
- she wouldn't know me from Adam
- shed (some) light on
- She's a peach,
- she's ALL THAT
- she's an open book
- she's been hit with an ugly stick
- she's burning her candle at both ends
- she's fighting a losing battle
- she's getting the red carpet treatment

- she's got eyes in the back of her head
- she's got money to burn
- she's hot to trot
- she's in hot water
- she's lost her marbles
- she's not the brightest bulb on the patio
- she's not the only fish in the sea
- she's out sowing her wild oats
- she's out to lunch
- she's taking the bait
- she's tugging on your chain
- shilly-shally
- ship-shape and Bristol fashion
- shirt off his back
- shit for brains
- shit happens
- shiver me timbers
- shoe is on the other foot
- shoestring budget
- shoot from the hip
- shoot it straight
- shoot the breeze
- shoot yourself in the foot
- shooting for the moon
- short changed
- short end of the stick
- Short pleasures are often long regretted. (Swedish)
- short shrift
- shot across the bows
- shot in the dark
- shotgun wedding
- shove off

- show him the door
- Show me the money!
- show some spine / spunk
- show them how the cow ate the cabbage
- show your true colors
- shuffle off this mortal coil
- shut the hole in your head
- shut up
- shut your hole / cake-hole / mouth
- sick as a dog
- sick to death of it
- signed, sealed and delivered
- silence is golden
- silenced the crowd
- silly Billy
- silver bullet
- simple pleasures are the best
- sing for your supper
- sing like a bird
- sink or swim
- sink your teeth into
- sit tight
- sitting duck
- sitting in the catbird seat
- sitting on pins and needles
- sitting on the fence
- six of one, half a dozen of another
- six feet under
- skating on thin ice
- skeletons in the closet
- skid row
- slam dunk

- slap on the back
- sleep like a baby
- sleep like a log
- sleep with the fishes
- sleeping her way to the top
- slick as snot on a glass doorknob
- slipped through your fingers
- slippery as an eel
- slippery slope
- sloppy as a soup sandwich
- slow and steady wins the race
- slow as molasses in January
- sly as a fox
- smack dab in the middle
- small potatoes
- Small world, isn't it?
- smart Alec
- smart ass
- smart cookies don't crumble
- Smart is better than stupid.
- smarter than the average bear
- smell (a little) ripe
- smile and the world smiles with you, cry and you cry alone
- smoke and mirrors
- smoking gun
- smooth as a baby's bottom
- smooth operator
- (a) snail's pace
- snowball's chance in hell
- snug as a bug in a rug
- so close, you can taste it
- so many men so little time

- so much bad in the best of us and so much good in the worst in us that it ill-behoves us to talk about the rest of us
- so much for that
- so quiet you could hear a pin drop
- so sue me
- So ugly, they'd have to sneak up on a glass of water to get a drink.
- sod off
- sold down the river
- solid as a rock (the rock of Gibraltar)
- some pots you don't stir
- some things are better left unsaid
- someday, you will thank me for this
- something rotten in the state of Denmark
- something smells fishy
- something you can really sink your teeth into
- Sometimes you are the hydrant, and sometimes you are the dog.
- Sometimes you are the windshield, and sometimes you are the bug.
- sometimes you just gotta let your hair down
- son of a b#tch
- son of a gun
- sound like a broken record
- sounds like a plan
- sour grapes
- spare the rod, spoil the child
- speak of the devil
- speak off the cuff
- speak softly and carry a big stick
- speak with a forked tongue
- speaking in riddles
- special relationship
- spend a penny
- spick and span
- spill the beans

- spin a yarn
- spineless wimp
- spinning your wheels
- Spit in one hand and wish in the other, and see which one you have the most in.
- spit the dummy (Australian)
- spitting image
- split second
- splitting hairs
- spoil the fun
- spread the word
- spruce up
- square meal
- squeaky bum time
- stack the deck
- stand and deliver
- standing on the shoulders of giants
- stand-up guy
- star-crossed lovers
- staring off into space/nowhere
- stark-raving mad
- start from scratch
- state of the art
- stay tuned
- stayed too long at the fair
- staying power
- steal a march
- steal one's thunder
- stealing the show
- steer clear of it
- stem the tide
- step on a crack, break your mother's back
- step on it

- stepping on people's toes
- stick a fork in it (him, me)
- stick in the mud
- stick it in your ear
- stick it out
- stick it to you
- stick it where the sun don't shine
- stick to your guns
- stick up for the little guy
- stick with it
- Sticks and stones will break my bones, but words will never hurt me.
- sticks out like a sore thumb
- sticky subject
- stiff as a board
- stiffen the sinews
- still as a church mouse
- still waters run deep
- stinking to high heaven
- stir up an ant's nest
- stirring up trouble
- (a) stitch in time saves nine
- Stone the crows!
- (a) stone's throw away
- stop and smell the roses
- stop on a dime
- Stop the presses!
- stow it
- straight and narrow
- straight as an arrow
- straight from the horses mouth
- straighten up and fly right
- strain at the leash

- stranger danger
- stranger in a strange land
- stress out
- stretch a dollar
- strike while the iron is hot
- string him along
- strong as an ox
- stubborn as a mule
- stuck in a rut
- stuck out like a sore thumb
- stuff and nonsense
- stuffed shirt
- stump up
- stupid is as stupid does
- success has a thousand fathers while failure is an orphan
- such is life
- suck up
- sugarcoat something
- survival of the fittest
- suspension of disbelief
- swallow one's pride
- swan song
- sweat the details
- sweating blood
- sweating like a pig
- sweep it under the rug
- sweet 16 and never been kissed
- sweet deal
- sweeten the pot
- sweetheart deal
- swim against the tide
- swim up stream

- swim with the sharks
- swimming in molasses
- swing the lead,

T

- tackle my homework
- Tail between his legs
- Tail wagging the dog
- Take a back seat to
- Take a breather
- Take a dive
- Take a dump
- take a hike
- Take a leak
- take a long walk off a short plank
- Take a picture, it will last longer
- Take a step back
- Take by storm
- Take care of your knitting
- Take down a peg or two,
- Take five
- take him to task
- take it and run with it
- take it at face value
- take it easy
- take it from me
- take it like a man
- take it on the lam
- take it or leave it
- take it to the limit,
- Take it with a grain of salt
- Take one for the team

- Take Potluck
- Take someone down a peg
- Take stock of
- Take the bit between your teeth
- Take the bull by the horns
- Take the crowd out of the game
- Take the day off
- Take the easy way out
- Take the gloves off
- Take the guilt off the gingerbread
- Take the Mickey
- Take the plunge
- Take the wind out of your sails
- Take the world by storm
- take this job and shove it
- Take umbrage
- Take with a pinch of salt
- take your fate into your own hands
- Take your life in your own hands
- Taken aback
- Taken for a ride
- takes its toll on you
- taking his pound of flesh
- taking the scenic route
- talk of the Devil
- talk to the hand
- talk until you are blue in the face
- talking behind his back
- talking out of your head
- tall, dark and handsome,
- tall tale
- tarred and feathered

- Taste of your own medicine
- Teach him to fish
- teacher's pet
- tear into it
- Tear you a new #sshole
- Teflon President
- Tell a porkie
- Tell it to me straight
- Tell It to the marines
- Tell your story walking
- tempest in a teacup
- Ten to one
- Tend the garden
- Test the waters
- testing one's mettle
- thank God it's Friday
- Thank goodness
- Thank your lucky stars
- That and a quarter will get you a cup of coffee
- that argument doesn't hold water
- that baby runs like a scalded dog
- that burns me up
- that chaps my hide
- That dog won't hunt
- that gets my goat
- that hits the spot
- That's all, folks
- That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind.
- that oughta tide you over
- that really brings it home
- That sucks!
- That takes the cake

- that was cold-blooded
- That which does not kill you makes you stronger.
- that'll be the day
- That's a doozy
- That's a joke
- That's a load off my mind
- that's a real stem-winder
- that's a wrap
- that's about the size of it
- That's bogus
- that's easy for you to say
- that's enough to piss off the Pope
- That's for the birds
- That's how the cow eats the cabbage
- that's icing on the cake
- that's it in a nutshell
- that's just like the pot calling the kettle black
- That's just peachy
- that's just the tip of the iceberg
- that's like a turtle on a fence post
- That's no joke
- that's old hat
- that's par for the course
- that's pretty run-of-the-mill
- that's rubber on the side of the road
- that's skull dugger
- that's some ole good
- that's the \$64,000 question
- that's the long and short of it
- That's the ticket
- that's the way lady luck dances
- that's the way the ball bounces

- that's the way the cookie crumbles
- that's the whole ball of wax
- that's water under the bridge
- the acorn doesn't fall far from the tree
- The back of beyond
- The balance of power
- The bee's knees
- the belle of the ball
- the best thing since little apples
- The best things in life are free
- The Big Apple
- The Big Cheese
- The Big Easy
- the bigger they are the harder they fall
- the bitter end
- the blind leading the blind
- the bomb
- the bottom line
- the bowels of the earth
- The bread of life
- the buck stops here
- the butler did it
- the call of the wild
- The camera cannot lie
- the cat's meow
- the cat's pajamas
- the cat's whiskers
- The chickens come home to roost
- The cold shoulder
- The collywobbles
- The course of true love never did run smooth
- The Crack of Doom

- the cream of the crop
- The customer is always right
- The cut of your jib
- The darkest hour is just before the dawn
- The darling buds of May
- The Devil Incarnate
- the devil is always ready to rock the cradle of the saint who sleeps
- the devil is in the details
- the devil made me do it
- the devil must be beating his wife
- The Devil takes the hindmost
- The Devil to pay
- The Die has been cast
- the dog ate my homework
- The early bird catches the worm
- The elephant in the room
- the exception that proves the rule
- the eyes are the mirrors (windows) of (to) the soul
- The face that launched a thousand ships
- The female of the species is more deadly than the male
- the fickle finger of fate
- the fifth Beatle
- the floozie in the jacuzzi
- the fly in the ointment
- the Full Monty
- the game is afoot
- the game is up
- the girl next door
- the gospel truth
- the grass is always greener on the other side
- the Great Unwashed
- the greatest thing since sliced bread

- the Hairy Eyeball
- the hand that rocks the cradle
- the Heebie-Jeebies
- the last straw
- the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing
- the light's on but nobody's home
- the living daylights
- the long arm of the law
- the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away
- the lord moves in mysterious ways
- the love that dare not speak its name
- the lowest on the totem pole
- the luck of the draw
- the melting pot
- the more the merrier
- the more things change, the more they stay the same
- the more we learn, the less we know
- The moving finger writes,
- The mutt's nuts,
- the nail that sticks up gets pounded down (Japanese)
- The naked truth
- the night is young and so are we
- The Nth degree,
- the old ball and chain
- the one that got away
- the only difference between women and girls is the price of their pearls
- the only people I trust are you and me, and I am not too sure about you!
- The only thing we have to fear is fear itself
- The Order of The Boot
- the pen is mightier than the sword
- The penny drops
- the pick of the litter

- the place was crawling with cops
- The pot calling the kettle black
- The Powers That Be
- the proof is in the pudding
- the quiet before the storm
- The Real McCoy
- The road less travelled
- The road to ruin / hell is paved with good intentions.
- The Seven-Year Itch
- the shoe's on the other foot
- the show must go on
- the sky's the limit
- the squeaky wheel gets the grease
- the straw that broke the camel's back
- the stronger the breeze the stronger the trees
- the strongest steel is cast in the hottest fire
- The strongest winds blow on the highest mountains. (Swedish)
- the tables are turned
- the tail that wagged the dog
- the tale of the tape
- The Third Degree
- the tide's beginning to turn
- The Triumph of hope over experience
- the truth hurts
- the twilight years
- The Unkindest Cut of All
- The Usual Suspects
- the whole kit and caboodle
- The Whole Nine Yards
- The Whole Shebang,
- the whole shootin' match,
- The World is Your Oyster

- The Writing is on the wall
- The Year Dot
- The Yellow Peril
- them's fightin' words
- there are starving children in Africa
- There are three kinds of lies.
- there for the taking
- There is a god
- There is more than one way to skin a cat
- There is no alternative
- There is no cow on the ice
- There is no I in team
- There is no such thing as a free lunch
- There is no time like the present
- There now, that wasn't so bad, was it?
- there ought to be a law against that
- There, but for the grace of God, go I,
- There'll be hell to pay
- there's a first time for everything
- there's a God and I'm not him
- There's a sucker born every minute,
- There's An R in the month
- There's gold in them thar hills
- there's more than one way to skin a cat
- there's more where that came from
- there's no place like home
- there's no such thing as a free lunch
- There's no time like the present,
- there's one in every crowd,
- there's something fishy about that
- there's something I've been meaning to tell you
- They can't buy a basket/run/score

- they gave him carte blanche
- They need to take care of the rock,
- They play good D
- they threw the book at him
- they're getting hitched
- they're jumping the broomstick
- they're like two peas in a pod
- Thick and Thin
- Thick as a brick
- Thick as a ditch
- Thick as pea soup
- Thick headed
- thin as six o'clock
- things are not always as they seem
- Things aren't what they used to be
- Things that go bump in the night
- Think like a man, act like a woman
- Think outside the box
- Thinking with the wrong head
- Third time's a charm
- Third Time Lucky
- Third wheel
- Thirty thousand (30,000) foot level
- this could be the start of something big
- this hurts me worse than it does you
- this is for the birds
- this town's not big enough for the two of us
- Thorn in my side
- Those who do not look back from where they come from, will not reach their destination
- Thou Shalt Not Kill
- Though this be madness, yet there is method in it.
- Three-score years and ten

- three sheets to the wind
- Three Strikes and you are out
- threw a curve ball
- Threw it with a little something on it
- threw up my hands (in concession/in disgust)
- Through thick and thin
- Throw (toss) me a bone,
- Throw (toss) me some scraps,
- Throw (Toss) your hat in the ring
- throw a fit
- Throw a monkey wrench into the works
- Throw cold water on
- Throw down
- Throw gas (gasoline) on the fire
- throw in the towel
- Throw someone to the wolves
- Throw the baby out with the bathwater
- Throw the book at him
- Throw your hat into the ring
- throwing caution to the wind
- throwing out the baby with the bathwater
- Thumb your nose at
- Thumbs up
- Ticked Off
- tickle the ivories,
- Tickled pink
- Tie the knot
- Tied to her apron strings
- tied up right now
- Tight as a drum
- Tight as the bark on a tree
- Tight wad

- Tighten your belt
- Tighter than a gnat's ass
- Till the cows come home
- Tilting at windmills
- Timber!
- Time after time
- Time and again
- Time and Tide wait for no man
- time flies when you're having fun
- time heals all wounds
- time is money
- time is of the essence
- Time is running out
- time is up
- Time of your life
- Time on your hands
- Time out
- time stands still
- time to pay the piper
- time waits for no man
- time will tell
- time-honored
- Time's up
- Times, they are a changing
- timing is everything
- tin ear
- tingling with anticipation
- tit for tat,
- Tits-Up
- To a T
- to assume makes an ASS out of U and ME
- To badger someone

- To be beside yourself
- To be fed up
- To be honest with you
- To be or not to be
- to be young and foolish,
- to beat the band,
- To boldly go where no man has gone before,
- To boot
- To cast the first stone
- To chance your arm
- To close ranks
- to cry wolf
- to each his own
- To egg on
- to err is human, to forgive divine
- To fall foul
- to feather your nest,
- To fork out,
- To go the whole hog,
- To harp on,
- To have a Field Day,
- To have a Gammy Leg,
- To have Cold Feet,
- To hedge One's Bets,
- To hell in a hand basket,
- To Knock (or beat) the tar out of
- To Know Beans,
- To Lark About,
- to lie down with lions
- to live from hand to mouth
- To play Hookey
- To run Amok

- To save one's bacon
- To shoot the Crow
- To skin a Cat
- To take aback,
- To talk gibberish
- to tell you the truth
- To the bitter end
- To the manner born,
- To the Nth degree,
- To the victor go the spoils,
- To toy with,
- To travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive,
- To wreak havock
- Today is the first day of the rest of your life,
- toe the line
- Toe-curling
- Tomorrow is another day
- Tongue in cheek
- Tongue lashing
- Tongue tied
- Too many chefs spoil the broth (soup),
- Too many chiefs and not enough Indians,
- too many cooks spoil the broth
- Too much information (TMI)
- Too much of a good thing,
- Too much sail for a small craft
- Too rich for my blood
- Toodle-oo
- took me to the cleaners
- took off like a bat out of hell
- took off like a shot
- Toot his own horn

- tooth and nail
- Top dog
- Top drawer
- Top notch
- top of the morning
- Topsy Turvy
- Tore up from the floor up
- torn asunder
- Toss your cookies
- Touch and go
- Touchy-Feely
- tow the line
- train of thought
- Tread lightly
- treated like a dog
- tried and true
- Trip over your tongue
- trip the light fantastic
- Trojan horse,
- trouble with a capital 'T'
- Truth is stranger than fiction.
- Truth will out
- try as I might
- try your hand at something
- trying to put a square peg in a round hole
- Tuckered out
- Tugging at heartstrings
- Tune out
- turn a blind eye
- Turn on a dime
- turn over a new leaf
- turn the other cheek

- Turn the tables
- Turn up trumps
- Twelve good men and true
- twice as nice
- twice as strong as an ox and half as smart
- twiddling your thumbs
- Twist my arm
- twist of fate
- Two-faced
- Two heads are better than one
- Two left feet
- Two ships passing in the night
- Two cents' worth
- two left feet
- two of a kind
- two sides of the same coin
- two wrongs don't make a right
- two's company, three's a crowd

U

- U is part of US
- Ugly as a hat full of holes
- ugly as a mud fence
- ugly as sin
- unbeknownst to me/him
- Under a microscope
- Under her thumb
- under my skin
- Under my wing
- under the gun
- Under the knife
- under the sauce

- under the table
- under the weather
- Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown
- Unless you are the lead dog, the view never changes
- unlucky at cards, lucky in love
- Until the cows come home
- Up a blind alley
- Up a creek without a paddle
- Up a gum tree
- Up for grabs
- Up in arms
- Up sh#t creek
- Up the ante
- Up the Creek without a paddle
- Up the duff
- up to his ears in trouble
- Up to snuff
- Uphill battle
- Upper crust
- Upper hand,
- Ups-a-Daisy,
- Upset the apple cart
- upsy-daisy/oopsy-daisy
- Urban myth
- Useless as tits on a boar hog
- Using a sledgehammer to crack a nut

V

- variety is the spice of life

W

- wait and see

- wait for the ink to dry
- waiting for the dust to settle
- waiting for the other shoe to drop
- waiting for your ship to come in
- waiting in the wings
- waiting with baited breath
- wake the dead
- wake up and smell the coffee
- wake up living
- wake-up call
- waking up on the wrong side of the bed
- waking up with the chickens
- walk on the wild side
- walk softly and carry a big stick
- walk the plank
- walking on air
- walking on eggshells
- walking on sunshine
- walled garden
- walls have ears
- walls start closing in
- want my place in the sun
- warts and all
- wash your hands of something
- wash your mouth out with soap
- washed up
- waste not, want not
- wasted
- watch and wait
- watch your mouth
- watched pot never boils
- watching the clock

- water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink
- wave the white flag
- way to a man's heart is through his stomach
- Way to go, Einstein!
- we are not amused
- we few, we happy few, we band of brothers
- we have seen better days
- we know where you live
- wear many hats
- wear the trousers
- wear your heart on your sleeve
- wearing nothin' but his birthday suit
- wearing the big girlie blouse (Australian)
- weasel words
- weather the storm
- welcome to my world
- welcome to the club
- We'll cross that bridge when we come to it.
- Well, how do you like **them** apples?
- We'll jump that fence when we get to it.
- went belly up
- went over like a lead balloon
- went storming off in a huff
- went through the roof
- we're going to burn the midnight oil
- we're gonna tie one on tonight
- we're not in Kansas anymore
- we're really going to town
- we're sitting ducks
- Were you born in a barn?
- Were you raised by wolves?
- Wet behind the ears.

- we've hit paydirt
- Wham, bam, thank you ma'am.
- What a blast!
- What a duck!
- what a piece of work is man
- what a tangled web we weave
- what a way to go
- What am I, chopped liver?
- What are you like?
- What are you stewing about?
- What are you? Chicken?
- What does that have to do with the price of tea in China?
- What God has joined together, let no man put asunder.
- What goes around comes around.
- What goes up, must come down.
- What in tarnation?
- What's not to like?
- What's the skinny?
- What's up Doc?
- What on earth is wrong with me?
- What part of "no" don't you understand?
- What rock did you crawl out from under?
- what you see is what you get
- whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger
- whatever floats your boat
- whatever tickles your fancy
- whatever turns you on
- what's a little __ among friends
- What's cookin', good lookin'?
- What's going down?
- What's good for the goose is good for the gander.
- What's he been smoking?

- What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name smells just as sweet.
- What's up with that?
- What's wrong with this picture?
- When all is said and done
- when hell freezes over
- When in Rome, do as Romans do.
- when it comes to the crunch
- When it rains, it pours.
- When life gives you lemons, make lemonade,
- when pigs fly
- when push comes to shove
- when the cat's away, the mouse will play
- when the chips are down
- When the going gets tough, the tough get going.
- When the lion is dead, the hares jump on his back. (Swedish)
- when the shit hits the fan
- when the tide goes out the rocks begin to show
- when you lie with dogs, you catch fleas
- when you start picking out people you start leaving people out
- Where do you draw the line?
- where the rubber meets the road
- where there is muck there's brass
- Where there's smoke, there's fire.
- Where's the beef?
- whet your appetite
- Whew!
- while away the hours
- While the tailor rests, the needle rusts. (Swedish)
- While you live, tell truth and shame the Devil!
- whipping boy
- whistle down the wind
- whistle for it

- whistle in the dark
- white as a sheet
- white bread
- white elephant
- white knuckle ride
- who could forget
- Who died and left you in charge?
- Who died and made him king (God)?
- Who pissed in your Cheerios?
- Whoever dies with the most toys wins.
- (the) whole nine yards
- whole shootin' match
- whoop it up
- whoops-a-daisy
- Who's the man?
- Why buy the cow when the milk is free?
- Why close the barn door after the horse is gone?
- Why do today what you can put off 'til tomorrow?
- Why don't we all chip in?
- Why on God's green Earth?
- widow's peak
- wig out
- wild and woolly
- wild goose chase
- Will miracles/wonders never cease?
- willy-nilly
- win hands down
- win one for the gipper
- wing and a prayer
- wing it
- winning combination
- winning isn't everything

- wipe the slate clean
- wish on a star
- wish you were here
- wishy washy
- witch hunt
- with a grain of salt
- with bated breath
- with one hand tied behind my back
- with tongue firmly planted in cheek
- woe is me
- (a) wolf in sheep's clothing
- Women and children first!
- wool gathering
- word for word
- work into a lather
- work like a dog
- work the crowd
- work the room
- work to a deadline
- Work your fingers to the bone.
- worker bee
- working my last good nerve
- world of hurt
- world of trouble
- world on a string
- world weary
- (the) worm has turned
- worry wart
- worth its salt
- Worth its weight in gold.
- worthless as tits on a boar
- wouldn't touch with a barge-pole

- wouldn't kick her (him) outta bed for eatin' crackers
- Wound tighter than a spring.
- wrong end of the stick
- wrong side of the tracks

Y

- yank your chain
- you ain't seen nothin' yet
- you bet your boots
- you can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar
- you can dish it out, but you sure can't take it
- You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink.
- you can lead a horticulture, but you can't make her think
- you can never be too rich or too blonde
- you can never go home again
- You can pick your friends and you can pick your nose, but you can't pick your friend's nose.
- you can say that again
- you can take that to the bank
- you can tell the men from the boys by the price of their toys
- You cannot judge someone until you have walked a mile in their shoes / moccasins / boots.
- you can't fit a square peg in a round hole
- you can't have your cake and eat it too
- you can't judge a book by its cover
- You can't learn to swim without getting in the water. (Swedish)
- You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.
- you can't put anything past her
- You can't put the toothpaste back in the tube.
- you can't squeeze blood out of a turnip
- You can't stop him. You can only hope to contain him.
- you can't swing a dead cat
- you can't take it with you

- you can't take knickers off a bare arse
- you can't teach an old dog new tricks
- you could have knocked me over with a feather
- you could put your eye out
- you don't have a leg to stand on
- you don't miss the water till the well runs dry
- you drive me crazy
- you drive me nuts
- you drive me up the wall
- you got it coming to you
- you got your just deserves (desserts)
- you got your just desserts
- you gotta put your foot down
- you have to break a few eggs to make an omelette
- you have to separate the chaff from the wheat
- you have to stand for something or you'll fall for anything
- you hit the nail on the head
- you lie like a dog
- you lie like a rug
- you lost me
- you made your bed, now your gonna have to lie in it
- You make a better door than a window.
- you must be out of your mind
- You must crawl before you can walk.
- You must row with the oars that you have. (Swedish)
- you only hurt the one you love
- you only live once
- you reap what you sow
- you say potayto, I say potahto
- You scratch my back, and I'll scratch yours.
- You snooze, you loose.
- You throw filth on the living and flowers on the dead. (Swedish)

- you wash my back, I'll wash yours
- you win some you lose some
- you'll know it when you see it
- young loins
- young, dumb and full of rum
- your ass is grass
- Your father wasn't a glass maker.
- Your goose is cooked.
- your name is mud
- your place or mine
- you're a good egg
- you're all wet
- you're dead meat
- you're driving me insane
- you're going to get it
- you're off your rocker
- you're the gleam in your father's eye
- you've got (a) nerve
- you've got more front than Myers

Z

- zigged when he should have zagged
- Zip it!
- zip your lip
- (what a) zoo